GRAND COUNTY CHANGE OF FORM OF GOVERNMENT
STUDY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING

Grand County Council Chambers
125 East Center Street, Moab, Utah

March 8, 2019

Convening
Ruth Dillon, Grand County Council Administrator and as authorized by the Grand County Council, convened the initial meeting of the Grand County Change of Form of Government Study Committee on the above date in the County Council Chambers. The meeting was convened at 12:08 p.m. In attendance were Study Committee Members Judy Carmichael, Walt Dabney, Jeramy Day, Cricket Green, Bob Greenberg, Stephen Stocks, and Marcy Till.

A. Nominations and election of Study Committee Chair
Ruth presented the agenda item for the Study Committee.
MOTION: Nomination by Bob for Stephen to be Chair, seconded by Jeramy carried 7-0. Stephen accepted the nomination and began presiding, first by asking each Committee member to provide a brief introduction of themselves.

B. Discussion, nominations and election of other officers as desired
MOTION: An offer by Marcy to be the Secretary, seconded by Jeramy carried 7-0. After some discussion about staff providing board secretarial responsibilities of minute-taking, motion by Jeramy to allow Marcy to delegate secretarial responsibilities to staff as she sees fit, amended by Bob to change the word “allow” to “direct,” motion/amendment seconded by Cricket carried 7-0.

Committee Members discussed whether a Vice Chair is needed for this committee; it was agreed that a Chair Pro-tem would be allowed as needed by the Chair, and as apparently provided in Robert’s Rules of Order.

Ruth inquired as to who will be taking minutes for this meeting. Marcy delegated the responsibility to Ruth for this meeting and going forward; Ruth accepted.

Citizens to Be Heard
Citizen Barbara Hicks requested that Committee Members speak into the microphones.
Citizen Marc Horwitz expressed relief that Committee Members appear to get along, pleased that the meetings are being streamed live by YouTube, and reiterated the request to speak into the microphones. He further requested that the Pledge of Allegiance be placed on future agendas, and that the Committee begin by making the Pledge at this meeting.

Cricket requested that the Pledge of Allegiance be made. The Committee agreed, and the Pledge was led by Cricket.

General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of:
C. Establishing and approving a schedule of meetings for publication
Bob requested that Committee Members submit their schedules to Ruth for meetings roughly every other week. The request was made to attempt to include the County Attorney’s schedule as well.
MOTION: Motion by Bob to postpone this item until next meeting and to tentatively set the next meeting date to Friday, March 22, 2019 at noon subject to the County Attorney’s availability. After realizing that the Council Chambers would not be available on March 22nd, motion was amended by Bob to hold the next meeting on March 15, 2019 at noon in the Council Chambers, motion/amendment seconded by Judy carried 7-0.
Committee Members discussed the possibility of electronic attendance as allowed in the Open and Public Meetings Act (Title 52, Chapter 4, Section 202). Bob stated he had spoken with County Attorney Sloan about whether a resolution was required for remote participation and expressed his understanding that, if required, that she would draft it.

Committee Members discussed the need for defining a quorum. Ruth stated that this is typically defined in bylaws. Ruth agreed to provide bylaws templates as options for a draft in time for next week’s meeting. Bob emphasized that critical to the bylaws is the definition of the quorum, the number of votes needed to pass a motion, and whether electronic participation is allowed (unless provided via a separate resolution). Committee Members requested to have bylaws on the agenda for adoption next meeting.

Discussion Items

D. Review of first meeting mandates for the Study Committee (Utah Code § 17-52a-402)
Chair Stocks declared that the first meeting mandate to elect a chair has been completed.

E. Review of general mandates for the Study Committee (Utah Code § 17-52a-403(3)(a))
Bob pointed out that State Code allows up to one year from this initial meeting to recommend an allowed form of government. He suggested the need to ask the County Attorney whether the Committee could recommend more than one plan. He noted that State Code allows for hearings after the filing of the detailed report, followed by “small tweaks,” additional alteration if needed that are subject to restrictions. He noted further that State Code authorizes the Committee to review other elected official offices in determining “whether the administration of local government could be strengthened, made more clearly responsive or accountable to the people, or significantly improved in the interest of economy and efficiency.” Walt suggested that having a clear understanding from the County Attorney about what this means would be helpful. Further, Walt suggested that having an understanding of reviewing judicial proceedings under way would also be helpful.

Walt noted that §17-52a-405(2) discusses four other—structural—forms allowed that should be reviewed by Committee Members and inquired of the County Attorney for the meaning of State Code § 35b Part 3, “Structural Forms of County Government.”

Walt inquired in general to have a clear understanding of what is expected of this Committee.

Bob requested to have an agenda item, “Discussion on engagement of Study Committee counsel.” Suggestions were made by Committee Members: Lt. Governor, other government entities

F. Discussion and possible action on study strategy
Bob suggested that the only two criteria to consider are inclusiveness and efficiency. It was suggested to inquire of the County Clerk the possible number of districts.

Bob suggested that four types of information need to be considered:
1. Review of counties that are trying to make things work, across the political spectrum
2. Use of academic research and possibly commission BYU, USU, or U of U on how the form of government impacts inclusiveness
3. Grand County citizens
4. Study Committee member ideas, prejudices, and experiences

Bob requested a standing agenda item for study strategy discussions until the “how” is determined. Marcy suggested that the strategy will need to be tied to milestones and dates.

Walt suggested having a lot of public involvement, and to ask citizens such questions as “What do you think will be a better form of government for us? Why?”

Judy suggested the need for a forum in which Committee Members and the public get up to speed in the four forms of government.
Marcy suggested having routine press releases to keep the community informed. Ruth offered her idea to have a standing County Council agenda item for the Committee Chair or a Committee member to provide a report.

Jeramy suggested having a workshop in the four forms and follow up with a large town hall for public input.

Committee Members agreed in principle to have the Chair, or the Chair’s delegatee, provide a written factual monthly progress report to County Council to be read aloud during the Council meeting, assuming County Council desires this as a monthly standing agenda item.

G. Discussion on scheduling a training on the four forms of county government and on the Open and Public Meetings Act
Chair Stocks inquired about delegating research for trainers and report next meeting. Walt agreed to reach out to Gavin Anderson who spoke at a community event held at Star Hall last fall (and who is District Deputy Attorney for Salt Lake County and author of “County Government in Utah: The Official County Government Resource Guide of the Utah Association of Counties.”) Jeramy agreed to invite a representative from the Lt. Governor’s Office. Bob agree to reach out to Representative Albrecht for an introduction to the attorney author of House Bill 224 (2018) as someone with expertise on the bill’s intentions. Walt, Jeramy, and Bob agreed to provide trainer availability to Ruth and to report on their findings at the next meeting, with Committee desires of having the trainers available on the same day, and soon. Ruth will check availability of large venues such as Star Hall or the Grand Center for tentative dates, and will plan to provide notice to the public once a date is set.

H. Discussion on establishing committee bylaws if desired
Chair Stocks inquired for further discussion on this matter, discussed earlier. There was no further discussion.

Future Considerations
I. Review by County Attorney of State Code Title 17, Chapter 52a, Part 4 (le.utah.gov)
Committee Members inquired as to County Attorney Sloan’s availability for the next meeting, March 15th to review §17-52a Part 4.

Ruth agreed to have her staff forward to Committee Members the link to online Open & Public Meetings Act training. She announced that the next in-person Open & Public Meetings Act training, led by LeGrand Bitter, Executive Director of Utah Association of Special Districts, is being scheduled for May or June for those who prefer an in-person group training.

Committee Members stated that they received a security email training from the Grand County IT Director.

Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jeramy, seconded by Walt that carried 7-0 at 1:08 p.m.

Stephen Stocks
Chair

Marcy-Till
Secretary