



Governor's Office of Economic Development

State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

LT. GOVERNOR COX P. ECCLES
Executive Director

CHRISOPHER M. CONNABEE
Managing Director, Corporate Recruitment
And Business Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor' Rural Partnership Board
FROM: Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox, Co-Chair
SUBJECT: Founders Hall, Noyes Bldg., - Snow College, Ephraim, Utah
DATE: April 17, 2014, 12:30 p.m. (MST)
SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S RURAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES

In Attendance: Board Members

Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox, Co-Chair
Steve Styler, Co-Chair
Carl Albrecht, Rural Utilities
Charle Delorme, San Juan County E.D.
Gil Miller, Utah League of Cities & Towns
Ken White, USU Extension
Linda Gillmor, Millard County, E.D.
Mike McCandless, Emery County
Shirlee Silversmith, Indian Affairs
Steve Lisonbee, DWS Representative
Tammie Lucero, Uintah County E.D.
Tim Munns, Agriculture
Wes Curtis, Southern Utah University

GOED Office Staff:

Sophia DiCaro, GOED Deputy Director

GRPB Staff:

Delynn Fielding, Rural Director
Dan Royal, Rural Analyst
Jake Hardman, Rural Outreach

Others:

Amie Parker, GOED, Broadband
Brad Baird, EDCUtah
Brent Boswell, Juab County E.D.
Brian Raymond, Daggett County E.D.
Dave Conine, USDA
Deborah Hatt, SEU AOG
Dennis Marker, Santaquin
Evan Norman, Lt. Gov's Office
Gary Carlston, Snow College
Jason Justesen, USDA
Jed Christensen, Dept. of Ag
Ken Davey, Moab City
Kevin Christensen, Sanpete County E.D.
Larry Lewis, Dept. of Agriculture
Lanora Neilson, St. George SBDC
Len Ericksen, St. George SBDC
LuAnn Adams, Commissioner, Dept of Ag
Bob Adams, Cattle Rancher, Box Elder Cnty
Michelle Coleman, Wayne County E.D.
Mike Hansen, DWS
Nan Anderson, Utah Tourism Coalition
Doug Johnson, Snow College
Brian Somers, Deputy Director, Heritage & Art

Conducting: Steve Styler, Co-Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

- **(DONE):** Lt. Governor Cox suggested that Brad Petersen be added to the next GRPB meeting agenda to talk about specific projects.
- **(DONE):** **1)** Page #2: where it states in the Rural Fast Track / BEAR Program: "Funds may not be used for construction, and equipment, computers, etc.)" Wes would like to add: "institutional overhead or indirect costs" so that universities don't expect a 43% cut out of what we're sending.
- **(DONE):** **2)** Page #1: Under "Overview" state: "The objective of this RFP is to contract for services to assist in growing new and existing rural businesses." Contracts for services are sometimes handled differently, and don't require the overhead that you would on a typical grant.
- **(DONE):** Steve Styler suggested the Tourism Infrastructure Needs and Rural Funding topic be put on the next meeting Agenda, to try to solve the problem of how to get better data.

- **(DONE):** Delynn asked Shirlee Silversmith to give him a list of contact people in the tribes, with name and address, for the various counties so the Counties involved will know who to contact to invite and involve them in the program. Nan added such a list would be great for the Tourism people to include them in their meetings, etc., also.
- **(DONE):** Wes Curtis made a motion for the Board to appoint a committee – comprised of Nan Anderson, Wes Curtis, Mike McCandless, and anyone else they feel would be good to serve – to spearhead the issue; and also ask former Lt. Governor Greg Bell if he could also serve on the committee. Gill Miller seconded the motion; all were in favor. The motion will be addressed at the next meeting.
- **(DONE):** Someone suggested we add the Sage Grouse issue on the next agenda, as he doesn't know of one single issue that would be more catastrophic to rural economic development. The State has been working on a plan with the Forest Service and other states. A negative decision will greatly impact rural Utah, and we need to stay on top of it as a Rural Economic Development Board.
- **(DONE):** Steve suggested as it has been a long time since hearing from SITLA, it would be a good idea to contact SITLA to come to the next meeting to discuss what is happening on SITLA property.
- **Action:** Gil Miller made motion that the GRPB should support the idea of working together with UAC on the Rural Legislative Day. Linda Gillmor seconded the motion; all were in favor.

1. **Welcome Comments & Approval of Minutes:** Gary Carlston, President of Snow College welcomed attendees and thanked them for coming. Giving a brief history of the College, he mentioned the Noyes Building we are meeting in, is close to 115 years old; and despite how beautiful and modern it seems, it was built by the Pioneers and stands as a monument to the power of education opportunities. This country has long held that education is the gateway to a better life; our State has a great commitment to education. As we look at the growth of our economy, nationally and internationally, and as we compete globally, education has re-established itself as important to our economy. He expressed appreciation for having the group meet here to talk about economic development, the needs of rural areas, and the essential role that education plays, and hopes everyone enjoys their time here.

Delynn asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Action: Motion was made by Gil Miller to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2014 as written; the motion was seconded; all were in favor.

2. **Agriculture Items – Report by Commissioner LuAnn Adams:** Steve Styler, introduced the new Department of Agriculture & Foods Commissioner, LuAnn Adams, who replaces recently retired Sanpete County Commissioner Leonard Blackham.

She reported: Agriculture production is at \$1.8 Billion, up from \$1.4 Billion – a 28% increase over the last 5 years. The number of farms in Utah is up from 16,700 to 18,000 – mostly small farms where land is decreasing. She showed a 1929 picture of her ranch in Promontory; in those days you hitched up horses and plowed for half a day, then unhitch the horses and broke for lunch – 18 horses to 4 hitches, or 72 horses. After lunch they would bring out another 72 fresh horses, and go again. Many farmers would tell you how farming has improved in the way they do business today. Farms now are more efficient with water and crop in-put, mostly through technology.

A lot of critical issues face farmers today – one is the War on Weeds. Thanks to the Legislature – \$2-million has been contributed to a Department of Agriculture program that posts grants that counties can apply for. There are a lot of noxious weeds that need to be taken care of. Another issue is Catastrophic Fire Reduction. A model plan was put together for preconditioning the land – for every dollar spent on preconditioning, \$18 will need to be spent if there were a fire. \$2-Million was contributed to this plan which will go toward preconditioning the land by region to help in fire reduction.

Water is probably the number one critical issue, and always will be – Utah is the 2nd driest state in the Union; behind Nevada. A lot is being done with conservation through the long time Agriculture Resource Development Board. In Green River they take water out of the river and pump it into a pivot, where the ground was worthless. The pivot increases efficiency in increasing the yield per acre from 45% to 85% – from 3.5 tons to 2.52 tons, and each pivot will bring in around \$25,000 in revenue.

The Department of Agriculture goes from “Farm to Fork” and handles consumer protection and food safety. They maintain an amazing critical regulatory presence for our food safety and consumer protection – doing everything from making sure weights and measures at the gas station pumps are correct, to overhauling a recent problem with gold scales. They also check scales in grocery store and on farms and ranches, to make sure things are measured correctly.

“Utah’s Own” is a top priority. They’ve created 600 new jobs since 2010 – it helps to expand business,

add jobs, increases purchases from local farmers, and helps to sell to Farmers' Markets, restaurants, distributors, and grocery stores, which improves rural economy. They are part of the "Buy Local" movement – consumers want to have locally grown food. From 2009 to 2012 raw product exports increased 31% or \$71-Million; processed products increased 59% or \$800-Million. "Utah's Own" program also contributed to the recent Governor's Economic Development Summit, with a reception following the Summit, working with high-school students from their Chefs' Programs.

They are trying to put plans in place to protect Agriculture, and are planning what Utah will look like in 2050, and how you picture Agriculture in 35 years. In a recently survey around the state, 95% of those polled think Agriculture is important to the future of the state; 84% think farmers and ranchers are responsible stewards of the land. Many Utahans say they want farm lands kept for farming. Local Farmers' Markets are generating support for sustainable family farms and protection in the State. 73% of those surveyed said local farmland should be a means to reduce our dependence on foreign food. 68% feel a small portion of existing food tax should be used to protect Utah farm land. Regarding generational transfer of farms; the average farmer/rancher in Utah is 58 years old, and prime real estate land might entice the next generation. Agriculture in rural Utah is very important; it is 20% of economic development in many counties.

There is an effort to get Utah products into more stores, restaurants, and even out-of-state to help companies grow. They are working with Small Business Development Centers and County Economic Development Professionals to develop a "Utah's Own" Summit, scheduled for April 24, 2015, in Box Elder County: 40 companies have already signed up to participate. In conclusion of her presentation, Commissioner Adams played the "Utah's Own" jingle and commercial they have produced to get word out. She feels Agriculture has a bright future in Utah, and a lot depends on rural partners.

3. **Vote Board Member to Executive Board Committee (Board Members only)** An amendment was made to the statute regarding the Governor's Rural Partnership Board – Section 5 talks about the Board's Executive Committee. Today there is an election for an At-Large Member of the Executive Committee before the Board. Each of (just) the Board members has a ballot on which they should vote for two candidates, but only one will be elected, the ballots will then be collected and counted.

Steve announced, with votes collected and tallied, the next member of the Board will be Mike McCandless.

4. **Legislative Review:** Sophia DiCaro distributed Budget documents as she felt it would be helpful for everyone to see the dollars that pass through GOED. The Session started out rough:
- The Legislature targeted \$10-Million to cut out of the Industrial Assistance Fund, which funds the Rural Fast Track and the BEAR program.
 - They ended up spending a good portion of the Session fighting for the IAF fund. In the end, there was only a \$1.9-million cut to the fund, and we actually ended up faring pretty well; a lot of our economic development priorities ended up getting funded.
 - The Tourism Marketing fund was a huge win for the State with \$15-million for the next fiscal year.
 - Corporate Recruitment was another high priority, as we participate in a lot of Trade Missions, and meet with many companies. Because we are so stretched, we are not as effective on follow-up as we might be, so this money can help us follow-up with companies and manage relationships more effectively and on a more regular basis.
 - Another area of interest to this group: we asked for two vehicles – one for Jake Hardman and one for Outdoor Recreation – which ended up being approved at the very last portion of the Session.
 - Business Marketing and Global Branding were also key initiatives we tried to push forward – Global Branding will help to push the "Utah Life Elevated" brand. We plan to have State Agencies and the Private Sector help leverage that. You will hear updates on that as it moves forward.
 - Small Business Development Centers also impact rural; they ended up getting \$100,000 of the \$225,000 of on-going funding, which mostly will go to Business Resource Centers.
 - The rest of the funding list was mostly things that were appropriated for the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Three Bills were also highlighted that will impact rural Utah. In addition to the Amendment Governor's Rural Board discussed earlier, which essentially eliminates the Rural Development Council (a copy is in the handouts), there is also the Tourism Park and Performance Bill that Nan Anderson and her team followed each day at the Legislature. This Bill essentially adds an additional 4-years, which allows us to reach up to a \$30-million set-aside for Tourism by 2019. If this Bill had not passed it would have capped the Tourism funding at \$15-million. A newly created program, the Utah Small Business Jobs Act, was passed; it creates a new federal tax credit program for involved businesses. As they figure out how to use this program, it will be implemented by the new fiscal year. Jake Hardman will be the messenger of any new information.

She also highlighted things they want to study and evaluate during the interim – a number of items are put on a master study resolution. The Interim Committee then selects from that list what they want to study during the Interim period. One thing they recommended is that infrastructure needs be evaluated to help develop and strengthen opportunities for the Outdoor Recreation Program and Tourism in rural communities; but what they choose is up to the Committee.

- 5. Rural Report – Priorities List:** Jake Hardman gave background on the Priorities List and how it came about. When Jake, Dan and Delynn came on board in September, they needed to figure out what their job was, what they needed to work on, and what the most important things were they should focus on. They traveled across Utah to visit all the counties to ask what their top three economic development priorities were. They then narrowed it down to the most important things that GOED could help them work on right now, to help them meet their future goals. A lot of their goals had to do with changes for Rural Fast Track – especially regarding Tourism and making Tourism businesses eligible for grant programs. Delynn took care of those in November, which took care of 4 or 5 of the top priorities. They worked their way down on the list, trying to get as many done as possible. They realized they didn't have power to do some of the priorities, so they had to go back to some counties to narrow down to what was most important right now. They also needed to go back to the counties that showed "pending" on the list. They have met with most of those, and they are trying to decide what would be their next priority. As they meet with those counties, they will continue to add to the list.

Jake gave a brief overview of the Priorities:

- Beaver County – Bring the County together to decide on some kind of plan. They developed an Economic Development Council and are working well together as a County. They recently received a grant from EDCUtah to help with their Economic Development Strategic Plan. Jake is helping them; once they complete the plan they will have their next action item and priority.
- Box Elder County – Had issues with their water infrastructure. Jake's been dealing with a couple of businesses in the area. They've also had issues with Cell Phone Service in Grouse Creek, which has been difficult. Delynn is working on a water infrastructure plan; with some grants and things. Those continue to evolve.
- Cache County – We need to work with them on a new priority.
- Carbon County – Is working with a specific company that uses coal for their fuel. We're helping with funding problems to make sure it can be a successful project – which will help more than just Carbon County,
- Daggett County – Is looking to do Mountain Bike Trails to diversify their infrastructure, and have been working with the Forest Service and the BLM. They hope to get the EIS (environmental impact statement) through the Forest Service, sooner than later. It turns out the EIS was moved back a year to 2015. We should maybe go back to help them determine another priority to work on now with them while they wait.
- Duchesne & Emery Counties – Mike McCandless will be working with them.
- Garfield County – They have put an RFP out for an Economic Development Study for an Industrial Park in Panguitch. Proposals are due April 30th. A few companies have already said they will submit a proposal.
- Grand County – Has recently given us a new priority for a Water Study for an Aqua Firm in their area. This will help them determine what their water resources are and how it will affect their future growth.
- Iron County – Was successful in receiving funding for their Southwest Applied Technology Building. They've tried to get it funded for years, but it was always overlooked. They will now try to determine their next priority.
- Juab County – Has water issues. We've been working with them to get appropriate funding from appropriate sources, to make sure it goes well. They've tried to get grants, which didn't work out; so they will work with COD to make sure they clarify what their water position is.
- Kane County – They've been working as a Certified Work Ready Community, which is a partnership with the Department of Workforce Services, GOED, Higher Education, and EDCUtah; that helps companies to determine their work force and their needs. Their work force will take a test, to determine the level of work force they have. In working with existing companies or companies coming into the area, it determines tangible evidence of the skill levels that exist in the county. Kane County is moving along well in this program – they have signed up and developed a council, and will soon become a Certified Work Ready Community. Jake can help any interested county to sign up for the program.
- Millard County – Is working on a Rocky Mountain Power extension transmission line, that seems to be going well. We can soon begin working with them on a new priority.
- Morgan County – Needs a Feasibility Study for a Como-Springs development. Some funding has been received; and they are now in the RFP process.
- Piute County – Are in the process of developing a Work Development Council. Once that is complete, they can work on what their priority will be.

- Rich County – Has been working on Trails around Bear Lake area. They've been working on funding through State Forestry Fire and State Lands, and are in the process of determining a priority within the local area.
- San Juan County – Has requested help with a Commercial Air Service and establishing connections with Sky West into Blanding. A couple of connections have been made; but we need to help them more to develop the infrastructure.
- Sanpete County – Wants to develop some new 4-Year Programs at Snow College. Delynn and Kevin Christensen met with the Snow College President to discuss the project and keep it going.
- Sevier County – After working for quite some time on an expansion project with Timberline GSE, they finally received word last week that they are ready to go.
- Summit County – Another meeting is needed; they need help with some small businesses in the eastern part of the county. Delynn took care of that.
- Tooele County – Is wanting a new interchange project, for safety concerns, for I-80 to by-pass the residential areas and go straight to their Industrial Park; this would increase its value.
- Uintah County – Another meeting is needed. There was some air-quality legislation which was put on hold (as well as Duchesne County) that needs to be discussed.

- Wasatch County – Is working on an Industrial Park; they already have about 38 acres of land, and are looking for the best way to fund it. Delynn will meet with them.
- Washington County – We need to meet with them again to determine a new priority.
- Wayne County – Their project is Tourism Diversification. They have some good projects going on, and have a lot of federal land in that area, We need to meet with them again to make things more specific.

Steve asked if anyone had any questions or comments to add on Jake's report.

- Charlie Delorme commented regarding San Juan County's commuter air service development. Currently they have service via Sky West to Moab and Salt Lake; previously the service was to Denver, Colorado, which was no help to Utahans. Prior to the Great Lake's connection to Denver, the service went to Farmington, New Mexico, Moab and Salt Lake. A very thorough study was done 7 years ago showing they can enplane 7 people twice a day. They want to enplane more passengers and build a load factor by putting passengers on in Blanding.
- Jake pointed out the "Adviser" column on the left side of the "Priority Summary" page. This was meant to be used for Counties that have someone that has already been through particular problems and might be able to assist other counties that need help. Please let Jake know if anyone has expertise or experience in any particular areas, that might be able to assist other counties.
- Delynn added prioritizing has shown that counties need to do some serious thinking about what their priorities are. Some counties have done an excellent job and know which things are moving forward, and what they need to bring together to build on for success; but there are other counties that don't. We accomplished the easy things in these first 6-months; and now we are getting down to the serious things. A lot of the counties need county planning; part of the process is to really think through what needs to be done.
- Shirlee Silversmith inquired about a land deal in Duchesne and Uintah Counties. Delynn explained the eastern 7 counties are working on a consortium that has taken priority. Mike McCandless added the bill they were specifically interested in is the Air Quality Bill that is being negotiated. The Ute Tribe made a request to the Governor regarding improving air quality on the reservation; they also recently met with the Governor on the EPA. Lt. Governor Cox said the Air Quality issue is ongoing; DEQ is continuing to meet with the Tribe. This is important, because if it isn't brought under control it could stifle economic development.
- Lt. Governor Cox asked Jake to speak regarding his coordination with the Office of Recreation. Jake and Brad Petersen have attended many of the same meetings; they now coordinate a weekly call on Fridays to the Office of Tourism and the Office of Recreation to discuss any issues and to go over their plans for the next week. Brad can help counties work on their vision for Outdoor Recreation; and the Rural Office can help with implementation to make things happen.
- Another comment, Brad and Jake both attended a facilitated meeting on trails, etc. in San Juan County. As a result, Brad went down to facilitate a meeting with State Parks, BLM, and Trust Lands, where they actually walked a bike trail.

6. **Rural Fast Track and BEAR Program:** Dan Royal reported the Rural Office handles the Fast Track Grants, as a 50%-50% matching grant, for companies looking to expand – buying equipment, constructing a building, buying land. Companies in most of the counties in the State can apply for the grant for up to \$50,000, based on the project. The Approval Committee, comprised of Dan, Delynn

and Eric Nay, looks over the application, looking at their financials and evaluating what the project is, and based on these things, the project is either approved or denied. In the past, companies downloaded a paper application from our website, and supplied required documentation – financial papers and quotes, etc. In the future, they will fill in an online application on our website, after they have contacted their local economic development representative to have them provide a letter of recommendation to support the project. Our website includes a link to a list of all the economic development representatives. Dan displayed the online application, going over and explaining the application process. Every piece of the application and documentation can be uploaded and submitted on the website. If the application is not completed in one session, it can be saved and finished later. The economic development person can also access the application, to make sure everything is in order, and required documents are included. Dan keeps a list of all the applications he has received, divided by year.

Delynn noted the first couple of pages of the BEAR contract are included in the handouts to the group. He reported the way the BEAR Program was handled over the last two years and through the transition was quite disorderly. The program moved forward from what had been done during the past year. Moving forward from this point, they will do “Business Outreach Visits” and will do a much better job of measuring the impact of what the visits accomplish. Currently auditors, for the first time in GOED, measure the effectiveness of the program and how favorably it impacts the counties and their businesses. This will be an ongoing process, and would like to know how the Board feels about the changes.

Wes asked Delynn to explain how this impacts funding for Economic Gardening business engagements. Delynn reported 28 companies have gone through the Economic Gardening process – we were disappointed in the numbers of the first 6 businesses in the process. There was a loss of 55 jobs in those 28 companies – 3 businesses made up the bulk of those, and the results were not what they had hoped for. He and Wes have discussed how they can attain the impact they had hoped for. Up to now, all the cost for the Economic Gardening companies, at about \$4,000 per company, has been handled by grants. They now feel these companies need to invest in the program. Also, they felt they should make a mandatory monthly visit to make sure the companies are working on strategic information the process provides for them, so they can help mentor the businesses, so there will be a greater impact for the business for new jobs, and for a healthier economy. The BEAR program would help fund those ongoing visits. We need to see what the interest of the counties is, and what the cost breakout would be. Wes added to clarify, half or more of the companies involved had not even had a year's cycle since they had engaged in the program, so it was very early to expect any large results. Also a couple were seasonal-type business where employees go up in the summer and down in the winter, which tends to skew the data. Wes doesn't think we've had a long enough time in the program to really evaluate the effectiveness. Delynn pointed out the evaluation is an ongoing process.

Wes asked a question that was answered – it's not too late to tweak the language in the proposal. He therefore proposed two additions for consideration that may make things easier on our end:

- 7. Tourism Infrastructure Needs and Rural Funding:** Mike McCandless reported this discussion comes from conversations they've had with Vickie Varela in relation to dealing with the “Mighty Five” campaign and similar issues. Although they are very supportive of the efforts, they also note that they have some communities that may not be able to deliver on the promises of the campaign, or do it year-round. The concern he expressed to Vickie, is how can they help the communities and businesses deliver on the promises that the State makes in their advertising?

Nan Anderson pointed out a “Rural Tourism Discussion” sheet produced by Nan, Mike, and Bryan Raymond is included in the Packets. She stated this has been an issue for years. Speaking on behalf of the Tourism Industry Coalition, their Board is very aware of the necessity. Now they are on a good and reliable path to fund advertising and marketing efforts, it is time to address services. Under the services moniker they include everything from infrastructure to welcome centers, to hospitality training programs – everything that isn't sales. It is past time that we start to address the services aspect of our industry. Some of their challenges range from lack of situational analysis on the local level to lack of communication and coordination; seasonal nature; funding; and continuing problems with collection and reporting of tourism taxes from the State Tax Commission. If someone chooses not to pay their taxes, the Tourism Industry has no control or recourse. They need to have some involvement in the tax issue, because it is the counties' money – it's what drives their tourism efforts. Mike feels a Tourism Study is needed to assess where they have problems that need to be fixed.

Shirlee encourages those counties that have reservations within their boundaries to include them in their Tourism efforts and discussions regarding challenges.

8. Operating Statutes, etc.: Steve asked Delynn to discuss the Board's Operating Statutes and changes that have been made.

- Delynn reported he handed out a print-out of changes, and highlighted those that might be pertinent, especially to new members: Shirlee Silversmith of Indian Affairs and Debbie Hatt with the Association of Governments.
- Delynn has not been able to get a name for a representative from the Association of Counties; Gil Miller has been on the Board for many years representing the League of Cities; we'll keep Gil in that position as long as he is willing to come.

9. Natural Gas Line Extension Initiative: Mike McCandless reported, in January a significant change was made in the Public Service rule that deals with line extension policy for natural gas. In the past they were not able to include the rate base cost of running a line to all users in the State – whether to an individual or to a community – so the burden ended up being completely on the one making the application. Through this change, the overhead cost for Questar will now be shared by all the existing users. This one change has saved Green River \$14-million.

He would still like to see legislation for a Revolving Loan Fund Program, primarily for business entities to be able apply for funding to provide assistance to do line extension applications. It's difficult for a company to ask for a bank loan for an asset they will never own. This revolving loan fund would enable them to actually have another access to funds.

He also thanked the Governor for vetoing HB-120, which would have put a 1-year moratorium on special assessment areas, and change some of the voting requirements to create a special assessment area – they didn't know this was a tool that Mike and Delynn had been working on to enable their communities to self-fund line extensions into their areas. If he hadn't vetoed that bill, they would have needed to have 100% of their process completed by early May. It could have also killed \$millions of economic development.

10. Unpassed Bills & Other Needed Efforts: Steve stressed, as we are involved with the Legislative process, if we have things we want to be working on, primarily the Revolving Loan Fund being among those, the time to start is right now – the session just ended, and it's time to start again – it's a never-ending process. One purpose of this Board is to come up with ideas, suggestions and improvements we can make at the next Legislative Session. This should be a topic of discussion at the next Board meeting, to continue to develop ideas and find ways to implement them. **(DONE)**

11. Rural Day on the Hill: Next year's Rural Day with the Legislature is scheduled February 13, 2015. It is proposed that it be in conjunction with the Utah Association of Counties (UAC); which may be a great way to involve all the rural counties. Steve invited discussion.

- It was mentioned, UAC is comprised of all 29 counties, some of which is not rural.
- Delynn explained he ran into representatives from UAC at the capitol and found that they were competing for scheduling space for next year's events – GRPB got the meeting room; UAC got the Rotunda for lunch on the same date. UAC asked if they could work together. Delynn therefore brings this up for discussion to see if there is an interest in working together.
 - Gil felt it might be a good idea to begin building some bridges with our urban friends and educate them regarding rural needs.
 - Wes feels there maybe value in having a larger crowd which might serve our purpose well, and legislators may appreciate being able to meet with more constituents. His real question should it be billed – as Rural Day, as UAC Day, or Rural / UAC Day ?
 - Lt. Governor Cox wonders if we would be more likely to get more of our rural County Commissioners and others there.
 - Tammie's concern is that we may be overwhelmed; how do we get equal representation? We ask our businesses to come, and are lucky if we get 2 or 3 per county; if Utah or Salt Lake County invites their businesses, it could take up the whole Rotunda. She wondered if we could do a model of what we do with each of the counties and have a Commissioner from each of the counties go up with part of their county and explain their main issues, and if other counties have the same issues, it could make them realize we all have a connection.
 - Lt. Governor Cox pointed out UAC doesn't usually do displays, so that could be part of the negotiations in the Rotunda; so we wouldn't get overwhelmed by businesses from urban counties.
 - Someone pointed out UAC would have their meeting ahead of time, and would only want to have their one-on-one with the Legislators. She felt it would be great; and feels GRPB should sign up for breakfast, and have UAC sign up for lunch. Also UAC is looking at some urban farming things, which could only help us in the future. Anytime we can partner together it's a good thing.

12. Legislative Annual Core Initiative: Steve pointed out there will be a new Speaker of the House of Representatives this year, as Speaker Lockhart has decided to step down. There may be some changes in direction as to how we present our issues to the Legislature.

Lt. Governor Cox stated, we've talked for many years regarding reinstating how to present issues to the Legislature. When the Rural Program took some Legislators on tour to Millard County and other places, it brought to mind how important it is to get them out in rural Utah. He has had several meetings with potential candidates for the new Speaker of the House and feels we can kind of get in on the ground floor with a new Speaker, and make some changes – not for this year; but for next. He asked if there are any other thoughts on how to handle this.

- Someone added it was a great move to get the Legislators out to the counties; and feels the cost could be borne by some of the businesses by contributions, etc. To get them in the area to see what the issues are is very important.
- Delynn added Legislators were really getting a lot of “flack” about payoffs and perks. There has been a problem in the past about who pays for it, if it was the Legislature, and the budget crunch was coming up. It is a problem taking 100 people to one place, and keeping them overnight in some cases, it could get expensive. Even putting them on a bus and taking them for one day – there are some costs that needs to be figured out.
- Lt. Governor Cox said he understands the concerns that come with “junkets” and spending. There are concerns with Legislators taking trips out of the country; but visiting your own state should be the last concern. He feels we can get some changes made.
- Wes doesn't feel this, or anything will get done unless someone is responsible to move it forward. He proposed we appoint a person or committee to spearhead the issue for the Governor's Rural Partnership Board and work with GOED, the Lt. Governor or whomever, and also suggest that we also invite someone who is not on the Board to participate – someone who is passionate, like Nan Anderson – along with whomever else we want to appoint from the Board – like Wes or Mike.
- Someone added this is a good plan. He feels if we put together a plan with the items they need to see, all they have to do is show up; and they'll come.
- Nan asked is this absolutely out of the possibility for this year; what about the fall? Is there a question about per diem?
- Lt. Governor replied there has been a question of per diem. He said he would discuss it with the Majority Leader. He would like if possible to pull it off this fall; but things have been very difficult for a long time with current leadership. The bigger issue is how we pay their salary. We had a good agenda a couple of years ago. We may also be able, if he would be willing, to get former Lt. Governor Greg Bell to be on the committee,

13. Date & Location of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 5, 2014 in the Canyolands Conference Room at the World Trade Center at City Creek (60 East South Temple, Third Floor). Lunch will also be served.

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Minutes were prepared by Myrna Hill