

Bear Lake Regional Commission

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Minutes Bear Lake Regional Commission Garden City, UT January 31, 2024

Those in attendance:

Sim Weston - Board Vice Chairman, Rich County Commissioner
Burdette Weston - Board Secretary Mayor of Laketown
Dan Fisher, City Council of Montpelier
Mike Leonhardt - Mayor of Garden City
Ken Brown - Rich County at Large
Mitch Poulsen - Executive Director- Bear Lake Regional Commission
Christy Jensen - Bear Lake Regional Commission
Tami Leonhardt - B L Convention & Visitors Bureau

Excused:

Bradley Jensen - Board Chairman, Bear Lake County Commissioner
Ron Jensen - Recreation
Albert Johnson - Bear Lake County at Large
Roy Bunderson- Mayor of Bloomington

Also in attendance:

Margie Rycewicz/ Rich County Local Administrative Adviser-BRAGG, Bryan Carver-BRAG
Casey Silva/ UT-DNR, Division of Wildlife Resources, AIS Program Coordinator,
Josh Wright/ DNR, Division of Wildlife Resources -Invasive Interdiction Specialist
Brady Long-Bear Lake Watch,

Chairman Bradley Jensen was attending legislative meetings in Boise, in his absence Vice Chairman Sim Weston Conducted the January 31, 2024, meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission, the meeting started at 7:12pm.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Sim Weston asked for an approval of the agenda, The agenda was reviewed and approved.

- **Dan Fisher motioned to approve the agenda.**
Burdette Weston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

A unanimous decision was made to suspend the election rules and install Commissioner Sim Weston as Chairman rotating from Idaho to a Utah representative for this upcoming year, with Commissioner Bradley Jensen as Vice Chairman and installing Montpelier councilman Dan Fisher as secretary/treasurer.

- **Ken Brown made a motion to suspend election rules and install Commissioner Sim Weston as board Chairman and Commissioner Bradley Jensen as Vice Chairman for the 2024 year, with Dan Fisher as secretary/treasurer. Burdette Weston as alternate primarily for the signing of checks when necessary.
Mike Leonhardt seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Margie Rycewicz/ Rich County Local Administrative Adviser

Margie is the new Local Administrative Advisor. She is from The Bear River Association of Governments. BRAG has been subcontracted by the Utah League of Cities and Towns to help small municipalities. Every municipality in Rich County is a small municipality, and the County itself also qualifies for assistance under this program. Due to the small size and lack of full staff in these communities, Margie is able to come help and identify and prioritize needs. Some of the tasks the program can help with are, setting and evaluating budgets, looking at compliance with State and Federal procedures and operating rules, personnel management, grant writing services and any other administrative activity except for land use planning. (However, BRAG has other funds and other programs that may help with those issues).

Twenty-Seven communities in the three-county region qualify for this service.

The Utah League of Cities and Towns has told BRAG they can expect this program to last at least two years and they intend to lobby for future continuation of the funds.

Casey Silva/ Update on Local AIS program

Casey is with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources. She is the new AIS Program Coordinator.

Statewide inspection and decontamination numbers are up this year. Higher staffing and a lot of recruiting, they gave statewide wage updates with higher wages at Lake Powell to recruit as many employees as possible. Implementation of a camera system at Lake Powell has been installed, cameras are now at the entrance and exit of Wahweap and Bullfrog. They are working with an AI company to scan bow numbers so if technicians are not available, they are still catching who is coming in and out of Lake Powell. Eventually this will get integrated into their WID app so those bow numbers will just get logged in, then technicians in other areas will be able to see that.

Dip tanks have now been installed at Utah Lake, Sand Hollow, and Willard Bay. Completion of tanks at Flaming Gorge & Bull frog should be completed by June 30, 2024, making a total of five Dip tanks across the state. These Dip Tanks are similar to an inground swimming pool with a boat ramp. Using high temperature water these tanks turn an hour to an hour and a half manual decontamination into a ten-to-fifteen-minute process.

Josh Wright the DNR-Invasive Interdiction Specialist informed the board that this past season in the Bear Lake area 27,790 boat inspections were done. 11,488 were done at the State Park, 16,302 at the overlook. 6,540 wakeboard boats, which are one of the highest risks. 12,951 hand launch, the estimated for hand launch is probably double because many do not stop for inspection of hand-launched crafts. Under State Parks law enforcement, 42 citations were issued. 27 reports, 130 law enforcement hours. This is not the total of law enforcement hours as other officers and agencies also help.

Contracts with all of Utah State Parks are being finalized for reimbursement costs to the Parks to help with the program.

Ratify the 2023 AIS Contract between Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Bear Lake Regional Commission (BLRC) which was signed by ISDA Director Chanel Tewalt on 12/14/2023 and by BLRC Chairman Bradley Jensen on 12/20/2023

- **Ken Brown made a motion to ratify the signing of the 2023 AIS Contract between Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Bear Lake Regional Commission (BLRC) Mike Leonhardt seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Ratify the 2024 AIS Contract between Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Bear Lake Regional Commission (BLRC) This 2024 calendar year contract was also signed by ISDA Director Chanel Tewalt on 12/14/2023 and by BLRC Chairman Bradley Jensen on 12/20/2023.

- **Ken Brown made a motion to ratify the signing of the 2024 AIS Contract between Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Bear Lake Regional Commission (BLRC) Mike Leonhardt seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Ratify Signature/ Fraud Risk Assessment for the 2023 FY

- **Mike Leonhardt motioned to ratify the signing of the 2023 Fraud Risk Assessment. Burdette Weston seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Sign Fraud Risk Assessment for 2024 FY

- **Ken Brown motioned to sign the 2024 Fraud Risk Assessment. Dan Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Staff Report

Utah State University's Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Program has nominated Bear Lake as their area of focus this year. Students will come in, pick certain areas to target, help to design things, look for different solutions for different problems within the area. Mitch attended one of their preliminary workshops on Friday and they would like to come and present to this board. Mitch will get back with them to see if they could attend a BLRC meeting possibly in April.

Mitch went down and made a presentation to the legislature last week, requesting a funding appropriation of \$5000 ongoing, and \$15,000 one-time, to the Natural Resources and Environmental Subcommittee. This would bring the funding equal to the Idaho funding. Mitch encouraged the board as County Commissioners and local elected officials to reach out to members of that committee and let them know that you support this and would appreciate their consideration for this funding. Representative Sandals chairs that group. Some other members of that committee are Representative Chew, Casey Snider. The current Director of Natural Resources is Joel Ferry.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

- **Mike Leonhardt made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 Meeting, the Legislative meeting held Oct 16 in lieu of the October BLRC meeting and verified the canceled meetings of November and December. Burdette Weston seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Bills & Payroll

The bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission were reviewed, a motion was made to approve them.

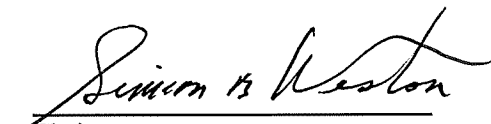
- **Mike Leonhardt made a motion to accept and approve payment of the January 2024 bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission, and to Ratify the October, November and December bills and payroll.**
Burdette Weston seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjourn

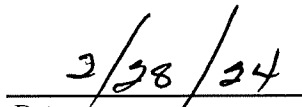
With no further business, the meeting ended at 8:29 p.m.

- **Ken Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission**
Dan Fisher seconded the motion, motion carried.

Minutes Approved:



Chairman



Date