



Utah Quality Growth Commission
C/O Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
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Utah Quality Growth Commission

*Flint Richards, Chair
JT Martin, Vice Chair*

John Bennett, Executive Director

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held Thursday, December 16, 2010

Governors Office of Planning and Budget Large Conference Room

Suite 140, Utah State Capitol Building

Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Members Present

Flint Richards, Chair
JT Martin, Vice Chair
Sally Elliott
Reed Erickson
Dave Mansell
Justin Allen
Larry Ellertson
Mike Styler

Staff Present

John F. Bennett, Executive Director

Visitors Present

Quinn Card, Salt Lake City Council Staff
Kevin Fayles, Envision Utah
Val John Halford, WFRC

1. Welcome and Introductions, 5 Minutes

Chairman Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked each person present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Comments, 5 Minutes

Kevin Fayles of Envision Utah spoke to the Commission about three projects they are working on. First is Blueprint Jordan River. They have nursed the process along for some months now and are working with local governments that border the river to establish a Jordan River Commission by interlocal agreement.

Mr. Fayles also distributed copies of the Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow plan that Envision Utah has recently completed. He encouraged the commissioners to read the report, and indicated that it was a good partnership between the state, federal government and local interests to develop the plan. Sally Elliott of Summit County indicated that she had read the report and was disappointed that there was not more discussion of an interconnect between Summit and Salt Lake Counties. She indicated that they would continue to work on this issue in other forums. Mr. Fayles indicated that Envision Utah had received more than 25000 comments on this report and so they felt that there was broad support for the recommendations.

The third project was the Sustainable Communities Grant from HUD. A consortium of interests from Utah has received a grant of \$5 million over three years to evaluate some catalytic sites and complete some modeling tools and public outreach aimed at implementing the Wasatch Choices 2040 Plan. Utah was one of only two places in the country to receive this full \$5 million award. John Bennett indicated that Andrew Gruber of the Wasatch Front Regional Council had invited him to a meeting on December 15, 2010 to discuss ways that the Commission could participate in the consortium. He indicated that the

Commission would have a role in the direction of this grant. Mr. Bennett will serve on the steering committee. He indicated that there may be some specific areas where the commission can play a role. This project is on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

3. Approve Minutes from October Meeting , 5 Minutes
ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes

Sally Elliott moved that the commission approve the minutes with one correction which is the spelling of Reed Erickson's name. JT Martin, Vice Chairman, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. McAllister Program Report
Outstanding Grants—Status Report
Current Funding Situation John Bennett, 20 Minutes

Mr. John Bennett updated the Commission on the status of outstanding grants, and on the funding for the commission for next year. He indicated that three grants had been sent for final payment this week. They are Killyon Canyon, the final \$50 thousand from the Pine Valley Meadows Project, and the final TreeUtah Grant. The remaining outstanding grants, except those approved this past year, were extended until April 2011. Those approved this year have until October 2011 to close.

Mr. Bennett indicated that Paul Maynard, from the Trust for Public Land, received a Fulbright Fellowship to go to Krygistan and help the government establish a National Park System. Michael Patrick from TPL's New Mexico Office is working on his projects for the next year. Mr. Bennett indicated that the other grants were moving forward. He hoped that TPL would be able to close the OW ranch grant by April. This grant has been in the process for over two years and needs to be completed.

Mr. Bennett indicated that the governor's budget includes the base budget of about \$400,000. There is no new money for any projects this year. In addition to the base budget, there is approximately \$600,000 in retained interest from the time when the fund earned interest. This was retained to cover costs of the commission, but those have been far less than expected so most of that will be available this year to supplement our appropriation.

5. Discussion of new studies, and projects for 2011 John Bennett, 10 Minutes
GPI Project
Wasatch Forward

Mr. Bennett distributed to the Commission a document prepared by the Consortium that is working on the Sustainable Communities grant from HUD. He pointed out two areas where the commission could be of particular assistance. One was on creating the computer model. The Commission has funded a special growth model and completed the SUPER tool. These can become part of the work of the consortium, and the data and expertise can help the consortium avoid recreating the wheel.

Mr. Bennett also indicated that the commission could be helpful with the catalytic sites. These are areas that are developing in a quality way that could help catalyze other communities to do the same things. The commission has expertise in the area of Quality Growth that can be very helpful.

The planner education piece is also something that the Commission has done in the past and an area where we could bring significant expertise to this project. So these are areas where we can be of assistance to the consortium. Mr. Bennett looks forward to meeting with the consortium members and participating in this effort.

Mr Bennett indicated that he feels there are three reasons that the commission should be a part of this effort. First, its our mission. The commission is tasked with providing assistance to local governments, and this is a way to do that. Second, we have a lot to offer that can inform, and bring richness to the work, and we have invested a lot of time and money creating the tools that we have. It would be a shame

to duplicate that work. Third, we may be able to get some things into this effort that we have wanted for a long time such as getting our Rural or Community Character Tool kit put online, or getting a turbo tax model for planning built.

Larry Ellertson asked about matching funds. Kevin Fayles indicated that the consortium members have already brought to about \$1 million to the table and are looking for additional funds to broaden the scope. Mr. Bennett indicated that he views much of the work that the commission has already done as in kind contributions that could expand what is planned and help improve the product.

Reed Erickson asked about more rural areas. He reminded the Commission that the urban residents recreate in the rural areas, and wondered if any resources were going to be expended looking at those impacts. Mr. Fayles said that he focus is on the counties along the Wasatch Front, but that these issues could be part of the discussion. Mr. Bennett indicated that he believed that the tool being created could be used anywhere and may have application in rural areas. He indicated that he would relay these issues to the consortium.

Chairman Richards asked about the study boundaries. He wondered if Tooele County was included. Sally Elliott also indicated that she wanted Summit County to be a part of it. Mr. Bennett indicated that all of those areas are part of the two AOG regions that are participating. He is not clear on the geographic boundaries of the study, but discussion will likely spill into those counties on some issues, regardless of whether they are included in the in depth work.

Mr. Bennett described the next project that he wanted the commission to be aware of. This is the Genuine Progress Indicators Study that will be released in January. He has scheduled a presentation on this study for the next meeting of the Commission in January. He indicated that the purpose of this work is to try to quantify the actual costs of growth. He reminded the commission of the Carbon Footprint study that the same group had released last year. This work is a follow on to that.

6. Discussion of workplan for 2011.

Mr. Bennett told the Commission that this was really their ideas. They needed to decide what they want to do for the first part of the year before the McAllister Program visits take up all their time. He indicated that they had some issues that were on going, such as agricultural land conservation, but, what else does the Commission want to do. Another area that the Commission has discussed that they might want to continue is the notion of how we go about acquiring public access to streambeds and other critical areas for recreation such as foothills in urban areas, or the Jordan River.

Sally Elliott asked if small communities have the resources they need to encourage community gardens and small farms to promote local food supply. Mr. Bennett indicated that this is one discussion that could be part of the Agricultural Land Conservation discussion. He told the Commission that both Chairman Richards, who is a farmer, and Leonard Blackham, who is the commissioner of agriculture, have indicated that one of the best ways to conserve agricultural land is to help make the farms profitable. Mr. Bennett indicated that the Commission could consider some recommendations to help identify new markets and promote agriculture profits. He specifically mentioned a source local first program where state and local governments, and school districts would be asked to try to find a local source for the products they use in the schools, or government programs. Mr. Bennett related one statistic: in Utah, we spend \$115 million every year on school lunch. Not everything in those lunches is grown in Utah, but if the districts reviewed their menus, and tried to source those products locally, that would provide a market for Utah products, and keep more of that money in Utah. Sally Elliott indicated that this was something that was very interesting to her. John Bennett indicated that he had recently done an extensive internet search to look at what other states are doing to promote agriculture. He indicated that he would prepare a matrix for the commission to review.

Larry Ellertson asked if the Commission could have a review of the statute and history so that they could really understand what they do. John Bennett indicated that he would help the commission review its missions. He said he would go back to the statute and help them see what they are supposed to do. They

can then have a discussion again about what they want to accomplish.

He indicated that he has distilled the act into three missions, first, make recommendations on Quality Growth to the Governor and the legislature, second, assist local governments with technical assistance to plan for and address growth, and third, administer the LeRay McAllister Fund. The recommendations on Agricultural Sustainability could fall into both one and three and maybe two as well. Mr. Bennett indicated that he would put this issue back on the agenda for their continued discussion.

Chairman Richards indicated that he felt a review of the Commission's legislative charter would be helpful. He also indicated that we may want to hold one of our meetings on a farm such as one of the fruit orchards in Utah County to see up close some of these issues. He indicated that McMullin orchards had a board room at their processing plant that could work. Commissioners suggested doing this in spring.

Vice Chairman Martin asked the question how do we tell our story? Chairman Richards indicated that we have not done that very well. Vice Chairman Martin suggested that we have a media event or media day to let people know what we are all about. John Bennett reminded the Commission that they had talked about getting the Governor to go with them to Black Island Farms in Layton, the first easement placed with McAllister Funds, to talk about what the Commission has done over the past 10 years, and to look forward to the future. Mr. Bennett indicated that coordinating the Governor's schedule in an election year was difficult, but that we could consider doing it again now that the election was over. Chairman Richards indicated that Black Island Farm was a great place to go and that it might be a good back drop for a press event.

7. Legislative Strategy

John Bennett, 10 minutes

Sally Elliott asked how having Rep. Mel Brown as the chair of the Appropriations Committee will affect our work. Rep. Brown has not been very supportive of our work in the past. Mike Styler indicated that he thought Rep. Brown might be very interested in the walk in access idea as well as other public access issues. John Bennett indicated that he would find a time to get some commissioners together with Rep. Brown to talk about the walk in access, and public access grants we made in the last session and to see where he is on the fund now.

Chairman Richards indicated that each of the Commissioners represented diverse interests. He asked them each to contact those in the legislature that they know to spread the word.

8. Administrative Matters: Next meeting scheduled for January 27, 2011, State Capitol.