Meeting called to order on September 24, 2013 at 10:00 p.m. by Monument Manager Rene Berkhoudt, the Designated Federal Official for the GSENM Advisory Committee (MAC).

MAC Members in Attendance: Bob Blackett (Geology), Gordon *"Boz"* Bosworth (Botany), Steve Burr, Chair (Social Science), Dirk Clayson (Kane County Commissioner), Mike Friedman (Outfitter/Guide) (by phone), Phil Hanceford (Environmental), Don Lofgren (Paleontology), Norm McKee (Wildlife), Leland Pollack (Garfield County Commissioner), Jerry Spangler (Archaeology), and Keith Watts (Education).

MAC Members Excused from Meeting: Kevin Heaton (State), Carmen Martineau (Tribal), Leland Pollock (Garfield)

MAC Members Not Attending: Systems Ecology and Livestock Permittee vacant

Monument Staff In Attendance: Matt Betenson, Assistant Monument Manager (AMM), Planning & Support Services; Larry Crutchfield, Public Affairs; Katherine Farrell, Environmental Coordinator; Richard Madril, AMM, Resources; Kevin Miller, Science Program Administrator; Sarah Schlanger, Associate Monument Manager; Carolyn Shelton, AMM, Science and Visitor Services; and Sean Stewart, Range Lead.

Non-Monument BLM Personnel in Attendance: Jenna Whitlock, Utah State BLM Associate Director

Other Agency Personnel in Attendance: None

Members of the Public in Attendance: Brian Bremner, Garfield County Engineer; Link Chenowyth, Livestock Permittee); Jim Matson (Kane Co), Noel Poe, President, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners (GSEP); Larry Spanne (GSEP)

Agenda

September 24, 2013

Welcome: Berkhoudt

Administrative Remarks: Crutchfield

- **Moment of Silence:** Honoring longtime MAC member Dr. Jim Bowns (Systems Ecology) passed away in Early September
- **MAC Membership Update:** Packages in Washington to fill two unexpected vacancies: Systems Ecologist & Livestock Permittee vacancies. Packages have also gone to Washington for this year's normal vacating positions: Education, Environmental, Outfitter/Guide, Social Science, Wildlife,

Old Business: Burr (MAC Chairman)

- Review/Discuss/Approve October 2012 MAC Meeting Minutes
  - **Discussion:** None
  - **Motion to Approve** – Clayson/McKee
    - **Motion Approved** – Unanimously

Planning Update on Hole-In-The-Rock Storm Damage: Betenson

- Hole-In-The-Rock road was severely damaged by mid-September storms.
- Garfield Co & GSENM did joint on-the-ground assessment.
- GSENM seeking funds from Federal Highways through the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFOR) to assist county with repairs. The clock is ticking on to get this funding – 45 days remaining to get the package put together and submitted.
  - (Clayson) – Briefed on Kane County's efforts to repair at least 10 other roads damaged by the storm through Federal Emergency Management Agency funds – estimates more than $1.5 million.

Recreation Site Fee Increase Proposal Update: Lora Gale (Outdoor Recreation Planner)

- Calf Creek Recreation Site is the most heavily visited site on GSENM (40,000 – 50,000 annual visitors). We have 19 campsites total at Calf Creek & Deer Creek campgrounds.
- Current fees: $7 to camp at Calf Creek, $4 to camp at Deer Creek and $2 per vehicle day use fee at Calf Creek. Also $35 for a day use reservation for the picnic area at Calf Creek. Fees have not changed in decades and have not kept up with actual costs.
- Proposing increasing to: $15 at Calf Creek; $10 at Deer Creek; and $5 for day use.
- Also considering an advanced reservation system that would provide five sites per day.
- Average annual fee income: $32,000; expenses $50,000 - $60,000. New fees would bring in an additional $13,000-$20,000 dollars annually.

Livestock Grazing Monument Management Plan Update: Betenson

- Contract awarded for third party contractor – Environmental Management and Planning Solutions Incorporated (EMPSI). Contract begins October 1, 2013 for three years.
  - John Godec, The Participation Company, was selected to be the project facilitator.
- Notice of Intent is in Washington for signature and should be published soon.
- Range staff has been doing significant data collection for this season and should be complete before we begin our data analysis for the EIS.

Monument Advisory Committee Participation in EIS: Schlanger

- We are looking to the MAC to really flesh out some of outreach to your various constituencies; and to provide feedback on additional planning issues and concerns, as individuals and MAC members.
- Participate in a series of workshops designed to broaden public's understanding of the planning effort; how we're assessing range land health, how we're analyzing the socioeconomic landscape, etc.
    - Range workshops (How we monitor, collect and analyze range land health data)
    - Socioeconomic workshops
    - Repid Ecoregional Assessment workshops
- **How to Comment Effectively:** Farrell
    - Created a handout to show the public what an effective comment is and how to write it. Several examples are included.
    - (Schlanger): We have copies available for the MAC; please feel free to distribute.

Formation of MAC Subcommittee on Land Health: Berkhoudt

- BLM Utah State Director Juan Palma asked the MAC to consider forming a subcommittee to assist in the plan amendment. We've gone back and forth on that.
- Tried a couple of other initiatives. One, a collaborative project, did not gel.
- A MAC subcommittee has the greatest advantage because it is more agile; it can meet more often but it cannot submit recommendations directly to the agency; those must come from the entire MAC.
- MAC subcommittee would be formed for the purpose of compiling information, conducting research in support of the plan amendment and providing scientific oversight.
- (Burr): Do we want to create a subcommittee?
    - Much discussion was generated regarding the need for the subcommittee; what it would actually be tasked with who would be on it; how it would integrate with the other groups providing input to the planning effort; etc.
    - **Motion to Create a Land Health Subcommittee:** Bosworth/Hanceford
        - **Motion Approved – 8 yes; 1 no**
        - (Friedman): Is there a way we can rephrase the motion to get consensus.
        - (Clayson): One, I am concerned how this group will validate the information from the various stakeholders with the BLM's data; and second, we have two very important positions vacant – Systems ecology & livestock permittee.
        - (Burr): I share your concerns; subcommittee can go outside current MAC membership, which can fill the gaps created by the two vacant positions.

- (Bosworth): Having a BLM employee (Madril or Larry Lichtart) on the committee would help us have balance when looking at the data.
- (Clayson): Those things would make me a lot better.
- (Burr): With those changes, Dirk now supports the formation of the subcommittee; no second vote is needed as it did pass; but we've got consensus.

- **Appointment of members:** (Burr) – As MAC chair, I can appoint subcommittee members.
  - Heaton, Bosworth, McKee, Hanceford, Chenowyth, Watts, Friedman, Lofgren, Madril, Lichtart
- **Subcommittee tasks:**
  - Help with EIS outreach in various ways, through the workshops, through the comments, through your constituencies.
  - Provide review of data; not to resolve conflicts between data but provide recommendation on the utility of the data.

Public Comment

- Noel Poe - I would have a comment and a couple of comments actually. The first one is on the draft business plan. It was mentioned by (Laura), or she was given the information, but was not stressed under any means, but I think as you look at the rates, and apparently that's been done, but if you could tie them to comparability of other campgrounds that would be really important and then it would be easier to adjust them in the future if it was in your business plan. I have no problem and I don't think the membership of partners would have a problem seeing the rates go up to something like what (Laura) said that you guys are looking at. So, but stress the comparability because that will give you good justification on it. And then just the other comment, (Caroline) did a good job, or Katherine, sorry, did a good job on putting this comment together. And so like you mentioned, Larry, getting that on your Web site on how to comment effectively would be, I think, important to the public. That's all.

Next Meeting: April 17 & 18, Monument Headquarters Building, 663 S. Hwy 89A, Kanab, Utah.

- Discussion of possible agenda items included:
  - Rescheduled land health field trip
  - Division Briefs

Motion to Adjourn: Watts/Blackett

- **Motion approved:** Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned