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KANAB WEATHER

January/February

Date	High	Low	Prec
30	50	25	
31	47	32	.01
1	43	13	
2	43	13	
3	55	16	
4	63	26	
5	64	32	

Courtesy: Wayne & Stacy Grosz

Kane County Attorney Hummel resigns

By Dixie Brunner

Kane County Attorney John Hummel submitted his resignation to the Kane County Commission in a letter dated January 30, 2007. The attorney, well-known for his prosecution skills, had experienced a 'challenging,' but quick tenure, in his stint in Kane County.

John Hummel, private attorney in St. George and former public defender for the county, had been appointed to be Kane County Attorney. He was to fill out the remaining months of Attorney Eric Lind's term. Lind had resigned his position to take a job in the private sector.

Hummel sought election for the position last year, and nearly made it through the Republican caucus against opponent Kanab City Attorney Van Mackelprang by the 60% rule.

Due to the vote deficit, he had to face challenger Mackelprang in the Primary Election. During the months building up to the election, several individuals, including Mackelprang, challenged Hummel's Kane County residency.

Hummel's response was that he was renting a place in Kanab, until he could move his family here from St. George. He was certified as a candidate that had

met legal criteria for the position by Kane County Clerk Karla Johnson.

The primary election went forward, and Hummel won handily, with 77.86 % of the votes.

With no Democratic challenger, Hummel would run uncontested in the General Election. Or so he thought. Eric Lind filed papers to run as a write-in candidate. In the General Election, Hummel picked up 78.97% of the vote and was sworn in for a four-year term.

But Hummel wasn't like flint then either.

Attorney Eric Lind filed a complaint in Fifth District Court on December 7, 2006, charging that Hummel's election to the position should be in question due to the residency issue. Judge James Taylor was to hear the arguments from Lind and Hummel on February 6, 2007.

"I submit this resignation after much thought and prayerful deliberation," wrote Hummel to the Kane County Commission. "Nowhere could I have found better people with whom to work or associate. I will envy whom ever is lucky enough to occupy this position after I'm gone."

Hummel went on to specify

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High vs. low density brings tense discussion at commission meeting

By Carol Sullivan

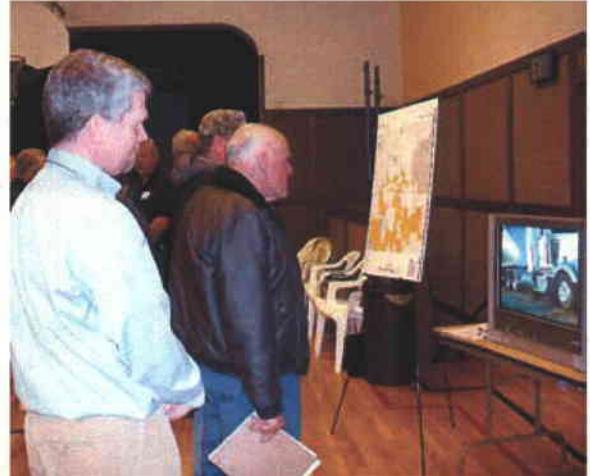
The proposal by Daniel Hulet to adopt the new Land Use Map resulted in some tense discussion. The Planning and Zoning Committee recommended it be approved while the committee is still considering public input and recommendations for the ordinances.

Commissioner Mark Habbeshaw expressed concern about the previous adopted ordinance not being consistent with the General Plan. "We need to modify chapters 16 & 17 regarding density and upfront zoning approval."

Habbeshaw said the county should rescind the temporary ordinance and revert back to the old ordinances. According to Habbeshaw, the commission improperly approved the temporary ordinances and that is why they should go back to the old ordinance until the new Land Use Ordinance is approved. "I regret I voted for it."

Hulet said the old ordinance is also inconsistent with the General Plan. Habbeshaw defined high density as lots less than 10 acres in size and low density as

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Concerned area residents turned out at the EIS meetings held in Alton, Kanab and Panguitch last week. They watched videos and got information regarding the proposed coal mining near Alton. Photo by Dixie Brunner.

Coaled hard facts

By Dixie Brunner

Three things must happen to make the Alton coal project a reality.

The first is an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). That is where the proposal to mine coal on federal land is offered to the public for opinion. Meetings have been held in affected areas here, as well as areas of larger input.

The second is releasing the draft document, complete with comments addressing specific concerns brought up during the public opinion phase.

The third is action - mining coal in Alton, where it had been proposed a number of times before. To get a handle on the project, the BLM hired a company, S.W.C.A., to deal with issues of the process. That doesn't mean the BLM is in favor or against the project, it means that the hired group will educate the public on issues concerning the project.

Alan Childs, point man for the current Alton coal project, said his company is privately-held, and holds Nevada and Utah business licenses.

He relayed history of coal mining resources of the area. The first targeted area was for over 12,000 acres. The government and environmental concerns

were brought up, and the project before was killed.

In 2004, Child's company turned in a lease by application on the federal land minerals (a long process). They have acquired private holdings as well. In 2006, they submitted a reclamation plan to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Minerals, the regulatory agency for coal mines on the private claims.

Of the EIS, Childs said that all science on the project must be defensible. "True facts are out there, and we must mitigate concerns."

Childs said he feels they've addressed most public concerns, adding that they had been interacting with local and BLM staff for some time, and have listened to and attempted to mitigate concerns. He believes the long-haul trucking of the coal is the biggest challenge.

The coal from the Alton site would be trucked to a rail line 10 miles west of Cedar City. The company sells the mined coal to Utah, Nevada and California.

Employment (all numbers are projected):

- 90-100 employees full-time at the site, probably two 10-hour shifts.
- Trucking - (outside contractor) - 50 truckers.