

Mayor Bruno – Council Report February 2023

Mayors Meeting

Zach Renstrom from the Washington County Water Conservancy District reported that the snowpack at Kolob is well above average. If the weather pattern continues, we'll be in good shape. The Virgin River has been placed on a national list for a reduction in water usage, which would be problematic for our cities.

DTEC Meeting

The group is exploring the idea of forming a Washington County Transit Authority, and the City of St. George seems willing to give that group responsibility for SunTrans. This Authority would take responsibility for the St. George to Springdale shuttle once it is in place. Conversations will continue.

Legislative Policy Committee

With the Utah State Legislature in session, our weekly calls with representatives of the Utah League of Cities and Towns have begun. There will be a lot of focus on housing, especially housing affordability and homelessness.

Short Term Rental Task Group: ULCT

Council member Zumpft, Rick Wixom and I are members of the Short Term Rental Task Group (Utah League of Cities and Towns). We are working out a strategy to address Representative Musselman's short-term rental bill.

Zion Forever Project

Lyman Hafen and Mark Preiss have both announced their departure from Zion Forever, and Lyman's replacement has been named. Her name is Natalie Britt, and she will arrive in our area in mid February.

Zion Regional Collaborative

We held our first workshop of the year in LaVerkin. Some interesting reports:

- Hurricane is considering moving its airport to the LaVerkin lookout area, which would put the flight path over Desert Garden subdivision.
- Zion National Park hopes to have the construction at the south entrance completed by the busy spring break period.

- Brian Head Ski Resort has announced a major expansion of its resort, adding 850 acres of ski terrain and new base lodges.

What's Up Down South

- Prior to 2023, the Washington County Water Conservancy District was committing to 0.89 acre feet per year per equivalent residential connection; it is now .59 acre feet.
- Washington County has reduced its per capita water use more than 30% since 2000.
- There are three open jobs for every employable person in Utah.