

**GARFIELD COUNTY ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) MEETING**

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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 6:05 pm. EAB members introduced themselves. EAB members in attendance:

Suerth, Betsy  
Black, Jon  
Braaten, Mike  
Wizer, Joyce  
Hamilton, Theresa  
Wells, Marion  
Savage, Joan  
Gross, Michael  
DeBerry, Michael  
Long, Sher  
Bankert, Wayne  
Clifton, Leland  
Groffy, Bill  
Danforth, Brandon  
Padilla, Daniel  
Alvillar, Susan

**EAB Chair** – Town of Silt  
**EAB Vice Chair** – Antero Resources  
**EAB Secretary** – City of Rifle  
Grand Valley Citizens Alliance (GVCA)  
Garfield School District RE-2  
Rulison/Taughenbaugh Mesa/Morrisania Mesa  
Parachute/Battlement Mesa  
Silt Mesa/Peach Valley  
Chevron  
EnCana  
Laramie Energy II  
Maralex Resources  
Marathon Oil  
Noble Energy  
OXY Oil & Gas Corporation  
Williams Production

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Betsy Suerth entertained a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Wayne Bankert asked to revise the public comment from Jim Golden to state that Mr. Golden contacted Ken Leis on 10/7/08 and Wayne Bankert on 12/3/08. Susan Alvillar asked Wendy Swan if Greg Russi attended the December 4<sup>th</sup> EAB meeting because she did not think he had as reflected in the minutes attendance. Wendy said she would look back at her notes and the DVD to confirm. Betsy deferred to approve the minutes until the above changes are made.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Jim Rada, the Garfield County Environmental Health Manager, announced their new website for continuous air quality monitoring at [www.garfieldcountyaq.net](http://www.garfieldcountyaq.net)
- Teri Kinkade, the new Director of CMC Rifle campus, introduced herself and announced that new classes just started and they are always looking for qualified instructors from the oil and gas industry.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Wayne Bankert gave an update on Mr. Golden's complaint from the 12/4/08 EAB meeting. Wayne said he received a call on his voice mail from Mr. Golden on 12/3/08 and he returned the call on 12/5/08. Wayne followed up on the complaint of industry trucks using a non-haul route to access a Laramie pad. He found out that the trucks were oil purchasers not Laramie contractors. He was able to contact the hauler who in turn said he would contact the driver and tell him not to use the non-haul route "or else". Wayne said Judy Jordan contacted him to follow up on the complaint after the 12/4/08 EAB and he clarified this resolution to Judy. Betsy Suerth added that the Oil and Gas Liaison Office has drafted a new spreadsheet to track comments

/complaints presented at the EAB meetings. She described the spreadsheet as a more detailed and specific document to improve the public comment record. Sher Long added that it will add more accountability to both the identification of an issue and the response and/or actions taken to resolve the issue.

- Susan Alvillar addressed a comment made by Marion Wells at the 12/4/08 EAB meeting about a recent change on the Battlement Mesa water quality report. Susan asked Roger Bulla, the superintendent for Battlement Mesa's water and wastewater facilities to attend the 1/8/09 to give the board comments about the report.
- Marion Wells gave an update and presentation on the newly drafted EAB Citizen Representative Area Map with new boundary lines drawn up by the sub-committee with the help of GarCo GIS. Marion also described the process for recruiting citizen representatives to the board as stated in the by-laws. The bylaws state that a citizen representative shall be designated by official action of the BOCC indicated by a letter from the Chair of the BOCC to the Garfield County Oil and Gas Liaison. Marion suggested the EAB publicly advertise for all the citizen representative positions, both existing and new areas. A short discussion ensued regarding how citizen representative have been appointed in the past, what the bylaws require, and how that process might be further detailed in any future amendments to the bylaws. Marion Wells made a motion to adopt the map presented as a blue print for now to start the process needed to recruit more citizen representatives and Joan Savage seconded the motion. Susan Alvillar moved to table the motion until Williams GIS personnel can look at the map closer. Daniel Padilla seconded the motion for board members to have more time to review the map in more detail and motion to table carried. Wendy Swan said she would email the pdf map as an attachment to all EAB members for closer review. Many members stated that they would like to have more time to review the map and bring comments and a vote back to the board at the next EAB meeting.
- Betsy Suerth gave an update on the sub-committee meeting to reexamine the purpose of the EAB and went over a draft resolution revision they came up with that was emailed to all board members prior to the meeting. She went over each of the seven recommendations in the memo for discussion and feedback from the board. Suggestions for revisions included designating the section in the resolution that is related to each revision recommendation; emphasizing that the EAB desires to address issues that arise through public comment and through education during each EAB meeting; that the EAB has not historically been asked to provide Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant writing assistance; that political issues are beyond the feasible scope of the EAB and that the process by which a citizen representative is designated should be detailed in the bylaws, among other minor additions. Michael Gross also suggested that a draft amended resolution be presented to the BOCC so that the Garfield County Attorney's office is provided with a more specific guide for a new resolution.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- USGS Hydrologist Jude Thomas gave a presentation on the Common Data Repository and Water Resource Assessment update for the Piceance Basin. The USGS was happy to see the development of this project, but also hoped to develop a simultaneous and complementary project in the "northern Piceance basin". The funding is in place for the Northern Piceance basin study, thus allowing project participants and the public to enjoy further economy of scale. They need all the help they can get from the project participants. They are on task for completing the web interface/database by summer 2009. The next steps are to continue with data loading, increase public outreach efforts (presentations, meetings, gather public feedback), get results of focus user testing and work on more advanced interface as this basic web interface is put together.
- Officers Nominations and Elections – Betsy Suerth read from the bylaws the process required to elect officers of the EAB during the first meeting of the EAB each calendar year. She explained that according to the bylaws, the EAB Chair must appoint a nominations committee. She had appointed Sher Long and Daniel Padilla to the committee, along with herself, as the bylaws require an officer as the third member of the nominations committee. Sher Long made a motion to nominate Betsy Suerth as Chair, Jon Black as Vice Chair and Mike Braaten as Secretary. Daniel Padilla seconded the motion. All three EAB officers agreed to serve another term in 2009. The board voted unanimously in favor.

## **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION** - None

## **EAB MEMBER UPDATES**

**City of Rifle** –Mike Braaten reported that the legislative session started and there were already a considerable number of bills introduced of interest to Western Colorado and those engaged in the EAB.

**Town of Silt** – Betsy Suerth reported that the Town of Silt had officially deannexed the Stillwater area and moved the Town limits signs accordingly after December 20, 2008.

**Garfield School District RE-2** – Theresa Hamilton reported that the Garfield Re-2 students are back in school. They have two current bond projects from the 2006 bond program under construction including the renovation of Rifle High School and the new Graham Mesa Elementary school.

**Grand Valley Citizens Alliance** – Joyce Wizer the alternate for Kimberly Phillips had nothing to report.

**Rulison/Taughenbaugh Mesa/Morrisania Mesa** - Marion Wells reported that they still have the usual odor, speed and traffic violation problems. A new winter issue is industry trucks are driving on the county roads with their chains still on even though the roads are dry. They are still waiting for the Rulison air quality monitoring. They would like to know where the new Encana compressor station is going up. Marion would like an update from the county on the results of where the donated funds to the after hours Sheriff patrolling program is going and what and where their plan is for the extra patrolling.

**Parachute/Battlement Mesa** – Joan Savage complimented Laramie, Williams and Noble on getting their industry trucks to slow down and obey speed limits in her area.

**Silt Mesa/Peach Valley** – Michael Gross reported that although they do not have as much impact as other areas, they do have air quality and traffic concerns in the area.

**Antero Resources** – Jon Black reported that they have 2 rigs operating (1 north of the river and 1 south of the river). Their current production is 50 million cubic feet per day. They have fracing operations on the Gentry C well pad and North Bank E-12 well pad. They are currently conducting water well testing from the McPherson A-3 incident. They plan to ease up on operations for 2009. They are conducting weekly monitoring at the Gypsum Ranch A pad on a bald eagle nest. The Antero area exclusion is in effect to protect habitat which exceeds the DOW perimeter. The 2008 noxious weeds report that was submitted to BLM in work scope has been carried out. They anticipate the pipeline project to finish by late February into mid-March east of exit 94 and south of the Colorado River, and North of I-70, completing all infrastructure to support water logistics south of the Colorado River. This will reduce truck traffic. They commissioned a central handling facility to collect produced water. Thank you to Antero employees for assisting the City of Rifle with snow plowing (Stampfel Construction) and to Foran Stark for assisting the Sherriff in recovering vehicles which had slid from the road during icy conditions.

**Chevron** – Michael DeBerry reported that they have had no injuries or environmental events since last EAB meeting. They spudded 14 new wells for the month of December. They are clustering their rigs to minimize surface impacts. Their oil shale work is concluded for now and in caretaker status until summer 2009.

**Encana** – Sher Long reported that their plans are to go down from the 15 rigs in 2008 to 5 rigs in 2009 and a 40% budget cut. They now have 9 rigs operating (4 in Mamm Creek, 1 in Orchard area, and 4 on the North Parachute Ranch property). They will release the Grass Mesa rig in mid February. They have been working with Don Mumma on frac truck traffic in Battlement Mesa.

**Laramie II** – Wayne Bankert reported that they have 2 rigs in West Mamm Creek and will lay down 1 rig for the rest of 2009.

**Maralex Resources** – Leland Clifton had no new activity to report.

**Marathon Oil** – Bill Groffy reported that they have 2 rigs running NW of Parachute and 18 wells in production. The Tamarisk project is completed and they were mentioned in the New York Times for being involved with the project.

**Noble** – Brandon Danforth reported that they had 5 rigs in 2008 and they are down to 2 rigs for the winter (1 in Rulison and 1 in Battlement Mesa). They drilled 108 wells in 2008 and anticipate drilling 40-50 wells for 2009.

**OXY** – Daniel Padilla reported that they have 8 rigs operating; 2 rigs in Garfield County (Cascade Canyon and Baker Gulch) and 6 rigs in Mesa County.

**Williams Production** – Susan Alvillar reported that things aren't much different from the last EAB report. They did have an incident happen on Christmas Eve where two separate employees were driving from the rig to the man camp and got lost in a blizzard. They spent the night in one of the vehicles together to wait for rescue help, and they both had the proper emergency equipment to keep them safe and warm.

**Garfield County Oil & Gas Department** – Wendy Swan reported that the Department received 7 complaints for the month of December (2 Odor, 1 Haul Route Violation, 3 Spills and 1 Trespassing).

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Susan Alvillar suggested a presentation by the Garfield County Sheriff Department on what they are planning to do with the donations from industry to start an after hours patrolling program to enforce the many traffic violations occurring on the county roads.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

### **ADJOURN**

Betsy Suerth adjourned at 8:34pm.

### **MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING**

- Betsy Suerth deferred the approval of the 12/4/08 minutes until requested changes are made.
- Marion Wells made a motion to adopt the draft EAB Citizen Representative area map as a blue print for now to start the process needed to recruit more citizen representatives and Joan Savage seconded the motion. Susan Alvillar moved to table the motion until Williams GIS personnel can look at the map closer. Daniel Padilla seconded the motion and motion to table carried.
- Sher Long made a motion to nominate Betsy Suerth as Chair, Jon Black as Vice Chair and Mike Braaten as Secretary. Daniel Padilla seconded the motion. All three EAB officers agreed to serve another term in 2009. The board voted unanimously in favor.

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

*Approved by the Energy Advisory Board on*

*Date*

*Mike Braaten, Secretary of the Board*