



GUIDING OUR GROWTH

A STATEWIDE CONVERSATION ABOUT UTAH'S FUTURE

WORKSHOP NOTES

SE Utah (North) Price

10/04/22

Water

- Line from spring is old - 1922, some other water infrastructure is old (capital improvement projects - these are funded by...?)
- Price wants a lower reservoir—conducting EIS
- Algae in warmer weather is impacting water system - treatment and storage
- State wants us to monitor secondary water, and gives only ½ of the monitoring \$ (\$5 mill of \$10 mill) and these can't afford it

Energy

- Decrease in coal sector leads to job loss but diversification of jobs picking up in the next 20 years for job growth
- Coal/federal regulations - feds have a big say in this. We're shuttering coal and power plants, and there's not a replacement for this energy. What and where is future of energy?
 - Feels like the 80% in cities are telling the 20% of rural how to live
- Coal emission requirements and 'regional haze act' and ozone and these are impacting these rural families directly
- Fed regs of the coal plants IPP, Bonanza in vernal, huntington in emery, and little jen in sunnyside
- Tax shift, as mines close the burden goes to homeowners - they can't raise taxes
- All energy in the state is made in rural UT
 - How do we keep electricity flowing?
 - Power plants here 2040 are done... what happens then when we don't have the students and tax base for the students that are here?
- Energy shut down dates approaching and diversification opportunities are after
 - Allow the communities to diversify prior to shut downs, it's a consideration

Housing

- Housing price increases being felt, cost of building, limited availability for lower income units (gap of those between HUD and housing)
- Housing on the west side that becomes available becomes an AirBNB and not a rental
 - Airbnb ⅔ local and ⅓ not - but that could be by area
- Each home requires a full water share turned over, and only 1 reservoir for water. Policy to help change the ratio, and incentivize the sale of water shares could alleviate some housing issues (Central water district is one share to 4 houses)
- Cabins in scofield, minor local growth like 26 houses in Price but not sold one yet...
 - What's being built doesn't match local income
 - No starter homes
 - \$400k homes and \$50k income that can't buy it

Schools

- 'Natural decrease' and changes with schools and care... needs to rely on migration
- Unqualified teachers because they're home grown. Limited success in bringing teachers in
- Reduced funding for schools, and reduced \$ for teachers, and reduced services
- 2% decline in education enrollment year over year

Community

- Rich cultural heritage in Helper
- What is your sense of community? -Day of caring, lots of people helping to clean up communities, high participation in giving and volunteering, cooperative and caring for each other
- Civic processes work better with the larger the population is

Infrastructure & Outdoor Rec

- Need more infrastructure \$ from the state. "Rural Utah is the playground for the rest of the state." State needs to invest in it. Roads, water, workforce, etc...gas hotels hospitality etc for the tourism industry
- Highway 6- if it were a 4 lane highway would open up growth opportunities
 - Traffic on 6 more so than i70
- Mad at gondola - UDOT is supporting private industry there but not out here
- Rural incentives to compete with wasatch front in recruiting businesses to 'level the playing field' -infrastructure needed for jobs
- A lot of programs are cookie cutter - incentives for urban and rural - but these programs are not the same (Washington and Iron and Summit are not the same kind of rural) "tween counties"
- Traffic, recreation and trucking, etc... SAR visits are costly, are they spending enough to support the rec industry? ...Outdoor rec is costing \$ to the rural areas
- Some homes still don't have internet
 - Financial barrier, some infrastructure missing Emery school district 4500 sq miles
- Rocky Mountain and Pacificorp takes up the fees of some water and infrastructure/irrigation - how are these paid for if they leave?

Opportunities

- Opportunities - remote work, ample land, space, blank slates, energy production solutions
 - If we have one thing it's space and land
- Big Ideas
 - Train to Helper - passengers, etc. Expand UTA to reach onto the rail lines
 - Inland Port Hub and highway to get people to stay
- Stay ahead of the tourism impacts and any migration or growth