



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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APRIL-JUNE, 2006

## John Williams Retires After Long Career of Public Service in this Region



Ken Sizemore presenting plaque to John Williams

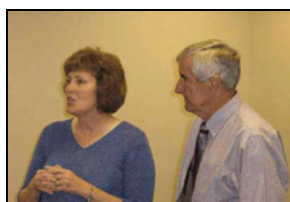
Mr. John S. Williams, Executive Director of the Five County Association of Governments, retired following a long and dedicated career in public service spanning over 32 years, including the past 27½ years as Executive Director of the Association.

An Open House for John was held the afternoon of Friday, April 14, 2006 at the Association's Tonaquint Center office. A special presentation was conducted at 2:00 P.M. with a packed house in the Conference Room. Even the local KCSG Television news was on hand to cover the event.



Commissioner Chad Johnson speaking to audience about John

Commissioner Chad Johnson spoke briefly about John and thanked him for his services to the citizens of the region and personally for his friendship.



Nancy Dalton speaking on behalf of Utah Small Cities, Inc.

Nancy Dalton, representing Utah Small Cities, Inc., spoke about the relationship that organization has had with John. She also added friendly comments about John.

Some specially prepared plaques were presented to John by Kenneth Sizemore on behalf of the Association. One of the plaques will hang in the lobby of the Association office.

Other gifts included a picture presented by Commissioner Maloy Dodds on behalf of Garfield County, a recognition plaque presented by Tami Sevier on behalf of United Way, a special clock was designed and presented by Beth Cottam, and a gift certificate for computer consulting by Don Staheli of SynTech Computers, Inc.



John's daughters, Lori and Emily, enjoying the special event with their father.

John's daughters Lori and Emily presented their Dad with a special plaque containing an original newspaper clipping John's late Grandmother had clipped and saved over 27 years ago where it was announced that he had been hired as the new Executive Director.

A new laptop computer purchased by many of the employees of the Association was presented to John as a retirement gift, in hopes he will be able to use it to keep in touch in the future.



Large group in attendance at Open House presentation.

The Open House afforded those in attendance a great opportunity to personally wish John well in his retirement and to honor his public service to the citizens of Utah, especially those residing in the southwestern five counties.

John's wife Jamie was in attendance and recently retired herself. The two have just moved into a brand new home they had constructed for them in Santa Clara City. The Association staff offers John and Jamie our best wishes in their retirement years. (Gary Zabriskie)



Jamie and John Williams

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## Association of Governments Announces New Executive Director



Locally elected officials in southwestern Utah comprising the Steering Committee of the Five County Association of Governments (AOG) have appointed Kenneth L. Sizemore as Executive Director. Mr. Sizemore is only

the fourth person to fill that capacity, following Mr. John S. Williams who retired earlier this month after 27½ years in that position.

As Executive Director, Mr. Sizemore directs a staff of 60 responsible for providing community planning, economic development, transportation and social services assistance to 37 cities and towns and five counties spread across 11 million acres in southwestern Utah. He is responsible for managing an annual budget exceeding \$8 million. Ken has been with the Five County Association of Governments since February 1986, when he was hired as the Community and Economic Development Director.

Prior to moving to southwestern Utah, Ken served as the Cache County, Utah Planner. While employed there, he was responsible for the development of numerous land use and transportation planning documents, as well as the day-to-day administration of county zoning regulations. He began his service with Cache County in 1977 directly upon his graduation from Utah State University.

Ken earned a BA degree in Political Science from Utah State University (USU), with minors in Economics and German. He holds a Certificate in Public Administration. He continued graduate studies in Public Administration, Economics, and Planning at USU during his tenure with Cache County. He has also earned certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council and is a certified Community Development Block Grant Manager for the State of Utah Division of Housing and Community Development.

In addition to his civilian career, Ken also served the nation as a citizen soldier with the U.S. Army National Guard and Army Reserve from 1984 to 2005, including a 13-month combat tour of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He attained the rank of First Sergeant, and supervised the enlisted soldiers of D Company, 141 Military Intelligence Battalion, Utah National Guard. He is trained in Human Intelligence Collection, Non-Commissioned Officer Education, and is a German linguist.

Ken and his wife Barbara are parents of nine children and enjoy six grandchildren. They reside in Santa Clara, Utah.

## Director's Dialogue

This is a momentous time for the Five County Association of Governments. It will be impossible to replace John Williams, who has become an institution throughout local government circles in southwestern Utah. John will always be remembered as a strong advocate for locally-elected officials as he helped lead them through the maze of always-changing federal and state programs and priorities. John worked through five federal administrations, six governors and for dozens of county commissioners and mayors. Each election shifted the focus of administrative mandates, sometimes with dramatic consequences at the local government level. John mastered the ability to adjust to such change. The Five County AOG is known for being a well-managed organization that delivers a myriad of services in an effective and efficient manner. The average tenure of staff is an indicator of the success John has brought to the Association. John's legacy will always be a benchmark for us here at the Association.

I would like to thank each of the locally-elected officials who have placed the direction of the Association in my hands. I look forward to continuing the legacy built by John and our staff over the past three decades. Southwestern Utah continues to change at an ever-increasing pace. I intend to keep the Association at the forefront of helping manage such change.

A key function of the Association is to help local officials address and solve issues that transcend local boundaries. I intend to help identify such issues and provide the means to craft effective solutions supported by the elected representatives of southwestern Utah residents. This will be no small task. Our region contains two of the fastest growing counties in the state and nation, yet the same region is also confronted with some of the highest unemployment and other economic distress factors in the state. This dichotomy presents a great challenge to our staff and governing board.

I intend to continue the Association's role as a seed-bed for developing successful programs. Over the decades, the AOG has fostered many programs that now stand on their own. They include the Southwest Utah Public Health Department, the Southwest Center, Color Country RC&D, Inc., Color Country Community Housing, Inc., SunTran transit system, and county/city economic development organizations. The Association will continue to foster this healthy and successful model.

Some of our greatest challenges revolve around the cold fact that traditional revenue sources remain flat or are decreasing, while our long-tenured staff results in increasing personnel costs. I recognize and appreciate the county commissioners and mayors who have seen the need and allocated resources to meet such needs. This

reliance on more locally generated funds will continue as the federal government is faced with the need to bring deficit spending under control.

The Five County Association of Governments originated as a voluntary organization of local officials who had the foresight to band together for the good of our region. Federal and state funded regional programs came later, and found an organization already in place and ready to accomplish regional programs. I am excited to build on that legacy, and to make sure that the Five County Association of Governments continues to stand as a model of effective intergovernmental success.

(Kenneth L. Sizemore, Executive Director)

## Region Fire Planning



The Association of Governments has embarked on the preparation of a Regional Wildfire Management Plan. More than 30 local at-risk communities in southwestern Utah have completed local wildfire management plans that lay out plans for reducing fuel loads, improving access, and providing suggestions for improving the safety of individual structures. Dozens of additional at-risk

areas must still prepare plans.

Declining revenues from Congress make it apparent that all communities may not have access to the same level of funding resources available during the past five years. State forestry and fire control officials have recognized this dilemma, and have contracted to prepare regional fire management plans that will cover virtually all of the state. These regional plans will assure that all at-risk communities are eligible for fire management project funds that may become available in future years.

Curt Hutchings, Gary Zabriskie and Keith Parke are the planning team assigned to prepare the regional plan. Each has extensive experience in managing regional planning processes. All three were involved in the development of the regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan completed in 2003. Much of the assessment work needed in the fire plan will flow from the hazard mitigation plan.

A kickoff meeting of stakeholders took place on May 9. The planning team will be working with local officials throughout the summer. A final regional plan will be in place by early fall 2006. Any questions about the planning process should be addressed to Curt Hutchings at [chutchings@fcaog.state.ut.us](mailto:chutchings@fcaog.state.ut.us) or 435-673-3548.

(Ken Sizemore)

## Community Development Block Grant Program

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding applications have been reviewed and evaluated by the Five County Regional Review Committee. CDBG funds are provided from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program and are administered by the Utah Division of Housing and Community Development.

The Small Cities CDBG program is specifically for communities with a population of less than 50,000 persons and counties with less than 200,000 persons. The primary objective of the CDBG program is "the development of viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income (LMI)." Allocations for FY 2006 are listed below:

Applicant	Project	Amount Funded
Beaver County on Behalf of Beaver County Council on Aging	Milford Senior Citizens Center Replacement	\$ 150,000.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year of multi-year)
Beaver County on behalf of Beaver County SSD #1	Ambulance Facility	\$ 150,000.00
Orderville Town	Culinary Water Improvements	\$ 140,500.00
Washington Co. on behalf of Gunlock SSD	Culinary Water Improvements	\$ 150,000.00
Alton Town	Fire Station Remodel	\$ 75,760.00
Five County AOG	Administration, Planning and Technical Assistance	\$ 150,000.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year of multi-year)
<b>Total Allocated</b>		<b>\$ 816,260.00</b>

A complete history of CDBG funding in southwestern Utah including the types of projects funded by county and the dollar amounts in CDBG funding allocated are provided on the AOG website for those interested.

Questions regarding the CDBG program should be directed to Diane Lamoreaux at 435-673-3548 or [dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us](mailto:dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us)

## CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL RECOGNITION



Elisabeth Barker, Director of Child Care Resource and Referral, recently received the Utah Inter-Institutional Early Childhood Conference 2006 Mary Olsen "Friend of Children" Award.

Each year this award is presented to one individual in recognition of outstanding service, leadership and vision in behalf of Utah's children and those who care for them.

**CONGRATULATIONS LIS!**

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail ([newsletter@fcaog.state.ut.us](mailto:newsletter@fcaog.state.ut.us)) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: [www.fcaog.state.ut.us](http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us)

### ***Steering Committee Meeting Schedule***

**Wednesday, May 10, 2006 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Panguitch City Library - Council Chambers  
25 South 200 East; Panguitch, UT

**Wednesday, June 14, 2006 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Kane County Courthouse - Commission  
Chambers

**FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
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