

## Governor's Rural Partnership Board

Wednesday, August 7, 2013

SUU Alumni House

Cedar City, Utah

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### Meeting Minutes

#### **In Attendance: Board Members**

Lt. Gov. Greg Bell, Co-Chair  
Carl Albrecht, Rural Utilities  
Comm.. Rick Blackwell (Piute County)  
Gil Miller, Utah League of Cities & Towns  
Linda Gillmor, Millard County, E.D.  
Tammie Lucero, Uintah County E.D  
Mayor Dave Sakrison, Moab  
Mike McCandless, Emery County E.D.  
Wes Curtis, So. Utah University  
Brian Higgenbotham, USU Designee

#### **Others:**

Brent Boswell, Juab County  
Brian Carver  
Dave Connine, USDA  
David Connelly, UVU  
Delynn Fielding, Carbon County  
Ken Davey, Moab City/Grand County E.D  
Marion Bentley, USU Extension  
Michelle Coleman, Wayne County  
Matt Brown, Kanab E.D  
Mickey Beaver, PacificCorp  
Pam Hansen, San Juan County E.D.  
Russ Cowley, 6 County AOG  
Ryan Starks, Heber Valley E.D.  
Sandra Emile, Cache County E.D.  
Scott Boyer, USU Extension  
Sherrie Martell, EDCUtah  
Sheryl Decker, Millard County  
Spencer Eccles, GOED Exec. Director  
Chris Conabee, GOED Mng Director  
Tara Thue, GOED/Broadband Dir.  
Emery Polelonema, 6 County  
Irene Hansen, Uintah County E.D.  
Leonard Blackham, Dept. of Ag

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Lt. Governor Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - Update on Emery County Refinery project by Mike McCandless.
  - Brief update on the Uintah Basin.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion for approval of the minutes of the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting as written was made by Gil Miller. Motion passed unanimously without corrections.
3. **RURAL Programs Update** prepared by Eric Nay and presented by Chris Conabee. The presentation was a slideshow.
  - Chris described the process going forward in the rural office. It is to be a bottom-up approach where the rural communities are identifying their top three priorities and then finding solutions to those needs rather than top down approach where the state is telling rural what the solutions are.
  - Ryan Starks asked the question about how/why the programs like rural fast track won't work for

Summit county.

- Population growth is exceeding job growth; Summit county is disqualified due to the average wage being slightly higher than the allowable limit.
- Spencer Cox reiterated that going forward, everything is back on the table and that every program and activity is to be reviewed.

**4. Natural Gas Line Extension Update – Linda Gilmore:**

- A compromise was reached in the competition for jobs for those who are certified with Questar.
- Linda distributed a worksheet that outlines Questar's estimated costs (overhead, inspectors, construction, etc.) of extending the gas lines.
  - Parts of the costs will be covered by a 2.5% rate increase.
- Questar has agreed to open up the work to other general contractors located in other counties.
  - Questar has included general contractor requirements which Linda distributed.
- Questar announced the extension plan to the legislators and has committed to follow through.
- Some paid hundreds of dollars on propane during last year's winter.
- These line extensions will be very beneficial for those on fixed income, especially in the winter.
- Mike McCandless discussed the need for a revolving loan fund and that Senator Okerlund is planning to run a bill that addresses this issue and fills the need.
- Discussion of using existing UGREEN bonding programs to finance the project.

**5. Staffing:**

Outdoor Recreation office – At the time of the last GRPB meeting, Spencer was not prepared to announce the director of the outdoor recreation office. Spencer then announces that Brad Petersen, who brings a wealth of experience in small business and outdoor recreation, has taken up that role.

Rural - There were 69 applicants for the Program Director; 24 for Incentives Analyst; and 49 for Outreach Coordinator. The positions will close toward the end of the month. Several people from Rural Utah have been asked to participate on the hiring committee – Malcolm Nash, Tammie Lucero, Delynn Fielding, Scott Hirschi, Roger Jones, Carl Albrecht, Mike Mower, and Spencer Cox.

Thanks to the GRPB and the Selection Committee, Spencer Cox and the LG for the significant effort and assistance in moving this process forward.

**6. General Discussion**

- 1) Economic Gardening – is it only for large companies (relative to rural Utah)? Delynn Fielding indicated that it is for companies with 8 employees and over.
- 2) Gil made a statement regarding rural economic development and the need for diversification; communities often only focus on one item.
  - Sometimes diversification is hindered by government regulation.
- 3) Wes Curtis – commented on this item as well as the Hochmann index that measures diversity. We should consider updating this index (GOMB did the survey).
- 4) Mike McCandless – discussion regarding the definition of what economic development success means.
  - The State benefits by adding new jobs
  - Counties benefit by new properties/buildings
  - Cities benefits through sales tax

- 5) Lieutenant Governor Bell – We all ought to be focused on the formation and development of business, this brings jobs, revenue, velocity of capital.
  - The threat he worries about is part time work and jobs not coming back.
  - If you're out of a job for 'X' number of months, then the possibility of getting a new job is very difficult.
  - Need to work on per-worker income, not just per capita income.
  
7. Request for every meeting to provide the ability to do audio conferencing to increase participation.
  - 1) Lieutenant Governor Bell indicated that video conferencing is optimal and that we should do that first vis-à-vis audio.
  - 2) GOED will work with UEN to set this up.
  - 3) Motion: All meetings to have video conferencing capabilities.
  
8. **Next Meeting:** The date for the next meeting was not established and would be announced at a later date.
  
9. **Adjourn:** Motion was made, and so moved, to adjourn the meeting.