

## APPROVED MINUTES

### CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL

**August 3, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. - Cache County Chamber at 199 North Main, Logan, Utah.**

*In accordance with the requirements of Utah Code Annotated Section 52-4-203, the County Clerk records in the minutes the names of all persons who appear and speak at a County Council meeting and the substance "in brief" of their comments. Such statements may include opinion or purported facts. The County does not verify the accuracy or truth of any statement but includes it as part of the record pursuant to State law.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Gina H. Worthen; Vice Chair Barbara Tidwell; Councilors Karl B. Ward, Paul R. Borup, David L. Erickson, Nolan Gunnell, Gordon A. Zilles

**STAFF PRESENT:** County Executive David Zook, County Clerk/Auditor Jess Bradfield, Chief Civil Attorney John Luthy, Executive Assistant Janeen Allen, Deputy Attorney Dane Murray, Deputy Attorney Jake Gordon, Deputy Clerk Bryson Behm

**OTHER ATTENDANCE:**

#### Council Meeting

##### 1. Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Gordon Zilles

##### 2. Resolution 2021-17 APPROVED ATTACHMENT 1

**Discussion:** A resolution opposing President Joe Biden's nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning as National Director of the United States Bureau of Land Management and urging the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and full Senate body nomination. Councilor Erickson was adamant that this resolution be passed based on the background of Stone-Manning being attached to fringe environmental. Councilor Tidwell agreed with Erickson and mentioned how people close to her in the timber industry are very concerned about the appointment of Stone-Manning due to her relationship to groups that have conducted acts of domestic terrorism.

**Action:** Motion made by Councilor Tidwell to approve Resolution 2021-17; Seconded by Councilor Erickson

**Aye:** 7 Chair Worthen, Councilor Tidwell, Councilor Ward, Councilor Borup, Councilor Gunnell, Councilor Zilles, Councilor Erickson

**Nay:** 0

##### 3. Cache County Attorney Candidate Interviews

**Discussion:** Order of the interviews were decided by drawing names out of a cup. The order selected was Dane Murray as first interview, Jake Gordon as second interview, and John Luthy as the final interview. Four standard interview questions were asked to all candidates, with follow-up questions allowed. The four standard questions were as follows: Question 1: What is the role of the county attorney and what is your vision and goals for that office? Question 2: How would you achieve balance between both the civil and criminal duties of the office? Question 3: What are your plans if you are not selected County Attorney Question 4: What are your thoughts on Utah's Criminal Justice Reform known as Justice Reinvestment Initiative, or JRI?

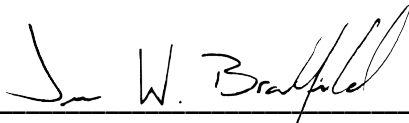
Dane Murray discussed his experience as a prosecutor in the County Attorney's Office and that he had spent his career working in the Cache County Attorney's Office. He mentioned the role of the County Attorney is to be the head prosecutor as well as advising the county on civil matters. He would aim to balance the roles of the Attorney by always trying to be involved in all the matters of the office, as well as relying on his deputies to do their job. He would stay with the county if not selected as county attorney. While Murray understands that additional steps are needed for justice reform, but he does not entirely agree with JRI. Murray mentioned the sentencing matrix does not meet the due justice for the crimes that are committed. Erickson asked what changes and fixes will he bring to the office? Murray stated that he would always try to be in the office and make sure that he is doing his job, as well as hiring an extra civil attorney to help with future civil cases that require county involvement. Councilor Zilles asked if Murray is willing to focus more on the civil side, Murray responded in the affirmative. Councilor Gunnell asked what current county issues require focus and how Gordon would propose correcting those issues. Murray responded that a major county concern is managing growth because it impacts both law enforcement and civil matters. As a County Attorney, his office would actively study those issues pertaining to growth (water, roads, etc.) to ensure the county is able to meet future demands.

Jake Gordon discussed his tenure of 12 years in the attorney's office and the roles he has had in all the criminal courts of Cache County. Gordon mentioned that he had been a state and county delegate for the Republican party. He emphasized that the role of the attorney is to prosecute and advise. Gordon would place trust in his staff, ask for their advice, and round table cases to ensure the best decisions are made. He will continue to work for the county if not chosen. Gordon takes a multifaceted view of JRI, stating that he believes it is a good pursuit and that rehabilitation should be the ultimate goal, but found that some programs, such as addiction therapy, were underutilized by those who may need them most. Gordon said that he would make it a point to always be available at the office as much as possible. Councilor Gunnell asked what current county issues require focus and how Gordon would propose to correcting those issues. Gordon would like to create a consolidated county justice court for efficiency and increase transparency by sharing the accomplishments and duties of the Attorney's Office with residents.

John Luthy discussed his career working with the state attorney general's office, teaching law, clerking for judges and being a lawyer in the private sector. John presented four areas where he would like the county to be more proactive regarding civil matters. 1) Updating county code; 2) Road issues; 3) Drafting contracts; 4) Training. John would help balance the duties of the office by adding an extra civil attorney. Placing trust in the knowledge of the current prosecutors would allow the Attorney to place focus on the examination of the four issues previously stated. If not appointed, Luthy would stay in his current role as Chief Civil Deputy. Luthy believes the criminal justice system, through JRI, has begun to focus on mental health more than it may have been designed and/or intended, and would like to see additional mental health programs available so that less of a burden to address mental health issues are placed upon law enforcement. Luthy does not agree with JRI in cases where individuals who drive under the influence and injure others are able to immediately be released on bail. Councilor Gunnell asked what current county issues require focus and how Gordon would propose to correcting those issues. Luthy discussed progresses being made in the Recorder's office, expressed a desire to help mediate better communication between departments, and would like to address current road issues. Councilor Zilles asked if there are enough civil attorneys. Luthy would like additional civil attorneys because Cache County has fewer civil attorneys than any other county, in proportion to size.

Interviews concluded with a recognition and introduction of the candidate's families.

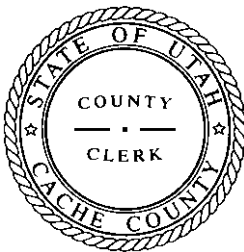
**4. Adjourn Approximately 6:15**



**ATTEST: Jess W. Bradfield**  
**County Clerk/Auditor**



**APPROVAL: Gina. H. Worthen**  
**Council Chair**



**CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 3, 2021**

**ATTACHMENT 1**



**CACHE COUNTY  
RESOLUTION 2021 - 17**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S NOMINATION OF  
TRACY STONE-MANNING AS NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE  
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
AND URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
AND THE FULL SENATE BODY TO REJECT THE NOMINATION**

**WHEREAS**, President Joe Biden has nominated Tracy Stone-Manning (Stone-Manning) to be the director of the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

**WHEREAS**, Stone-Manning's past and recent conduct and statements give rise to grave concern that the BLM may be led by someone with ties to radicalized eco-terroristic activity; and

**WHEREAS**, Stone-Manning's background and ties are so troubling that even Robert Abbey, BLM director under President Obama, publicly called on President Biden to withdraw Stone-Manning's nomination, saying: "As a 30-year BLM career employee, I don't take her actions lightly, nor should anyone else. If Stone-Manning participated in any aspect of planning, implementation or cover-up in the spiking of trees, then she should not be confirmed"; and

**WHEREAS**, concerns over Stone-Manning's nomination include:

- (1) her alleged links to a 1989 eco-terrorist plot to spike Idaho trees by jamming 8" to 10" metal spikes into trees, which spikes turn into lethal projectiles when the trees are processed for logging;
- (2) her admitted editing, re-typing, and sending of a troubling anonymous letter to the Forest Service, as part of the 1989 tree-spiking plot, excerpts of which include "The sales were marked so that no workers would be injured and so that you a-holes know that they are spiked" and "You bastards go in there anyway and a lot of people could get hurt";
- (3) her allegedly misleading the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding whether she was a target of the federal criminal investigation into the 1989 tree-spiking plot, as explained as follows by ranking committee member, Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming: "It's clear that Ms. Stone-Manning was intentionally trying to deceive the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. She told the committee she had never been the subject of an investigation and yet complained about being investigated in the press." (Fifteen members of the committee wrote to the President, expressing the same, foregoing concern and urging withdrawal of Stone-Manning's nomination.);
- (4) her accepting legal immunity from prosecution for the 1989 tree-spiking plot in exchange for testifying against the plot's co-conspirators, who were convicted and went to prison;



- (5) her reputed, longstanding, and outright opposition to livestock grazing on public lands;
- (6) her association with 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s radical advocacy groups like Earth First, who militantly oppose grazing and other multiple uses on public lands and express their views through extensive property damage and various violent attacks;
- (7) her tweet in 2020 in support of her husband's 2018 Harper's Magazine article that radically declared that the United States Forest Service should let houses in and near forests burn as part of a "social contract"; that "perhaps the solution to houses in the interface is to let them burn"; and that "perhaps the feds should commit themselves to refusing to send in any troops to any county that has not taken such measures";
- (8) her support for a Montana housing development project, followed by her allegedly receiving a favorable loan (one with a 6% interest rate when the going rate was 11%) from the developer of that project two years later;
- (9) her graduate thesis, which argued for two-child-only population control to protect the environment and said, "[W]e must breed fewer consuming humans"; and
- (10) her devising of advertisements related to the two-child-only population control policy urged in her thesis, such as one advertisement pushing the two-child policy and calling a pictured "cute baby" "an environmental hazard."

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Tracy Stone-Manning is unfit and unqualified to lead the BLM, to be its national director, or to hold any office of responsibility in the United States government.
2. A national BLM director should never be under a cloud of suspicion over alleged ties to ecoterrorism; never be on record urging destruction of human dwellings in a wildfire; never be widely suspected of misleading a Senate committee exercising its oversight role; never be linked to drastic population control policies that hideously limit children and call babies environmental hazards; never be under a cloud of suspicion for allegedly taking financial favors in exchange for advocating a particular position on an environmental matter; and never be a reputed wholesale opponent of public lands grazing, when the BLM's very creation was to manage the unreserved public domain as grazing districts and allotments, among other uses.
3. For the reasons stated above, the County Council of Cache County, Utah, calls on the United States Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the full Senate body to reject the pending nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning to be director of the Bureau of Land Management.
4. Rejection of Tracy Stone-Manning's nomination is necessary to preserve the integrity and mission of the BLM.



5. Rejection of Tracy Stone-Manning's nomination is necessary to preserve the faith and trust the BLM must have with State and County leaders and Americans in general.

6. Protecting public lands management from the blight of eco-terrorism, criminal conduct, and the specter of China-style population control are at risk if the Senate does not reject the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning.

Adopted by the County Council of Cache County, Utah, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2021.



CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gina H. Worthen", written over a horizontal line.

Gina Worthen, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jess W. Bradfield", written over a horizontal line.

Jess W. Bradfield, County Clerk