

**EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: Monday, October 27, 2008

TIME: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, Utah

THOSE PRESENT:

Dianne Nielson, Governor's Energy Advisor
Larry Crist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Betsy Hermann, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Laura Romin, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jeff Williams, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jason Gipson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Larry Svoboda, Environmental Protection Agency
Robin Coursen, Environmental Protection Agency
Butch Waidelich, Federal Highway Administration
Bryan Cawley, Federal Highway Administration
Edward Woolford, Federal Highway Administration
Michael Styler, Utah Department of Natural Resources
Rick Sprott, Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Cheryl Heying, Utah Division of Air Quality
Bryce Bird, Utah Division of Air Quality
Lori Hunsaker, State Historic Preservation Office
John Njord, Utah Department of Transportation
Carlos Braceras, Utah Department of Transportation
Jim McMinimee Utah Department of Transportation
Becky Stromness, Utah Department of Transportation
Teri Newell, Utah Department of Transportation
Julie Lewis, Utah Department of Transportation

ITEM ONE: CHAIR WELCOME

John Njord called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending. He had those attending introduce themselves. John said Dianne Nielson called and would arrive a little later. Therefore, the agenda proceeded with Item Three.

ITEM THREE: HOST PRESENTATION – USFWS/WETLAND AND CONSERVATION BANKING

Larry Crist thanked everyone for coming to the USFWS Office today. He introduced Betsy Hermann, who provided a presentation on “Mitigation Banking – Wetland Banks and Conservation Banks – Their Role in the Transportation Planning Process.”

Betsy distributed copies of a handout entitled, “Conservation Banking – Incentives for Stewardship.” Conservation banks are permanently protected privately or publicly owned lands that are managed for endangered, threatened, and other at-risk species. A conservation bank is like a biological bank account. Instead of money, the bank owner has habitat or species credits to sell.

Betsy reviewed activities regulated under CWA Section 404. She reviewed the methods of compensatory mitigation—establishment (creation), restoration, enhancement, and preservation. Betsy provided an assessment of Section 404 compensatory mitigation compliance in Northern Utah. She explained good compensation; i.e., ecological replacement, avoids the temporal loss of functions, appropriate location in landscape, cumulative impacts, potential for success, success measures/monitoring plan, and protection in perpetuity.

Betsy discussed the new mitigation rule, which was finalized on March 31, 2008. This rule supports the use of mitigation banks as an effective means for mitigating wetland impacts. Betsy reviewed mitigation banking concepts and benefits. She said we have five existing wetland banks in Utah; i.e., one UDOT Bank (Galena Bank), Kennecott’s ISSR bank, and three private commercial banks. There is one UDOT Bank in development (Lindon bank).

Betsy discussed conservation banks. SITLA has developed a conservation bank for Utah prairie dogs. Betsy discussed why conservation banks are established rather than using individual on-site mitigation. She reviewed the Draft Guidance for Recovery Credit Systems, which became available on July 31, 2008. The NRCS is currently working on a pilot RCS program for Utah prairie dogs. Betsy said there is a National Mitigation & Ecosystem Banking Conference scheduled in Salt Lake City on May 5-6, 2009.

Butch asked if we have a handle on where these banking projects would be most effective. Betsy said they have been reactionary in the past, but the goal is to get the bank in the best possible location. It will take some planning, but they would like to get impacts mitigated in the same area.

ITEM TWO: REPORT ON BRAC – BLUE RIBBON ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

John introduced Dianne Nielson, the Governor’s Energy Advisor, and thanked her for coming today. Dianne provided a summary on the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change (BRAC). This group finalized their study a year ago and presented it to Governor Huntsman. Dianne distributed a handout that referenced websites for the Governor’s

BRAC, Utah's Energy Efficiency Strategies, and the Western Climate Initiative.

Dianne reviewed the Governor's energy goals, which include (1) Affordable energy; (2) Strengthen energy security and independence; and (3) Reduce emissions. Utah's energy strategy for completing these goals include (1), Diversify the energy portfolio of renewables and non-renewables; (2) Promote economic development; (3) Improve energy efficiency and conservation; (4) Improve environmental quality and reduce greenhouse gases; (5) Develop transmission and transportation; and (6) Maintain quality of life. Dianne presented a graph of energy production in the United States from 1949 to 2006. She also provided a graph of energy production in Utah by a primary source.

Dianne discussed a chart from the BRAC Report that showed greenhouse gas emission savings from proposed reduction strategies. The BRAC Report is available on line at http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC_Climate/index.htm. There are also a limited number of hard copies still available. All of these options are included in the BRAC Report.

Dianne said Governor Huntsman's Energy Efficiency Goal is to increase energy efficiency by 20 percent by 2015 from the 2005 baseline. Utah leads by example with state buildings and vehicle fleets—statewide and economy-wide. Dianne discussed a pie chart from the BRAC Report entitled, "Net Economic Benefit of Energy Efficiency Options." Another focus from the BRAC Report was Renewable Energy Zones (UREZ and WREZ).

Dianne presented a graph from the BRAC Report that outlined the consumption of natural gas in Utah, 1952 – 2006 (Utah). She discussed the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) Plan and the WCI Market-Based Cap and Trade (scope, sources, and components of the program).

Dianne presented a chart entitled, "Utah Green House Gas Reduction Goal," which outlined projections for agriculture, transportation CO2 emissions, RCI (non-electricity) CO2 emissions, electricity-related CO2 emissions, etc. She also reviewed absolute reductions from 2020 BAU.

LUNCH SERVED

ITEM FIVE: STATUS REPORT ON MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRIDOR AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND MITIGATION

Teri Newell, UDOT, provided a status report on the Mountain View Corridor (MVC) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). She distributed a handout showing the "Phased Approach" for the MVC. Initially, it was intended we would build much less of a corridor with the necessary future right of way in place. Now, it is intended to use this phased approach for the MVC.

Teri said transit is a component of the MVC, as well as HOV lanes. These will help with air quality. There is a section in the Final EIS that covers mitigation measures. UDOT received

approximately 2,500 comments during the comment period on the MVC Draft EIS. The Department has received approximately 15 comments during the comment period on the Final EIS. Teri said there was a great effort from all staffs involved in the MVC, and she thanked the various agencies for their help.

Teri referred to a statement in the Final EIS regarding air quality. They have created an Air Quality Working Group to discuss issues sensitive to the MVC area. They will also have an Air Quality Monitoring Program for MVC. They will work closely with these groups on air quality and communicating those issues to the public. They will put \$1 million in an account for monitoring, which will be used over time for the various phases. They have also provided for \$3.1 million for schools located near the corridor (filters for schools). Both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Quality thanked Teri for her cooperation with their agencies on this MVC effort.

ITEM SIX: DEQ UPDATE ON AIR QUALITY – PM 2.5 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPACTS TO UTAH

Bryce Bird, Utah Division of Air Quality, provided handouts and gave an update on the PM 2.5 Status, the Governor's 2007 Area Recommendation and Schedule, and the 2008 Ozone Status. Bryce said Box Elder and Tooele Counties would be impacted as non-attainment areas. Cheryl Heying said they have explained the process to the local officials. However, it can be difficult for communities that have not gone through this process before. The Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization has been involved in this process.

Bryce said the EPA revised the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard in March 2008. He provided a handout/summary of the new standard for the ozone status and discussed the schedule. Bryce said we had very good ratings for the Metropolitan area this past summer. There were not as many fires from outside areas that caused problems along the Wasatch Front. Cheryl said we are beginning to see reductions from vehicles as well.

ITEM SEVEN: OTHER BUSINESS – SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

John asked the ETEC Members if there were additional items to discuss. He thanked everyone for attending and said it is beneficial for the group to meet and discuss the various projects and programs that impact us all.

John discussed the Legacy Parkway Project and invited ETEC members to drive the road if they have not already done so. UDOT has received many good comments on the highway and the positive impacts it has for Utah citizens. He also discussed the Front Runner and other positive transportation additions to Davis County. Rick Sprott said it is very interesting to see people recreating and enjoying the Legacy Parkway. The design on the overpasses is also a nice touch on Legacy. Rick mentioned the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Jordan River Parkway, which is looking to enhance and extend the parkway along the Jordan River. Lori Hunsaker suggested an annual bicycle event along Legacy. John said they would try to keep Legacy Highway as a scenic byway and limit outdoor advertising.

Action Item: The next ETEC Meeting will be held in March 2009. Julie Lewis will send ETEC Members some possible dates, along with a list of which agencies have hosted past ETEC Meetings. Butch suggested the Jordan River Trail System be added as a future ETEC agenda topic.

ADJOURNED AT 1:15 P.M.