

# HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular meeting** of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held in the Washington City Council Chambers on **June 23, 2015**.

Committee members present were:

Chris Blake, Chairman	Environmental Organization
Chris Hart, Vice Chairman	Local Development
Henry Maddux	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
John Bramall	Mayors Association
Dawna Ferris-Rowley	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Bob Sandberg	HCP Administrator

Absent and excused were:

Larry Crist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Marc Mortensen	Citizen-at-Large

Also present were:

Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP – Recorder
Cameron Rognan	Technical Committee (HCP)
Tim Croissant	Technical Committee (BLM)
Ann McLuckie	Technical Committee (DWR)
Alan Gardner	County Commissioner
Jodi Borgeson	Deputy County Attorney
Gary Webster	Congressman Stewart’s Office
William Swadley	Senator Mike Lee’s Office
Julie Applegate	St. George News
Jim Raines	Brennan Holdings
Susan Crook	Citizen’s for Dixie’s Future
Brian Raper	SUU
Craig Harvey	St. George City

## 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chris Blake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

## 2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the committee for approval. The consent portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any member wishes to remove an item from the consent portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the regular agenda.

- a. **Approval of Agenda**
- b. **Review and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes**
  1. **May 26, 2015**
- c. **Next Meeting Date**

Approved HCAC Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2015

1. **July 28, 2015**

**MOTION** by Chris Hart to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Seconded by John Bramall.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote was taken: All voted aye.  
Motion passed.

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

a. John Bramall stated that Hurricane City filed an annexation plan in 1999 that included the Sand Mountain area. In the recent Hurricane City Council meeting the committee discussed encouraging the private land owners in that area to proceed with annexation.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

a. **SUU/YCC Trail Restoration Project (see discussion below)**

5. **UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

a. **None**

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. **Discussion of SUU/YCC Trail Restoration Project**

Brian Raper, Partnership Director for the Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC), presented Exhibit 4-a-1. He discussed what the IIC does as well as their mission. He then discussed the work recently done on the Chuckwalla trail by SUU and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Overall, the group established and repaired the trail, established water ways and improved drainage, cleaned and reinforced culverts, and designed and repaired trail drain dips. Brian discussed potential future projects and the committee thanked him for their efforts and is interested in having them back for more work in the future.

b. **Update on land acquisition efforts – Bob/Dawna**

Regarding section 6 acquisitions, the state Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has closed on the Virgin River Land Preservation Association parcel as well as the SITLA parcel.

Dawna reported the feasibility package for the Long Valley exchange is moving through Washington.

**c. Update on permit renewal – Bob**

Larry could not attend this meeting, and Bob did not have any updates on the permit renewal at this time.

**d. Technical Committee Report**

Cameron Rognan reported about a proposed road addition in the Diamond Valley area that a local developer brought to the TC. The committee decided to take a field trip to the site for further assessment prior to their July meeting.

In the previous HCAC meeting the committee sent the Quarry Trail proposal for route A back to the TC. Exhibit 6-e-1 is a map as well as a letter from St. George City showing a possible alternative route A, though the City Council would still have to approve this route. Cameron read the formal recommendation from the TC, as shown in Exhibit 6-e-2.

The final discussion from the TC was concerning the budget. The committee made a few changes and will have that to the HCAC for review in the next meeting.

**e. Continuation of Quarry Trail proposal**

Commissioner Gardner asked about the possibility of removing one trail to allow for the new Quarry Trail. After discussion regarding trail removal, alternate quarry sites, and the updated route A, the HCAC voted to send the issue back to the TC for further discussion and await answers from St. George City about whether or not proposed route A would be accepted.

**MOTION** by Chris Hart to continue the Quarry Trail awaiting additional information from the City and the TC. The TC will explore the following: an alternate quarry site, potential for mitigation by exchanging trails, and mitigation by changing the route. The HCP needs to know whether the City Council will accept the alternate route A, as shown in exhibit 6-e-1.

Seconded by John Bramall.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

**f. HCP Administrator's report – Bob Sandberg**

**1. Cottonwood Road fuel reduction update**

Bob updated the committee that there are still goats on Cottonwood Road working on reducing tumbleweed. The thistle is maturing so the goats have slowed down their eating, but they have done well thinning it and stomping down old tumbleweeds that have built up along the fence.

**2. Update on mural project**

Bob reported the mural painters were having trouble with the paint due to the heat so that project is on hold until the weather cools down.

**3. Desert Garden/RCDR information panel**

Bob reported he has been working with a biology class at Dixie State University that is creating a panel to put up at the Desert Garden giving information about the Reserve and desert tortoise.

**4. Summer Intern**

Bob mentioned the HCP hired a summer intern who has been working with Cameron on raven nest surveys, looking for raven predation issues. He has also been helping with trail work and signage.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This item is reserved for items not listed on this agenda. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item (three minutes per person).

a. Jim Raines handed out a letter from Brennan Holdings (Exhibit 7-a-1) as well as a map outlining Sand Hollow exchange option 2 (Exhibit 7-a-2) to the committee. He asked the committee to be pro active and consider options available for potential acquisition of private land within the Reserve.

**8. MEMBER REPORTS & REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a. None

**9. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Henry Maddux to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by John Bramall.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.