Uintah and Ouray Federal Partners Meeting – April 14, 2016
BLM Utah State Office
Salt Lake City, Utah

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am

Attendees:

Bureau of Indian Affairs			
Bart Stephens	Uintah & Ouray Agency	(435) 722-4300	Bartholomew.Stevens@bia.gov
Bureau of Land Management			
Kent Hoffman	Utah State Office	(801) 539-4063	khoffman@blm.gov
Ester McCullough	Vernal Field Office	(435) 781-3416	emccullo@blm.gov
Jerry Kenczka	Vernal Field Office	(435) 781-4440	jkenczka@blm.gov
ONRR			
John Melhoff	ONRR, Denver	303-261-3080	john.mehlhoff@onrr.gov
Tom Piccirilli	ONRR, Denver	303-231-2179	thomas.piccirilli@onrr.gov
EPA			
Cindy Beeler	EPA, Denver	(303) 312-6204	Beeler.Cindy@epa.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service			
Larry Crist	USFWS, Salt Lake City	(801) 975-3330 x126	larry_crist@fws.gov

Those in attendance were welcomed to the meeting by Kent Hoffman. Introductions followed.

Agency Updates:

BIA:

- Moving forward with re-organization to improve efficiencies
  - Biggest issue to address is loss of staff
  - Lack of interest; low candidate pools
  - Do have a couple of new hires
  - Have talked to Rick Rymerson about being able to utilize a petroleum engineer and geologist to assist their office as needed
- Attended the IMSC meeting in Denver

BLM:

- Proposed rulemakings – no update since last meeting
- Sage Grouse discussion and update to BLM RMP plan amendments
- Continuing to work with SITLA on Hill Creek in lieu selections
- Enefit Oil Shale project
  - Draft EIS released soon and will be conducting public meetings in Vernal, Rangely, and Salt Lake City
- Crescent Point EIS – Federal and Indian trust oil and gas lease development
  - Open house dates for the project
    - April 26th from 5:00-7:00 pm at Roosevelt Chamber of Commerce
    - April 27th from 3:30-5:30 pm at Tribal auditorium
- EPA UIC group is interested in a MOU between EPA, BIA, and BLM addressing 106 consultation with SHPO and Section 7 ESA consultation
- Discussed the 3 oil pipeline proposals from different proponents; each proposal would initiate near Myton area and terminate in the Helper/Wellington area to facilitate oil getting to refineries by rail
- Indian Mineral Service Center
  - Jeff Hunt, acting office director, led a webinar discussing the Center
  - Center is designed for a staff of 50
  - Question asked who is leading the BLM assistance to the Center; found out it is being led by Jamie Seller-Baker in the NOC

OST:

OST was unable to attend the meeting

ONRR:

- Civil penalties assessed against Linn Operating, Inc. and Quinex Energy
  - Linn assessed $51,000 for non-payment of royalties
  - Quinex assessed $1.6 million – lack of reporting
- Indian Oil Rule Consultation with Ute Tribe
  - Did consult with the Tribe several months ago
- ONRR planning to publish several rules in the Federal Register in July

EPA:

- EPA has done several webinars on IR cameras
  - Several BLMers have participated in them
- Presented the Ozone 101 webinar
- EPA has a number of rules in OMB right now prior to publication
- EPA is getting involved in preventing future environmental problems associated with idle wells, pits, etc.
- Mentioned a research paper that had been recently published concerning emissions. Will have someone in the field later this year looking at emissions.

USFWS:

- Tribal cactus management plan
  - Have coordinated with the BLM over land management scenarios
  - Next step seen as meeting with BIA and BLM
  - USFWS will follow up with proposed meeting dates in Salt Lake City
- BLM has provided some funding to allow USFWS to fill a position
- Looking to update the cactus management plan – currently using an interim plan
- Have 6 partners for a term position to down-list/de-list species in Utah; Ute Ladies Tresses would be one of the first species looked at

Action Items from previous meeting:

- AFMSS2 training for other agencies – not being planned for at this time
- Sage Grouse Plan implementation/decision/training vs. Indian trust development – not resolved
- Tribal cactus plan finalization – follow up meetings are being planned
- BIA/BLM meet to discuss CA process further – Bart will take lead to propose a meeting with Vernal FO
- Unleased lands account – still needs follow up; ONRR will coordinate with OST
- BLM CA IM; recommendations to DOGM/Board (MOU?) – BLM Utah State Office provided an MOU proposal to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) about 6 months ago; DOGM is not interested in an MOU at this time
- AQ webinar – presentation done
- NIOGEMS issue for Tribe – Tony Pingree
- Federal Partner Meeting invite to Business Committee – on hold; topic for the IMSC; ONRR will coordinate that discussion
- February 2 meeting with UDEQ and Tribe – meeting was not held, but EPA has been consulting with Tribe over potential FIP
- Coordination with ONRR on OO#9 – should be done at a National level

Walk on items:

- ONRR posted the 3 Federal Partner charters (for U&O, Oklahoma, and Ft. Berthold) in the IMSC Google doc site

Follow up Action Items:

- Tribal involvement in Federal Partner meetings - ONRR will call Steve Simpson
- Unleased lands account – ONRR will follow up with Jennifer
- Tribal cactus plan – USFWS will follow up with dates for a BIA/BLMN/USFWS meeting
- Research paper on emissions – EPA will distribute
- BIA/BLM meet to discuss CA process – BIA will prepare a draft agenda and propose coordination meeting date(s) with the Vernal FO
- Sage Grouse Plan implementation vs. Indian trust development – Ester will follow up on this

Next Meeting

July 14, 2016 at the BLM Utah State Office beginning at 9:00 am