

MINUTES

Wasatch Front Regional Council Meeting of March 23, 2006

Mayor Nordfelt, Chairman, called the meeting of the Wasatch Front Regional Council to order at 3:07 p.m. in the Regional Council offices at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members Present

Ken Bischoff	Commissioner, Weber County
Bruce Burrows	Mayor, Riverdale
Peter Corroon	Mayor, Salt Lake County
J. Lynn Crane	Mayor, Herriman
Craig L. Dearden	Commissioner, Weber County
Tom Dolan	Mayor, Sandy
Matthew Godfrey	Mayor, Ogden
Daniel B. Hancock	Councilman, Morgan County
Joe L. Johnson	Mayor, Bountiful
Dennis Nordfelt	Mayor, West Valley City
Fred Panucci	Mayor, Syracuse
John Petroff, Jr.	Mayor, West Point
JoAnn B. Seghini	Mayor, Midvale

Members Not Present

Byron Anderson	Mayor, Grantsville
Ross C. Anderson	Mayor, Salt Lake City
Camille Cain	Commissioner, Weber County, Rep. of UAC
George Garwood, Jr.	Mayor, South Ogden / ULCT
Robert Grow	Representative, Envision Utah
Michael H. Jensen	Councilman, Salt Lake County
Dannie R. McConkie	Commissioner, Davis County
Kent Money	Mayor, South Jordan

Alternate Members Present

Claudia Anderson	Mayor, Bluffdale
Carlton Christensen	Councilman, Salt Lake City
David B. Newton	Mayor, West Jordan
Neka Roundy	Mayor, Kaysville
Darrell H. Smith	Mayor, Draper

Alternate Members Present (continued)

Todd Stevenson	Mayor, Fruit Heights City
Don Wood	Mayor, Clearfield City

Other Elected Officials Present

Gordon Thomas	Cottonwood Heights
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Press Present

Nicole Warburton	Deseret Morning News
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Others Present

D.J. Baxter	Salt Lake City
Wayne Bennion	WFRC Staff
Kip Billings	WFRC Staff
Ed Blaney	WFRC Staff
Carlos Braceras	UDOT
Jason Burningham	South Davis Metro Fire Agency
Steve Call	FHWA
Chuck Chappell	WFRC Staff
Orrin Colby	UTA Board
Mick Crandall	UTA
Natalie Gochnour	Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
Sharon Gray	WFRC Staff
Doug Hattery	WFRC Staff
Cheryl Heying	Utah Div. of Air Quality
John Hiskey	Sandy City
John Inghish	UTA
Jory Johner	WFRC Staff
Dan Jones	Dan Jones and Associates
Gary Kitchen	UTA
Sam Klemm	WFRC Staff
Rick McKeague	Utah Department of Air Quality
Diane Meppen	Dan Jones and Associates
Glenn J. Mecham	Senator Bob Bennett's Office
Andrea Packer	UTA
George Ramjouis	WFRC Staff
George Sumner	South Davis Metro Fire Agency
Russell Weeks	Salt Lake City Council Staff
Butch Waidelich	FHWA
Rob Wall	South Jordan City

Mayor Byron Anderson, Mayor Ross C. Anderson, Commissioner Dannie R. McConkie, Mayor Kent Money, and Commissioner Camille Cain were excused from the meeting.

Consent Agenda

ACTION on the minutes of the WFRC meeting of February 23, 2006, and ACTION on the financial statement and check register for January 2006: Commissioner Dearden moved to approve the minutes of the WFRC meeting of February 23, 2006. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bischoff and passed unanimously. Mayor Crane moved to approve the financial statement and check register for January 2006. The motion was seconded by Mayor Panucci and passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Discussion of Transit Funding in Salt Lake County (Dan Jones): Mr. John English reported that UTA recently contracted with Dan Jones and Associates to do a survey of Salt Lake County voters to determine their willingness to support a property tax increase to accelerate the construction of light rail extensions in the Mid-Jordan, West Valley, Draper, and Airport corridors and to make other transit improvements in the County. He noted that local officials and UTA will soon need to decide whether or not to place a property tax measure on this fall's ballot in Salt Lake County. He stated that it's critical to understand where the community is on these issues, as many local officials feel the light rail program needs to be accelerated. He added that UTA is making progress towards addressing these needs, but felt it would take a multi-modal solution to solve the problem.

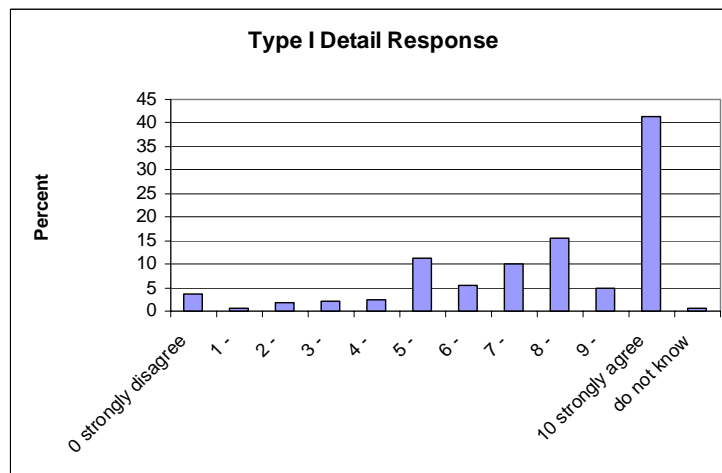
Mr. English introduced Mr. Dan Jones, who was in attendance to discuss the results of the survey and answer any questions Council members may have.

Mr. Dan Jones reviewed the following PowerPoint presentation and explained the results of the Salt Lake County Survey that was conducted by Utah Transit Authority and Dan Jones & Associates in October 2005.

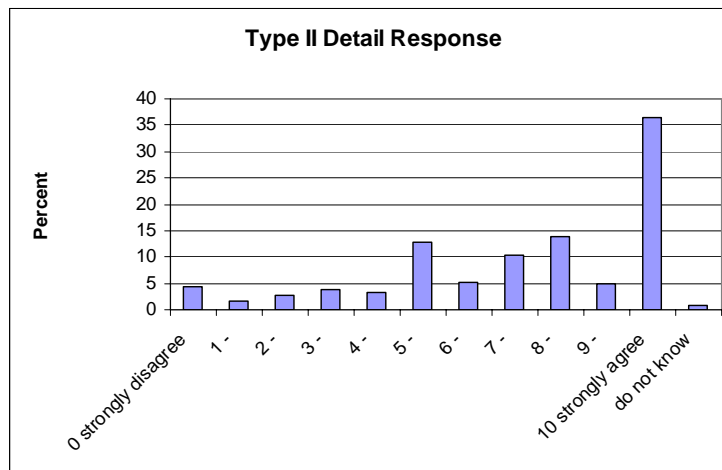
- Background information: 87% of Salt Lake County residents said that they have used UTA sometime, 76% said that new TRAX lines will improve the quality of life in Salt Lake County, 87% said that they would recommend using UTA TRAX to a friend, family member or colleague. 51% strongly agree and only 2% strongly disagree.
- Question 1 - "What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase, "improve transportation in Salt Lake County?" For every person who said something about improving roads or highways, 2.65 people mentioned something about improving public transit. 7% - no response or did not know.
- Question 2 - "What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase, "improve public transportation in Salt Lake County?" For every person that said improve the bus system, 3.69 people mentioned the need for new TRAX lines. For every person that responded with comments about the need for commuter rail, 4.8 people mentioned the need for new TRAX lines. 6% nothing or did not know.
- Questionnaire Introduction - Each person was told: 1) Public transportation projects are a part of a system of long range plans including improvements to roads and highways in Salt Lake County, 2) At current funding levels, the long range public transportation plan

would take 25 years to complete, 3) Local elected officials believe four new TRAX lines need to be completed within 10 years, 4) Local elected officials have developed a new plan and this accelerated funding plan needs a 738 million dollar bond and a tax increase to pay for it, and 5) Local elected officials want to understand public opinion on this matter.

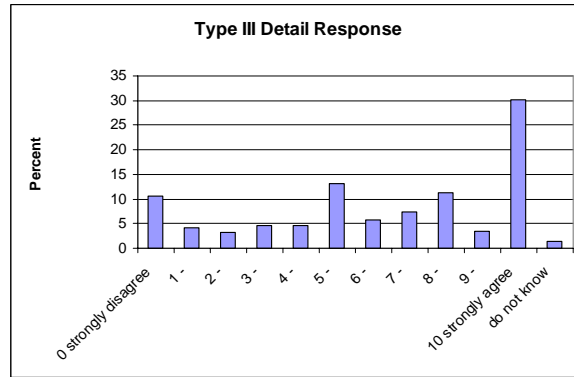
- Support for Current Long Range Plan: Question: Do you agree or disagree with the idea that four new TRAX lines need to be completed sometime in the next 25 years? 1) Midvale, West Jordan and South Jordan, 2) West Valley City, 3) from Sandy to Draper and 4) from downtown Salt Lake City to the Airport .



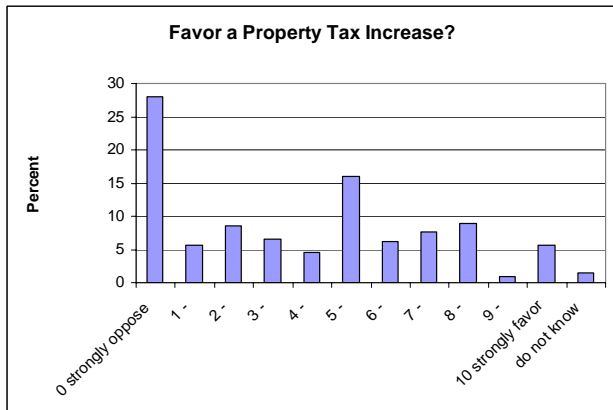
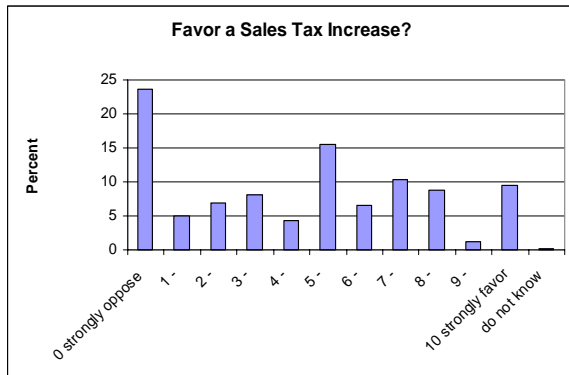
- Support for Accelerated Long Range Plan: Question: Do you agree or disagree with the idea that four new TRAX lines need to be completed sometime in the next 10 years? 1) Midvale, West Jordan and South Jordan, 2) West Valley City, 3) from Sandy to Draper and 4) from downtown Salt Lake City to the Airport .



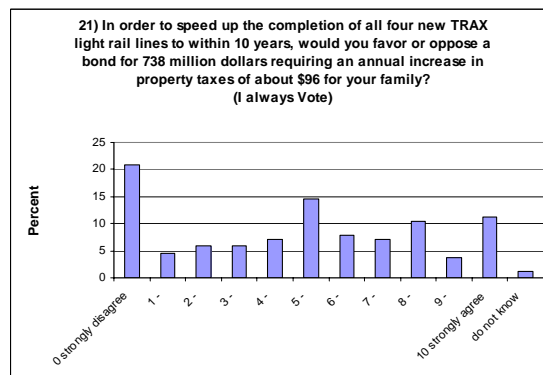
- Vote "Yes" when tax amount not given in question: I would vote yes to pay for a new TRAX line serving to be completed sometime in the next 10 years.



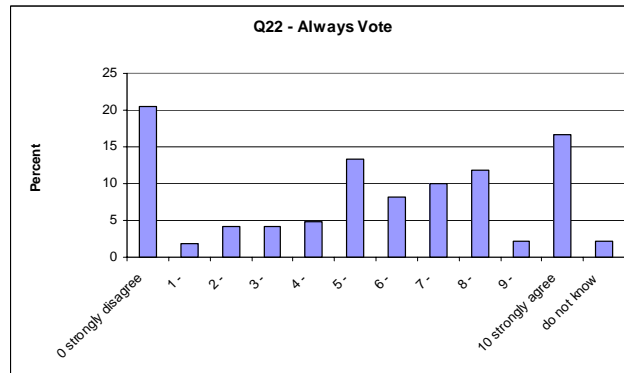
- Preference for Sales Taxes or Property Taxes? Two taxes can be used to accelerate or speed up funding for the four new TRAX light rail lines we have talked about. Generally speaking would you favor or oppose an increase in . . . ?



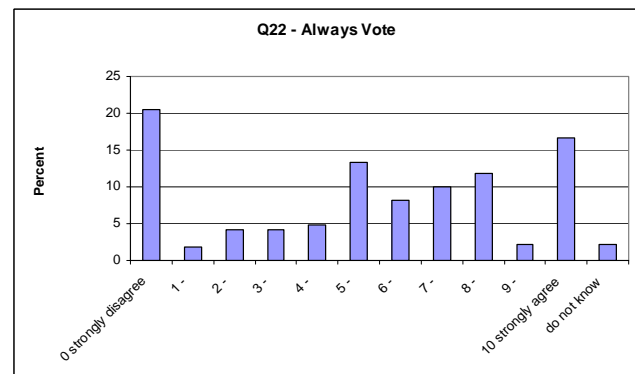
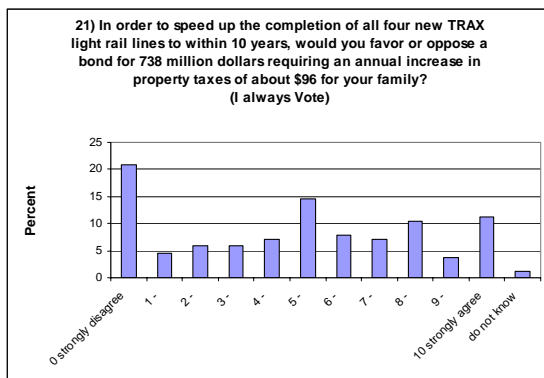
- Responses of "Frequent Voters" when tax amount is given in question but personal benefits of project are not widely understood. Question: In order to speed up the completion of all four new TRAX light rail lines to within 10 years, would you favor or oppose a bond for 738 million dollars requiring an annual increase in property taxes of about \$96 for your family?



- Another view of new taxes - personal benefits of the project are not widely understood: If local elected officials have a choice between raising taxes and accelerating the completion of four new TRAX lines to within 10 years OR keeping taxes at current levels, they should raise taxes and accelerate the completion of the four new TRAX lines.



- Comparing the last two questions - side by side, shows a favorable shift.



Mr. Jones stated that transportation is currently the 3rd most important question on people's minds.

Mr. John English stated that UTA hopes to confirm that the direction they are headed is what the citizens want and need. He stated that UTA's next step will be discussions at the Salt Lake County COG, as Salt Lake County has to make the decision whether or not to put it on the ballot.

Council members discussed the following points relating to support for increases to accelerate the construction of light rail extensions in the Mid-Jordan, West Valley, Draper, and Airport corridors and to make other transit improvements in the County:

- The need to look for additional federal funds.
- The need to involve the business community, as they would also see a net benefit.

- The fact that the business community pays property tax and could contribute if improvements were funded through property tax rather than sales tax.
- The need to obtain support of the residents, and to sell the citizens on the fact that they would save more than just the gasoline costs.
- The timing of an increase, as Salt Lake County just passed the \$10 increased fee in registration fees.

Mr. English stated that it would be a great deal for the citizens, if UTA could move ahead. He stated that the TRAX lines could be completed within the next seven years, and all could be under construction within one year.

Mr. Chappell reminded Council members that they have a history of supporting accelerated projects evidenced by the October 26, 2004, joint resolution with MAG.

Commissioner Dearden reminded Council members of the increased costs associated with waiting, for example the Legacy Parkway. He felt that it would be a good idea to form focus groups.

Mayor Dolan reminded Council members that the Council already has a policy in place for accelerating and completing these projects, and there is no need to change the policy. He stated that the comments made by Council members are just re-affirming the policy the Council already has.

ACTION on South Davis Fire District application to Community Impact Board: Mr. Sam Klemm reported that the South Davis Fire District has applied for a grant in the amount of \$272,000 from the Community Impact Fund. He stated that all such requests must be endorsed by the area Association of Governments which, in this case, is the Wasatch Front Regional Council. Copies of a letter dated March 14, 2006, from Kay Briggs, South Davis Metro Fire Agency Board Chairman, requesting our support along with a copy of the application to the Community Impact Fund were included in Council members' packets. He introduced George Sumner, Chief of the South Davis Metro Fire Agency.

Chief Sumner reported that the funds would be used to build two new fire stations in south Davis County. He briefly explained the funding request and introduced Jason Burningham from the South Davis Metro Fire Agency who is responsible for the financing of the project.

Mayor Joe Johnson reported on the impact the refineries could have on the services in south Davis County. He added that the two new fire stations would help with the preparation for possible future problems.

Mayor Johnson moved that the Council support the South Davis Fire District's grant application and that the Council send a letter of support to the Community Impact Board. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dolan.

In answer to a question, Mr. Klemm stated that 1/2 of the money comes from leases on federal land for mineral extractions, 30% of which goes to the Community Impact Board (CIB) Fund to fund projects impacted by energy development.

In answer to a question, Mayor Johnson responded that if the South Davis Fire District's grant application is not successful, their capital costs will increase. He stated that without the grant funding, they might only be able to build one of the stations at this time.

With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Report

Discussion of draft 2007 Unified Work Program & ACTION to submit draft 2007 program year budget to county COGs: Mayor Petroff briefly reviewed the Council's Draft Budget and summary of the Unified Planning Work Program for FY2007, copies of which were included in Council members' packets. He stated that the budget includes county contributions at FY2006 levels. He stated that it also includes funds from city and county sources to fund a Legislative Consultant for the 2007 State Legislative Session. The work program includes the update to the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program development, service to local communities, the North Legacy Corridor Study, and continued technical support to highway, transit, and other planning efforts.

Mayor Petroff moved that the Council approve submitting the draft Budget and Unified Planning Work Program to the County Councils of Government for discussion and comment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dearden.

Mr. Wayne Bennion noted that although the budget included an amount to fund a Legislative Consultant for the 2007 State Legislative Session, the actual funding would need to come from city and county sources.

Mr. Chappell noted that funding for a lobbyist would increase the assessments for local contributions. He added that the lobbyist was very effective this past legislative session. In answer to a question about having UTA contribute for the lobbyist, he stated that it pays to be independent.

After a brief discussion on funding for a lobbyist, Council members felt it would be better to increase local contributions and have the amount for the lobbyist included in the budget. The motion then passed unanimously.

Regional Growth Committee

ACTION on RTP System/Projects Ranking Criteria: Mayor Corroon asked Mr. Greg Scott to present a brief overview of the RTP System/Projects Ranking Criteria. Copies of the following were included in Council members' packets: 1) RTP Flowchart (with system, project, and phase selection boxes highlighted), 2) General Measures for System, Project, and Phase Selection and 3) Detailed Listings of Potential Measures by Flowchart Task.

Mr. Scott reported that the staff is currently preparing a new Regional Transportation Plan. He explained that in order to do a better job and spell out measures that will be used to judge projects, a proposal for a common process and set of measures to be used in creation of our upcoming RTPs has been developed. He stated that this proposal applies to system, project, and phase selection as outlined in the six highlighted tasks in the Regional Transportation Plan

flowchart. He added that for roadways, this process largely merges and "spells out" the RTP processes previously used and adds some new measures to reflect the adopted Regional Growth Principles. For transit, this proposal modifies the process and measures adopted in 2003 by the Transit 2030 Committee. The purposes of this proposal are as follows:

- (1) incorporate the adopted Regional Growth Principles;
- (2) coordinate the transit and roadway processes and measures;
- (3) more clearly define the system, project, and phase selection processes;
- (4) accommodate a more comprehensive look at transportation needs and benefits;
- (5) more specifically address significant environmental and social impacts; and,
- (6) apply SAFETEA-LU and recent changes in FTA guidance practice.

Mayor Corroon stated that the Regional Growth Committee has approved proceeding with the general measures to be used in evaluating the system, projects, and phasing schedule.

Commissioner Bischoff moved that the Council also approve proceeding with the general measures to be used in evaluating the system, projects, and phasing schedule. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and passed unanimously.

Report on Local Government Implementation Strategies for the Growth Principles:

Mayor Corroon reported that after the adoption of the Regional Growth Principles and Vision by the Regional Growth Committee (RGC), the RGC agreed with the recommendation of the WFRC staff that implementation strategies for the Growth Principles should be developed. He stated that a task force of planners, including representatives from Envision Utah, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, WFRC, and MAG, was organized to help with this effort. He stated that Envision Utah has taken the initiative to prepare a preliminary draft of local government strategies, which has been reviewed and commented on by the task force. Work on the draft strategies is continuing in an effort to make refinements to them, and to add additional strategies that would apply to UDOT, UTA, WFRC, MAG, and other relevant organizations. He noted that the remaining work is estimated to be complete in draft form in the next 45 days.

Local Corridor Preservation Funding Update: Mayor Corroon reported that the Salt Lake County Council approved an ordinance increasing the county's vehicle registration fee by \$10. He stated that the fee increase will raise \$6.85 million the first year and average \$7.8 million, annually, over the next 25 years for corridor preservation. He reported that the Davis County Commission voted not to adopt the fee increase this year. Mountainland Association of Governments is holding a meeting to encourage the Utah County Commission to consider approval of the ordinance this week.

Air Quality Report on new PM-10/2.5 Standards: Mr. Kip Billings stated that EPA is planning on implementing more stringent particulate matter (PM) standards because of concerns about health. He introduced Ms. Cheryl Heying, from the Utah Division of Air Quality. He stated that Ms. Heying was in attendance to present information to the Council on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and revisions to the Ambient Air monitoring regulations.

Ms. Heying discussed a PowerPoint Presentation explaining the new standard, when it is expected to be implemented, and the potential consequences to transportation planning/implementation in the region. Copies of the PowerPoint slides were included in

Council members' packets. She discussed the timeline for establishing a new standard, how the new standard would impact the Wasatch Front, and opportunities to comment on the new standard before it is finalized. Ms. Heying stated that the 2015 projection is the best case scenario. She stated that EPA deadline for comments is April 17, 2006, if the Council is interested in submitting comments.

In answer to a question, Ms. Heying stated that the state will make comments on the standards, although their comments will be directed more towards workability. She expressed the importance of the Council developing their own comments, as she felt they would have more weight.

Mayor Seghini stated that the Wasatch Front needs to be able to plan for roadways. She added that when the Council includes a variety of measure and options to move people, including public transit, they shouldn't be punished for inversions.

Ms. Heying stated that EPA needs to address the strategies that are western issues in the United States that include drought, inversions, and dust.

Mayor Corroon stated that the Wasatch Front Regional Council will provide comments to EPA and will also look at possible zoning issues.

ACTION to make RTP Amendment available for public review: Mr. Doug Hattery reported that the I-15 widening project between 12th Street and 2700 North in Weber County is being moved from Phases 2 and 3 to Phase 1. He stated that this project will add a general purpose lane in each direction to I-15 and make improvements at the 2700 North interchange. He reminded Council members that the 2006 General Session of the Legislature appropriated the funding necessary to complete this project as part of the Centennial Highway Fund and that on November 17, 2005, the Regional Council adopted a resolution in support of amending the RTP to include the I-15 project, if the Legislature fully funded the project. Copies of a letter from UDOT requesting this Plan amendment were included in Council members' packets.

Mr. Hattery stated that the WFRC needs to complete a regional emissions analysis, find that the proposed amendment will conform to state air quality plans, and then make the amendment available for a 30-day public review and comment period before final approval can be given.

Mayor Seghini moved that the Regional Council approve making this proposed amendment available for public review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dearden and passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Legislation Report: Mr. Chappell reported that there were several important bills and appropriation initiatives in the recent legislative session which directly impact transportation. He stated that he felt the Legislature was good to highway projects this year. A summary of the transportation items in the recent legislative session were included in Council members' packets for their review.

Water Committee Annual Meeting: Mr. Ed Blaney reported that the Council's annual Water Committee meeting has been re-scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Council office located at 295 North Jimmy Doolittle Road, Salt Lake City, Utah. All Council members, alternates and interested public were invited to attend.

Public Comment

No public comment

Other Business

Next meeting - April 27, 2006

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.