

GARFIELD COUNTY ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) MEETING

Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Minutes (FINAL)

Location: Garfield County Health & Human Services Building in Rifle, Colorado

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Betsy Suerth called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

EAB members introduced themselves. EAB members in attendance:

Simonson, Jeff	<b>2010 EAB Chair</b> – Divide Creek Citizen Representative
Suerth, Betsy	<b>2009 EAB Chair</b> – Town of Silt
Braaten, Mike	<b>EAB Vice Chair</b> – City of Rifle
Alvillar, Susan	<b>EAB Secretary</b> – Williams
Jordan, Judy	Garfield County
Riddile, Art	Town of New Castle
Robinson, Leslie	Grand Valley Citizens Alliance (GVCA)
Meskin, Michael	Grass Mesa Homeowners Association
Brynildson, Scott	Mamm Creek/Hunter Mesa Citizen Representative
Black, Jon	Antero Resources
Dennison, Doug	Bill Barrett Corporation
Baird, Cary	Chevron
Long, Sher	EnCana
Bankert, Wayne	Laramie Energy II
Suek, Mike	Marathon Oil
Kohn, Judi	Noble Energy
Padilla, Daniel	OXY

- Betsy Suerth initiated a formal election of the 2010 Officers from the nominations presented by the members at the previous meeting. Cary Baird moved to elect Jeff Simonson as the Chair, Mike Braaten as the Vice Chair and Susan Alvillar as the Secretary. Sher Long seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve and the motion carried.
- Judy Jordan expressed appreciation to the 2009 officers; Betsy Suerth, Jon Black and Mike Braaten, on behalf of Garfield County for serving on the board. Judy gave each of them a certificate of appreciation signed by her and Commissioner John Martin.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Jeff Simonson entertained a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. Sher Long moved to accept the minutes as presented and Leslie Robinson seconded. The board then voted unanimously to approve.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Battlement Mesa resident, Dave Devanney, with the Battlement Mesa concerned citizens group said many of the citizens' concerns about Antero Resources moving into Battlement Mesa soon were recently heightened due to the well pad fire in Silt on an Antero well pad. He asked for some kind of reassurance that this type of incident won't happen in Battlement Mesa. He asked Jon Black with Antero for details on the fire and Jon said he would address that question when giving his operator update.

- Marion Wells, a Rulison resident, said that industry traffic has been using her driveway to turn trucks around in and they have been parking on the side of the road and she would like it to stop. Marion said that on 12/7/09 she received a call from her neighbor regarding a winter water release that occurred in Cache Creek that morning and when it flowed downstream it melted 4 inches of solid ice out of the creek in a matter of hours and colored it green. The response from county and state agencies was non-definitive and she is bringing her concern on the lack of response to the board. Marion said that Jim Rada with Garfield County Environmental Health said he would come out to investigate but she never heard back from him. She felt it was Jim's duty to report the incident to CDPHE who she has not heard from either. The board asked that Jim Rada be contacted for his follow up report and to add the issue to the public comment follow up report.
- Blake Roush, the Operations Manager for Williams Production Highlands group, said that he filed a Form 19 for a recent hydrocarbon release that the COGCC requires. They found a small release of hydrocarbons on one of their pads and they did notify COGCC. They will start an ongoing investigation once the weather turns a bit nicer.
- Juanita Williams, a Parachute resident, spoke on behalf of the neighborhood watch program and thanked Antero, Williams, Jean's Printing and Alpine Bank for their donations which helped purchase new 6" x 18" orange safety signs.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Judy Jordan informed board of the citizen representative interview committee's recommendation to the BOCC and explained that the citizen representatives have to be appointed by the BOCC and Judy established the committee to help advise her and conduct interviews for the recommendations. The committee consisted of a representative from each of the associations on the EAB; Betsy Suerth for the municipalities, Leslie Robinson for the organizations, Scott Brynildson for the citizen representatives and Daniel Padilla for the operators. The committee had a unanimous vote to recommend Brent Buss for the Rifle/North Rifle area and Howard Orona for the Parachute/Parachute Creek area and a majority vote with one opposition on Cole Edwards for the Battlement Mesa/Battlement Creek area. There was a discussion between members on the criteria used for selecting the citizen representatives to recommend and Judy asked the board for their support to bring these three recommendations to the BOCC. Art Riddle moved to appoint Brent Buss, Howard Orona and Cole Edwards as citizen representatives to the EAB and Mike Braaten seconded. The board voted to approve the motion with one opposition and the motion carried. There was a discussion between members on how to recruit citizens to fill the other vacant citizen representative seats and a suggestion was made to host an open house/barbeque type event in the local community.
- Betsy Suerth attended the 12/14/09 BOCC meeting and gave them a summary of the EAB's activities for 2009. She stated that the EAB members continue to believe that their service fulfills a vital function for the county and they acknowledge that they can improve in the ability to resolve conflict and to provide more frequent and informative reports to the BOCC and the EAB members have directed the GarCo Oil & Gas Liaison to investigate the cost of conflict resolution training for the EAB. Betsy asked the BOCC to consider approving a reasonable budget for such training in 2010. The BOCC was receptive to the idea of the EAB hiring a conflict resolution trainer and directed Judy Jordan to look into the cost. Judy asked Robin Haney with Colorado Mountain College Rifle campus to present a proposal on conflict resolution training. Robin suggested an initial 1 ½ hour class for the members to meet with the trainer to discuss a strategy after having the presenter view past taped meetings to see issues brought to the EAB. The initial class has a limit of 30 people and she suggested having board members only attend the initial meeting. Sher Long moved to have the 2/4/10 EAB meeting take place at CMC for the conflict resolution training with invitations to board members and public who have been active at the meetings over the past year only. A discussion followed the motion about who should attend the initial meeting and the possibility of having a second training session after the initial meeting for the public to attend. Betsy Suerth and Cary Baird were advocates of having the board only for the initial session and having the EAB commit to a second session where the public would be invited to attend. Sher Long amended her

motion to invite board members only for the initial workshop. More discussion followed about initial training for board members only vs. members and a few public. There was a call for the question on the original motion made by Sher Long to have the 2/4/10 EAB meeting take place at CMC for the conflict resolution training with invitations to board members and public who have been active at the meetings over the past year only. The board voted on the original motion and the majority opposed the original motion which closed that motion. Susan Alvillar moved to have the conflict resolution seminar take place at CMC Rifle campus on 2/4/10 in lieu of the regular EAB meeting and to invite board members only. Betsy Suerth seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the motion with one opposition and the motion carried. Susan Alvillar gave the Chair a letter stating that she and their alternate would not be able to attend the 2/4/10 meeting due to being out of town and they have named Sheree Walcher with Williams to attend the meeting in their place. Susan asked Robin Haney if CMC had the capability to tape the meeting for those members who are unable to attend and Robin said she thought they might be able to accommodate that request.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Susan Alvillar and Donna Gray with Williams will not be able to attend the February 4<sup>th</sup> EAB meeting but are sending Sheree' Walcher as their alternate. Susan provided the chair with written notification in advance.
- Per request by the BOCC, Judy Jordan informed board that the BOCC will be having a discussion on county land use regulations related to the issue of remote fracture stimulation on 1/18/10 at 1:15pm at their regular public meeting and they are looking for operators interested in providing information to the BOCC on remote fraccing.

### **EAB MEMBER UPDATES**

**Town of New Castle** – Art Riddile asked Jon Black with Antero for an update on the Elk Creek injection well. Jon said there is nothing to update as they have not conducted further testing but at the moment, logistically it is not a preferred option to pursue. Art asked operators on the board why the activity they report seems low but the newspapers are reporting that industry operations have been on the rise. Jon Black said that drilling ultimately depends on the economics and at the moment there is a seasonal rise in gas prices but who knows if that will sustain and most operators are proceeding with caution. Sher Long with EnCana said that it is a period of caution right now but based on the current economic condition a few more rigs are coming in for them.

**Town of Silt** – Betsy Suerth reported that the town of Silt and Aspen Valley Land Trust each had the opportunity to separately submit grant applications to GOCO in December for the 210 acres south of Silt and the CO River known as the old Stillwater property. Betsy gave thanks to Garfield County, Antero Resources and EnCana for their generous pledge of financial participation if they are able to acquire the grants and the property. The plan is to have Stillwater become 50 acres of active public park and 160 acres to remain as open space and conservation with a possibility of some trails and one boat ramp only.

**City of Rifle** – Mike Braaten reported that the Rifle council meeting with COGCC will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> and they will meet with Williams on the 25<sup>th</sup> about their 2010 operations plan in relation to the Beaver Creek watershed.

**Grand Valley Citizens Alliance (GVCA)** – Leslie Robinson reported that GVCA, the Battlement Mesa concerned citizens and Garfield County are working on a study for air quality with Jim Rada, the Garfield County Environmental Health Manager, which the county is helping to fund. The study is in its preliminary stages but they are excited to get it started. They are concerned about recent readings for particulate matter that exceeded EPA standards. The readings came from the monitoring station in Rifle on top of the Henry building on 3<sup>rd</sup> street.

**Mamm Creek/Hunter Mesa** – Citizen Representative Scott Brynildson thanked BBC and EnCana for stepping forward and buying a bull that was injured on Mamm Creek Road from being hit by a truck. The bull has been butchered and the meat will go to charity. His son Eric made the stock show in Denver.

**Divide Creek** – Citizen Representative Jeff Simonson reported increased activity in the Divide Creek area and has questions about what operations are planning to come into the area in the near future. He will look at the COGCC website to see what he can find out.

**Antero Resources** – Jon Black reported that they have one fracing operation and two workover rigs south of the CO River between Rifle and Silt and they are planning meetings to discuss their 2010 operations in Battlement Mesa, Rifle and Silt. There was a rig fire at the Valley Farms E pad on 1/1/2010 and the nearest house was 800 feet away. COGCC's minimum setback requirement is 350 feet. Antero's average setback for the Battlement Mesa area will be about 500 feet. The fire is currently under investigation and no conclusions have been made yet and they have been in contact with the COGCC and CDPHE. The fire burned for 1 hour and 20 minutes and was contained to two flow back tanks on location. Jon thanked the Burning Mountain and Silt Fire Departments for helping to contain the fire.

**Bill Barrett Corporation**– Doug Dennison reported that they have 2 rigs south of Silt.

**Chevron** – Cary Baird reported no changes since their December report.

**EnCana** – Sher Long reported no change since last meeting with 4 rigs running; 2 rigs in North Parachute Ranch, 1 rig South of Battlement Mesa and 1 rig in Grass Mesa. Williams and EnCana have committed \$300k each for the Parachute interchange project to help them get a grant they are requesting for the project.

**Laramie Energy II** – Wayne Bankert reported no changes since last report and they will be laying down the rig in south Rifle soon for the winter.

**Marathon Oil** – Mike Suek reported that they have one rig drilling north of Parachute and they have 50 to 60 wells to complete that they will start in May and plan to complete over a 5 to 6 month period.

**Noble Energy** – Judi Kohn reported no change and they still have one rig running.

**OXY** – Daniel Padilla reported that they have two completion rigs operating with one in the Cascade Creek area and one in Mesa County. They plan to start drilling in the Cascade Creek area mid January.

**Williams Production** – Susan Alvillar reported status quo since last meeting with 7 rigs in Garfield County and 1 in Rio Blanco County. The Air Quality 101 presentation was re-scheduled due to weather and will be at the Battlement Mesa Oil & Gas regular meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm at their Activity Center.

**Garfield County Oil & Gas** – Judy Jordan reported that they will start drilling some water monitoring wells in the South Silt/Mamm Creek area on Tuesday. Judy gave thanks to Betsy Suerth, Leslie Robinson, Scott Brynildson and Daniel Padilla for their time participating on the citizen representative interview committee. Wendy Swan reported 5 complaints received for the month of November on the issues of flaring, ground shaking, noise and light and 5 complaints for December on the issues of noise, odor, traffic and water pollution.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- David Grisso with EnCana to give a presentation on injection wells at the next EAB meeting.
- Invite Pete McMann with USGS to speak on water testing and standardization of procedures.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Marion Wells said the mission of the EAB is not to minimize conflict but it is to resolve it. She feels that minimizing conflict is what happens on the board but resolving conflict is what is supposed to happen. She said it was stated to the BOCC that it usually takes a couple of months to resolve public comment issues, but she has brought a few issues to the board that she still feels she has not received adequate answers on. Marion asked why it is only the citizen representative positions that need to be scrutinized and appointed by the BOCC when all the other EAB seats like industry, municipalities get to choose their own individual to sit on the board without the approval of the BOCC. To her that seems very unfair. Marion said that she is certified in conflict resolution and feels a 1 ½ hour session is just a preview and hopes that since this preview session is in lieu of the regular EAB meeting that it is being taped. Marion asked if Theo Colburn is on the list of future speakers to contact regarding making a presentation to EAB and Judy Jordan answered that yes, she is.

## **ADJOURN**

Jeff Simonson adjourned at 7:52pm.

## **MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING**

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*Prepared by Wendy Swan, Garfield County Oil and Gas Administrative Assistant*

*Approved by the Energy Advisory Board on*

*Date*

*Susan Alvillar, Secretary of the Board*