



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME X NUMBER 3

MAY-JUNE, 2011

Director's Dialogue

Five County Association of Governments has been a force for accomplishing many important initiatives in southwestern Utah since 1956. I continue to hear observations that the collaborative means by which we do business in our region has always been the case.

Staff at the Association focus on three major activities found in our mission statement. We Plan, Prepare and Partner with communities, counties and partnering agencies to accomplish a myriad of tasks.

Recently, the Human Services Council prioritized community needs for the region. The list includes:

1. Employment
2. Education
3. Substance Abuse Prevention
4. Case Management/Information & Referral
5. Housing & Homelessness
6. Aging Services
7. Youth Programs
8. Transportation
9. Child Care

As I reviewed the list, it became obvious that Five County AOG either provides direct programming, such as child care resource and referral and aging services; or partners with organizations that provide a service, such as housing or education.

These reviews demonstrate that the organization is on target and making a difference in the areas of most concern to our residents.

Debates regarding how to approach these needs continue to rage. There is much uncertainty about funding and the future of programs in their current state. This is creating a great challenge in crafting a budget for the fiscal year that begins in July.

Changes are on the horizon, and not for the first time for our region. I am confident that our history of working cooperatively will allow us to weather the storm of uncertainty and emerge with a slate of programs that will continue to provide a means to benefit all who call southwestern Utah home.

The draft FY 2012 budget will be reviewed and approved at the June Steering Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2011 in the Kane County Commission Chambers, located at 70 North Main Street, Kanab, UT.

A copy of the draft budget will be posted after June 1, 2011 on our web site at: www.fivecounty.utah.gov. Please take the opportunity to review the numbers. (Kenneth L. Sizemore)

May is National Community Action Month

This month is designated as National Community Action month to reinforce Community Action's role in helping low-income families achieve economic stability. Community Action Month is a way to celebrate the many partnerships developed over the years in our mission to help people and change lives.

Five County Public Forums



Washington County Public Forum 2011

Throughout the months of March and April, Five County Community Action Partnership (CAP) facilitated public forums throughout the five county region. Five County CAP utilized the collective strength of key community partners to address the causes and

conditions of poverty. The outcome of the forums will assist Five County CAP and local partners in developing solutions and programs that will help people in their area.

Public Forums focus on needs of low-income individuals and families such as affordable housing, work support, transportation, volunteering, and asset building. Community Action has long engaged and focused on needs of low-income individuals and works to effect change and maintain good programs within the community. These forums were open to all members of the community.

A report of the findings from the forums includes the demographics of the citizens in attendance and their concerns and suggestions. Although the issues that impact low-income communities are common in many ways, each county has unique characteristics. The information gathered is a source of valuable insight into the needs of each community.

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Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS)

This simulation was hosted by Five County Community Action Partnership in St. George on April 28, 2011. CAPS is a unique tool that Five County CAP is able to use to educate everyone, from policy makers to local community leaders, about the day-to-day realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress.

The stories the 72 participants acted out were meant to represent real-life situations that the 14.8% of Washington County residents or 28.5% of Iron County families with children experience daily. The Poverty Simulation was filmed by KBYU and will be part of a future telecast and documentary.

KBYU is partnering with Utahns Against Hunger, Community Action Partnership of Utah and the Utah Food Bank to give Utah residents an in-depth look at the face of poverty in Utah. The program titled, "Ask 11: Poverty in Utah", aired on May 20, 2011.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance 2011



VITA volunteer Training 2011

Five County Community Action Partnership (CAP) sponsors Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Programs in all five counties. This is the sixth year for VITA sites to offer free income tax preparation to low-income individuals.

This year the volunteers prepared a record 2,287 tax returns generating \$5,090,284 in returns for individuals in the five county area. The Dixie State College site prepared 1,107 of the returns for the Washington County area and Southern Utah University's VITA site completed 689 returns in Iron County. The Bloomington Walmart provided space and support for a site at their store. Other sites included USU extension offices in Washington County, Red Rock Center for Independence, Beaver Food Network and the Kane County Volunteer Center. Outreach included tax preparation day at the Southern Utah Deaf Center, Escalante, Big Water, and the Paiute Tribe.

The program is successful because of the multitude of partners and volunteers who are willing to dedicate their time and energy to assist people with financial asset building.

Northern Transportation Route Vital for Dixie's Future

A new roadway between Interstate Highway 15 and State Route 18 in Utah's Dixie is vital for the expected traffic demands of the urbanizing area in and around St. George City.

A recent study, commissioned by the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (DMPO), concludes that the North Washington Parkway Corridor is an integral part of reducing traffic congestion on Bluff Street, St. George Boulevard, Red Hills Parkway, and Red Cliffs Drive. In order to meet the expected travel demand on these corridors, a combination of several traffic reducing measures are needed. These include the North Washington Parkway, a more robust transit network, high-capacity intersections, alternate corridors, and an emphasis on land-use planning that reduces trip lengths, according to the study.

The Dixie MPO conducted the study in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as required in the Washington County Land-Use Bill. That Bill requires the BLM to "Identify one or more alternatives for a northern transportation route in the County."

Average Daily Traffic Counts of 2010 compared to anticipated traffic in 2040



The study specifically examined six options for a northern transportation route and identified Option 3 as one that affords the greatest benefit at the smallest cost. That option also reduced traffic congestion on the overall roadway network to save an estimated 3,000 hours of traveler delay time per year, and save motorists nearly \$19 million per year when compared to a no-build option.

Dixie MPO will next use these findings to assist the BLM in identifying one or more transportation routes for Washington County.

The findings were a result of analyzing key inputs such as current populations, potential growth, land-use plans, census data, job characteristics, available road lanes, future road construction, future transit availability, future pedestrian facilities, and cost. A travel demand model used these inputs to forecast trip characteristics, trip distribution, mode choices, and route choices. Ultimately, the model shows elected officials and planners how to create transportation systems and programs to meet the anticipated travel demands of urbanized area in and around the St. George area within the next three decades. A North transportation route would be useful before 2020, but is vital beyond 2020.

Iron County Care & Share Homeless Shelter Dedication/Open House



Mayor Joe Burgess, builder Dennis Gray of Precision Development, and building architect, Lynn Elliott cut the ribbon.

place for the new Iron County Care & Share Homeless Shelter on March 26th. State and local dignitaries were on hand for the ribbon cutting and to tour and learn more about the facility.

Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell spoke of his work with the many homeless programs in the state and congratulated the community for efforts to provide housing for homeless individuals.

Three dedicatory prayers were given by Pastor John Guthrie of the Community Presbyterian Church, Reverend Susan Wiltsey of St. Jude's Episcopal Church and Elder Dane Leavitt of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



Front View of New Homeless Shelter

This project was funded with two CDBG grants totaling \$213,525. Funds were used for engineering, architectural design and construction of the facility. The community was very supportive of the project and the additional funds required to complete the project were provided by other grants and donations from area churches and organizations. Generous grant contributions were received from the Leavitt Group, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Humanitarian Services Department, Cedar Area Interfaith Alliance, O.C. Tanner Foundation, the George S. And Delores Dore Eccles Foundation, the Sorensen Legacy Foundation, the Utah Association of Realtors, the Bamberger Foundation, and Cedar City Corporation. These leveraged funds totaled \$296,300. Most notably, \$135,000 of the contributions received were from approximately 1,700 individual members of the community.

The shelter provides over 5,000 square feet of space and replaces the tiny, aging residential home that has been used in the past. The new facility features six men's dorm rooms, one women's dorm room, two family suites with lounges and

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds laid the foundation for the realization of the Iron County Care and Share Board's vision to improve the lives of the homeless population in Cedar City, Utah.

A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house took

playrooms attached, as well as bathroom and laundry facilities, a kitchen and office. This will also be the only homeless shelter in southern Utah that is equipped for homeless families. It is conveniently located next to the Iron County Care & Share Food Bank and many supportive services that the clients will be accessing during their stay at the shelter.

'Road Respect: Rules to Live by for Cars & Bikes'

Hurricane City has been chosen by the Utah Department of Transportation as the location for the grand finale of a statewide event called 'Road Respect: Rules to Live by for Cars & Bikes'.

This statewide effort involves 24 "core" riders who will travel in one week from Logan to Hurricane promoting a better understanding of how drivers and bicyclists can successfully 'Share the Road'. Leaving Logan on June 11th, the Road Respect team will sponsor promotional events in Ogden, Salt Lake, Park City, Orem, Moab, and Torrey. The event will culminate in Hurricane on **June 18th**.

Hurricane City, along with Springdale Town, have been working hard with lots of citizen volunteers to establish safe bicycle facilities. Hurricane City caught the attention of the female winner of the St George 2010 and 2011 IronMan competitions, Heather Wurtele, who thanked the city for their designation of a new bicycle route, the Sand Hollow Loop, that covers 25 miles and is marked with 'Share the Road' signs that remind motorists and bicyclists to keep three feet between themselves.

Heather noted that communities in our area are making bicycling increasingly safe for riders and drivers and pointed out how many serious bicyclists are choosing to come to southern Utah. Southwest Utah will soon surpass the Moab region in numbers of active bicyclists, which in turn brings positive economic development to the region.



The Road Respect event will sponsor a bicycle helmet give away, a bike rodeo for kids, food, music and a ribbon cutting for the new Sand Hollow Loop bicycle route. An agenda for the activities in Hurricane City and

Springdale Town is available on the Five County AOG Transportation Planning Organization's website at: <http://fcaogtpo.wordpress.com/> Everyone is invited, so pump up your bike tires and come join in the celebration on June 18th.

DENNIS EARL STOWELL
JUNE 18, 1944 - APRIL 17, 2011



Senator Stowell was the principal shepherd in guiding the Zion Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan through the legislative approval process. Though gravely ill, and fighting to remain at his post during the 2011 legislative session, he championed the locally-driven planning process, and made sure that his fellow legislators understood its importance.

His guidance in plowing the ground through an untried and untested process assured that future scenic byway groups know how to accomplish legislative reviews of Corridor Management Plans.

Dennis served as the Mayor of Parowan, as an Iron County Commissioner, and as a State Senator. He worked with local Scenic Byway groups in all three capacities, and will be remembered as a devoted champion of celebrating intrinsic qualities that make scenic byways a vital part of local community and economic development.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail to (dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov) 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 website at: <http://fivecounty.utah.gov>

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 - 1PM

Kane County Courthouse
Commission Chambers - 76 North Main
Kanab, UT

Wednesday, August 10, 2011 - 1PM

Panguitch City Office
Council Chambers - 25 South 200 East
Panguitch, UT

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