

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

Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

Minutes (Final)

Location: Garfield County Fairgrounds Arena Conference Room in Rifle, Colorado

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Mike Braaten called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

EAB Vice-Chair, Mike Braaten, sat in as Chair for the meeting due to EAB Chair Jeff Simonson unable to attend meeting.

EAB members introduced themselves. EAB members in attendance:

Braaten, Mike	<b>EAB Vice Chair</b> – City of Rifle
Jordan, Judy	Garfield County
Williams, Juanita	Town of Parachute
Riddile, Art	Town of New Castle
Bastable, Clare	Town of Carbondale
Mumma, Don	Battlement Mesa Oil & Gas Committee
Wizer, Joyce	Grand Valley Citizens Alliance (GVCA)
Hamilton, Theresa	Garfield School District RE-2
Gross, Michael	Peach Valley/Silt Mesa/Silt Citizen Representative
Buss, Brent	Rifle/North Rifle
Orona, Howard	Parachute/Parachute Creek
Edwards, Cole	Battlement Mesa/Battlement Creek
Baird, Cary	Chevron
Dennison, Doug	Bill Barrett Corporation
Kohn, Judi	Noble Energy

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mike Braaten entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Michael Gross moved to accept the minutes as presented and Cole Edwards seconded. The board then voted unanimously to approve.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Mike Braaten started a discussion on the revisions to the agenda item application and comment forms. Judy Jordan asked the sub-committee what the intent was behind the forms and how are they to be used. Juanita Williams said the forms came about from unfairness to the industry having to come to the meetings without any background on the issues being brought up during public comment. She said the forms allow information to be gathered so industry can be prepared to address the issue when brought up at the next meeting. Theresa Hamilton said she liked the part of the form that lists operator and other contact information for the public to contact with their issue as help to educate the public. Michael Gross said the word “application” on the forms is a terrible word and should be changed to say “public comment form.” Judy Jordan said she plans to speak with the BOCC about the new forms presented and thinks the fact gathering part of the forms is a good idea and she gets the

intent of the forms now but she is not sure that the forms will work. She has visited many citizens to address their complaints and has invited many to come to the EAB and give their public comment but many people are very hesitant to come to the meetings. The idea to fill out a form prior to coming to a meeting might send a signal to citizens as a barrier rather than a welcome to give public comment. Cary Baird said the form should not stand in the way of taking public comment on the spot but there is a value of having a form with details of the issue and contact information for follow up. Cary said the forms should be suggested but not required. Judy agreed with Cary that the form could be a useful tool for fact gathering but not a required form to give public comment and she also questioned the process on how the form would be administered.

Clare Bastable, who was part of the original group that formed the EAB, said the intent of the EAB was to bring the community together in an open forum to discuss issues of energy development in Garfield County and to hold community education forums. She is worried that having forms and steps to follow for public comment is compromising the original intent of the EAB and if the direction is to have complaints go directly to the GarCo Oil & Gas Liaison office and to Community Counts with forms and such she understands why that is being done but it does fundamentally change the intent of the EAB. If the EAB wants all of those other avenues taken first before bringing an issue to the EAB she thinks it is being pushed farther than the EAB intended it to be and it needs to be careful about going too far in one direction. Cary Baird asked Clare about how successful the EAB was as a forum for resolving issues in the early days. Clare said there were very few members and many supporting members that worked very hard to do community education forums and there was a lot of citizen participation because the issue was new. She did not remember it being very contentious because many citizens were not hardened or feeling rolled over at that point and there was good dialogue in the first couple of years. She thinks it is very important that the EAB is re-looking at things and asking what is the EAB's real mission now because she thinks the EAB may have rendered itself obsolete.

Doug Dennison said in the early days the EAB meeting room was packed but now sees the room pretty empty and is unsure if people even care about the EAB these days. Judy Jordan said she recently presented the idea to the BOCC about whether or not the EAB has outlived itself and maybe it is time for it to take on a different role like educating the public. She said it would be a good idea for the EAB to give the BOCC a proposal of what to do with the board. Doug asked Judy if she had a sense of how the public feels about the EAB and Judy said she has heard from citizens that they think it is a dog and pony show for industry and it does not help them. Judy has also asked other internal county departments to come to the EAB meetings at the request of members and the public and they will not come to the meetings anymore due to the negative treatment at the meetings.

Cary said she has found it frustrating to be able to respond to some of the public comments in a responsible manner but does feel that some of the educational presentations have been very good and she is unsure of what to do with the board.

Mike Braaten asked Clare if she had any ideas on how to move forward with the EAB and she said it is very hard to deal with specific issues on the spot. It was a different time when the EAB was formed and the public was hungry for information about the industry, but now the public has a lot more information about the industry but are frustrated with how things have been going and she is also unsure of what to do with the board. She thinks there should be more discussion about how to resolve the bigger issues facing the county like pit liners and such at the county level.

Judy agreed with Cary that if there are bigger issues to be solved that it cannot be done at the EAB because it does not have the authority to resolve those issues. Judy said the EAB should make a recommendation to the BOCC that it is not equipped to solve many issues but to give them ideas on what the members think the EAB should do and what it cannot do.

Michael Gross said the EAB does not have time, authority or expertise to run around investigating specific complaints and that it is an advisory board to the BOCC, but the BOCC does not ask the EAB for its advice and wonders what the BOCC wants the EAB to advise them on.

Joyce Wizer said there is a big change now with close to 7,000 wells in the county compared to much less years ago and now it is time to gather information and look at trends on community concerns and the EAB is not equipped to help solve those concerns as it stands. Clare said it is a careful line to walk because the EAB is the only public forum for citizens to come to voice their issues but the EAB has limited power on what it can do to help resolve the issues brought to the board.

Mike Braaten asked the board on where it wants to go from here?

- Cary Baird moved to keep the comment form but to change the titles to not include the word “application” as it is not a pre-requisite to make public comment but to be used as a tool to gather information. Cole Edwards and Brent Buss seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve.
- Clare Bastable moved to find a way to do a public poll to find out what the public would like to see the EAB doing as a function and what they want from the EAB. Cary Baird seconded the motion and discussion followed on the motion. An addition to the motion was made to have Judy Jordan investigate with the county on how they could help with the public polling. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion with the added amendment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The July 1, 2010 EAB meeting was cancelled at the May 6 EAB meeting for a regular summer/holiday break.
- Susan Alvillar resigned as Secretary of the EAB in an e-mail to Jeff Simonson. Mike Braaten asked the board for volunteers to fill the seat. Cary Baird volunteered as Secretary of the EAB. Clare Bastable moved to elect Cary Baird as the new EAB Secretary and Theresa Hamilton seconded the motion. The board then voted unanimously to approve.

## **EAB MEMBER UPDATES**

**Town of New Castle** – Art Riddile reported that three or four times a year New Castle holds their town meetings at different locations and the attendance is sometimes tripled. He suggested that the EAB move the meeting locations around to help increase attendance.

**Grand Valley Citizens Alliance (GVCA)** – Joyce Wizer reported that they have a packet of thank you letters for EnCana that hosted a program for renewable energy.

**Battlement Mesa Oil & Gas Committee** – Don Mumma reported that Laramie is starting up operations east of Battlement Mesa and it is causing a lot of traffic by homes and the town and they plan to have a meeting to discuss the issues. They are moving a lot of water in and there is a lot of dust from the increased truck traffic. They thanked Laramie for agreeing to deliver the water from 7pm-7am to help control the dust during the day.

**Garfield School District RE-2** – Theresa Hamilton reported that school is out and they are working on finishing their budget. The staff will all take four furlough days next year.

**Peach Valley/Silt Mesa/Silt** – Citizen Representative Michael Gross asked industry board members present if the attendance at the operators meeting prior to the EAB meeting was low because attendance at the EAB meeting was low for industry representatives.

**Bill Barrett Corporation** – Doug Dennison reported that they have 3 rigs south of Silt and will be down to 2 rigs in a few weeks. They are moving 24 inch pipeline from the Bailey compressor station to the Mamm Creek area which will kick off late July into September.

**Chevron** – Cary Baird reported that the Piceance has gone from what Chevron calls a major capital project to a normal project because they are out of their big construction phase. The Piceance has folded into a new area called the “Rocky Mountain Area” which encompasses all of Wyoming, the Piceance, Grand Junction, Durango, Aztec and Farmington New Mexico. Michael DeBerry and Cary’s responsibilities have expanded due to internal operation changes.

**Noble Energy** – Judi Kohn reported that they have 1 rig that is scheduled to leave in September. They plan to do road work and well pad construction this summer.

**Garfield County Oil & Gas** – Judy Jordan thanked the operators and contractors for submitting their ERR’s. The deadline for the ERR’s was June 4<sup>th</sup> and as of June 3<sup>rd</sup> all the ERR’s have been submitted. The ERR’s are a major part of the direct distribution and the distributions will be made in August. The distributions will be considerably less this year but still very important for the local governments.

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

- Cary Baird suggested using what has happened in the Gulf to do a presentation on safety issues and well safety operations.
- Don Mumma suggested a presentation on complete safety on a well pad site from starting the rig and all involved in the operation to bringing the rig down.
- Judy Jordan added comments to the two ideas on doing educational presentations on safety. She said that the CDPHE is doing strategical planning around an occupational and health safety program and invited her to attend the strategical planning sessions via conference call. Last week they had a gentleman from Wyoming talk about their program and the exploratory work they did to get their program up with specific regards to oil and gas development. He said that a lot of fatalities in the oil and gas industry came from the transportation (truck driving) accidents. They went through the whole process of counting up fatalities and based on those numbers focused on the problematic areas. If the CDPHE starts this program in Colorado, they would probably need to gather information from the operators on their safety as they are going through their planning process on how to put together their program.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Linda Dixon commended Clare Bastable on her observations and comments on the EAB. She stated that when certain members make comments about dislike towards some of the negative comments given during public comment period that it is no surprise that the public has lost interest in attending the meetings. She said she still has not heard any reports on the “Community Counts” issues that are received even though the public has requested that information to be reported.
- Judy Jordan asked Linda Dixon if she had any ideas on what the EAB can do to help the public without it having any authority. Linda said the EAB used to be less formal and had more open communication and more education. She thinks it should go back to more of an educational forum and not an industry dominated forum.
- Marion Wells said she appreciated what Clare Bastable and Cary Baird said about the EAB and the new forms trying to be implemented. She does not think that the public should be burdened with forms to fill out to give public comment. She said the GarCo Oil & Gas Liaison office and its staff have listened to her and have helped to try and resolve some of her past issues. She does not expect the EAB to do anything but does think it is important for the public to have somewhere to go to voice the industry impacts that she and her neighbors experience. She feels the EAB should report to the BOCC quarterly about impacts and concerns that the public has.

## **ADJOURN**

- Mike Braaten adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

## **MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING**

- The 5/6/10 minutes were approved by motion as presented.
- To keep the comment form but to change titles to not include the word “application” as it is not a prerequisite to make public comment but to be used as a tool to gather information.
- To ask Judy Jordan to investigate how the County could help poll the public about the appropriate mission of the EAB.
- Cary Baird was elected the new EAB Secretary.

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

*Approved by the Energy Advisory Board on*

*Date 8-5-2010*

*Cary Baird, Secretary of the Board*