

FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME VII NUMBER 2

APRIL-JUNE, 2007

Executive Director's Dialogue

This week marks my first full year as Executive Director. I am astounded at how quickly the year has sped by. Our FY 2006 audit was "clean," with no findings or major concerns. My leadership team is managing programs efficiently and effectively. A number of state and federal monitoring visits resulted in accolades for the excellent work accomplished in southwestern Utah.

The leadership team and I are embarking on the preparation of the FY 2008 budget. Our greatest challenge continues to be how to continue our successes with static or declining revenues. Luckily, local support continues to fill that gap. We are committed to continue program delivery that reflects excellence. Thanks to the Steering Committee for their confidence and trust.

I would like to welcome Commissioner Duke Cox of Kane County to the Steering Committee, and thank Commissioner Mark Habbeshaw for his service. Competing demands and local assignments made this switch necessary. I would also like to recognize our Mayor representatives for this year: Eugene Mayer of Milford, Lowell Mechem of Tropic, Connie Robinson of Paragonah, Kim Lawson of Kanab, and Dan McGuire of Rockville. All have previously served in this capacity. I appreciate their seasoned leadership and experience. Finally, I wish to recognize a change in our higher education representation. Wes Curtis represents SUU on the Steering Committee. He will have a standing agenda item to report new initiatives and actions on a monthly basis.

Southwestern Utah continues to stand out in regional and national rankings. The St. George Metropolitan Statistical Area ranked first in the nation in population increases from July 2005 to July 2006. Many local leaders tout the fact that our region contains about 5 percent of the state's total population, but contributes more than 9 percent of state revenues. Local legislators fill many prominent leadership roles in the state legislature.

Dixie State College is leading an initiative to document the evolving nature of our regional economic base. The University of Utah's Bureau of Economic and Business Research has been retained to provide the first detailed analysis of southwestern Utah's economic baseline and future potential. The study will analyze employment, wages, demographics, housing units, commercial activity, major employers, infrastructure needs, and tax revenues. Partners in the study include Dixie State

College, Southern Utah University, Washington County Economic Development Council, Washington County School District, Dixie Applied Technology College, Utah State Trust Lands Administration, Utah Science Technology and Research (USTAR), Utah State Board of Regents, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and the Dixie Regional Medical Center. The Association of Governments is providing both financial and staff support for this project. We look forward to seeing this comprehensive analysis by the fall of 2007.

Community Development Staff Participated in Utah Planning Conference

On Thursday and Friday, March 22-23, most of the Community Development staff members of the Association attended and participated in the Annual Spring Conference of the American Planning Association (APA), Utah Chapter, held in Springdale, Utah. The APA is a national nonprofit public interest and research organization representing 39,000 practicing planners, officials, and citizens involved with urban and rural planning issues. There are about 600 APA members in Utah. The Utah Chapter holds both a spring and a fall conference each year.



This year's conference was held in the town of Springdale's new Canyon Community Center facility and provided many interesting and educational sessions. There were 106

planning professionals and citizen planners in attendance, making this spring conference one of the most successful ever for the Chapter. Results of post-conference evaluations clearly show it was a big success in terms of theme, content, coordination, venue, and location.

The theme of this Conference was: "Climbing to Higher Ground: *Managing Growth to Avoid Natural Hazards and Preserve Natural Resources*". There were three conference

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tracks offered to attendees, giving a choice of several different concurrent sessions to attend based upon their particular planning interests. All of the sessions were in some way connected to the general theme of the conference.

Kenneth Sizemore, Executive Director of the Five County Association of Governments, was a panel participant during the



“Public Lands Planning Process” session held on Thursday. This session was informative to those who lacked an understanding of the complex processes that federal agencies must follow and the relationship of the federal planning with local land use planning in rural areas.



Reed Erickson, the Association's Iron County Circuit Rider Planner, presented a session entitled “Iron Destiny: Iron County's new General Plan”. He described the planning process that will soon result in the public

unveiling of a unique, web-based, interactive general plan. Once online, it is surely to become the “go to” site for planning and land use issues in Iron County. Part of the Iron Destiny project also includes the Resource Management Planning (RMP) processes underway and being coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Iron County entered into an inter-local agreement with the BLM, establishing BLM as a cooperating agency with the County in the County's RMP process.

Gary Zabriskie, Five County AOG Senior Planner, created the graphics and signage for the theme of the conference. He also worked behind the scenes with Mirinda Schiele, Utah Chapter APA Administrator, and Tom Dansie, Springdale Town Planner, to plan lunch and breakfast menus, coordinate event catering and room assignments for the conference sessions. These three helped to facilitate final details of the conference that had been in planning since last fall.

Five County's newest staff planner, Brad DeMond (profiled elsewhere in this Newsletter), assisted in the venue setup and was a great help as well.

Several area firms provided financial sponsorship support of this conference. These included Rosenberg & Associates Consulting Engineers and Surveyors, Sunrise Engineering, SunCor Corporation (Coral Canyon Homes), and the Southern Utah Homebuilders Association. Support from local companies is always greatly appreciated.

The town of Springdale, and its Canyon Community Center, played great hosts for this event and should be

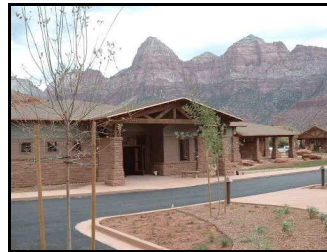
considered by anyone looking for an ideal place to hold a family reunion or other event such as company conference or retreat. See the adjoining article in this newsletter for information regarding this new facility.

The Conference evaluations completed by the attendees at the conclusion of the conference indicated overwhelmingly that the conference was worthwhile. With southern Utah's hospitality, a great venue, worthwhile conference topics, great food, good weather, spectacular scenery, and second to none tourism and recreational opportunities after the conference, the success of the conference was a sure bet which didn't let anyone down.

The Utah Chapter APA expressed sincere appreciation to the staff of the Five County Association of Governments who either participated in conference sessions or helped plan and coordinate the conference from “behind the scenes”.

(Gary Zabriskie)

Regional Highlight: Springdale's New Community Center



In October 2006, the town of Springdale opened their new Canyon Community Center/Springdale Town Library facility for use. The building, adjacent to the Springdale Town office, is located at 126 Lion Boulevard. This facility is available for use and can be reserved for community, non-profit organizations, and private functions.

The facility was funded by a number of sources including a Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB) bond from the State of Utah, a Washington County general obligation bond (for the library portion), grants and continued fund-raising, private donations and the town of Springdale general fund.

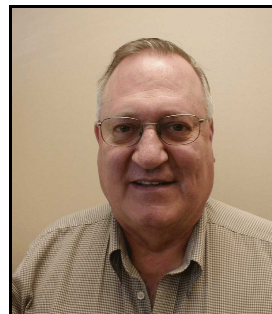
The town should be proud of this outstanding facility that is truly an asset to the community and this region.

More information on the facility, including room layout, reservation policies and forms can be found on the Center's web site: <http://www.canyoncommunitycenter.com>

(Gary Zabriskie)

Staff Spotlights:

Dean Brooks



When asked about his professional life and his secret to success, Dean Brooks said, “I have always been very personable... that is how I got places in my life.” Dean Brooks has a unique Illinois farm boy background that helped him learn the value of hard work. That attribute combined with his tender heart and great personality helped Dean in his forty-year career in public relations with Braniff and Delta airlines where he met numerous movie stars, dignitaries, and politicians. Dean says that governors are much more pleasant to talk to

than movie stars. Dean is able to relate well to real people who want to improve the community, and the FCAOG is lucky to have

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Staff Spotlights (Continued)

him working with such projects as free-tax help, food pantries, and the "Canstruction" project in the Fall.

In the duration of Dean's professional career, his job has moved him across the country. He has lived in cities such as Chicago, Anchorage, Seattle, and Salt Lake City. Dean traveled extensively for training in Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, San Antonio, and other cities as well. As for the sights of Europe, Russia, and Australia - Dean has visited them too. It was not until the last few years when Dean retired and moved to St. George in 2002.

Dean enjoys his time as a VISTA member. In fact, he is much busier now after retirement than he was during his prestigious public relations career, his six-month term with the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympics where he did the Hockey statistics at the E-Center, or as a computer lab specialist at Snow Canyon High School. Last year he was ranked second for the volunteer with the most volunteer hours in Washington County. Dean usually works two hundred hours a month. Some of his previous VISTA assignments have included working with RSVP, Habitat for Humanity, and the United Way of Dixie. If it is not here in the building, then you may just see him ushering at Tuacahn or the Eccles Fine Arts Building. Ever since he started volunteering, it is difficult to get him to stop!

However, when he gets the chance to take a break, fishing is a must. Dean has traveled to nearly every state in the nation and has had a chance to fish in many of them. Dean also admits that he enjoys just "having fun". Golfing is another great hobby and he would not mind taking up hunting again.

Dean is married to his sweetheart, Linda, who works for the City of St. George and has two children - a boy and a girl.

Brad DeMond



Brad joined Five County Association of Governments as a Community Development Planner in February 2007. His duties will include managing the Revolving Loan Fund, working as the new Ombudsman for the Dixie Area Workforce Housing Affordability Committee (DAWHAC), and working on other planning projects such as the Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan for SR 143.

Brad was born and raised in Pleasant View, Utah and graduated from Weber High School. After

graduation, he spent a couple of years as an LDS missionary, living in Michigan. Upon returning home, he attended college at Weber State University where he met and married his wife Kacey. Brad and Kacey have been married for almost 7 years and have a 2 year old daughter named Ellie, and a baby boy on the way.

Brad graduated from Weber State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography. After graduation from college, he worked as a Construction Manager before beginning his first job in the planning field as a Planner for Uintah County in Vernal, Utah.

Brad and Kacey have always enjoyed visiting St. George and were excited when this opportunity came to move here. In his spare time, Brad enjoys spending time with his family, playing sports, camping, fishing, and just enjoying the outdoors. He is excited to be here and looks forward to working with the people in this area.

A Fond Farewell

Carol Thomas



Carol began work as a HEAT Intake Worker for Beaver County in the 1980's. She was working with the HEAT Program before the Five County Association of Governments even took over the program. She has some interesting stories to tell about how the program has evolved. She

said that in the beginning it took 2-3 months before clients received their checks. Applications were taken in the counties and then sent directly in to the state for payment. A file she has saved from the 1980's shows the difference in forms and how the application process was handled. Times have really changed.

Carol has devoted nearly 25 years of service to the HEAT Program and the citizens of Beaver County. Carol travels to the smaller communities in Beaver County each HEAT season to make sure services are available and easily accessible for all the citizens in the county. Besides her seasonal responsibilities with the HEAT Program, she has held down another job as a Nursing Assistant at Beaver Valley Hospital for the past 17 years. She has always managed to efficiently get both jobs done.

Carol has 4 terrific sons. Two live in Beaver, one lives in Heber, and one in Roy. She has 12 grandchildren and another one due in May.

In addition to everything else on her plate, Carol is very talented at crocheting. She does beautiful work. She has shared this talent with family, friends, and many other acquaintances. She even spent a couple of years sharing her talents with inmates at the Beaver County Correctional Facility.

She has been a one-woman operation in Beaver County for the past 20+ years and people often catch her in the grocery store and other places to ask when the HEAT Program will be starting up again.

This will be Carol's last year with the HEAT Program. When the end of April arrives she will say good-bye to the HEAT Program and hello to some well deserved time with her children and grandchildren. She will also be retiring from her service with the Beaver County Hospital. We salute Carol for her many dedicated years of service. She will be very much missed by all of us.

**Senior Companion Program
Celebrates 10 Years**

The Five County Senior Companion Program celebrates ten years of service to frail elderly residents and their family caregivers in Washington, Iron, Beaver, Garfield and Kane counties. According to program records, more than 450 clients have received 188,964 hours of one-on-one assistance from volunteers since the program began in 1997. For more than a decade, 135 senior men and women serving as Senior Companion volunteers have offered companionship and friendship to isolated and frail adults, providing transportation to and from essential destinations, and assisting with simple chores.

While the additional income is helpful, each of these senior volunteers agree "service to those in need is the real reason" they are willing to put extra miles on their cars, be on-call occasionally and shed tears at the loss of clients with whom they have become close friends.

The Senior Companion Program, modeled after the older, more established Foster Grandparent Program, was created nationally in 1974 as one of three programs of the National Senior Service Corps. Additional funding provided in 1985 by the U.S. Congress enabled the program to refocus its attention on other services, including in-home support. In 2007, the Senior Companion Program has nearly 20,000 volunteers providing over 15 million hours of service in 225 programs across the United States and in Puerto Rico.

For more information about service as a Senior Companion or to request the services of a Senior Companion volunteer, call 674-5757.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

**Steering Committee Meeting
Schedule:**

Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Panguitch City Office, Council Chambers
25 South 200 East; Panguitch, UT

Wednesday, June 13, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Kane County Courthouse, Comm. Chambers
76 North Main Street; Kanab, UT

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