

GARFIELD COUNTY ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Location: Parachute Library, Parachute, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Chair Howard Orona called the meeting to order at: 6:01 P.M. He announced the dinner was catered by VJ's Outlaw Ribs in Parachute. Orona asked the members present to introduce themselves.

EAB members in attendance:

Bob Arrington	Battlement Mesa
Jeff Simonson	Divide Creek
Kurt Grimm	Dry Hollow Creek
Scott Brynildson	Mamm Creek/Hunter Mesa
Howard Orona	Parachute/Parachute Creek
Michael Gross	Peach Valley/Silt/Silt Mesa
Tom VonDette	Taughenbaugh Mesa
AJ Hobbs	Town of Carbondale
Juanita Williams	Town of Parachute
Kelly Lyon	Silt
Don Mumma	Battlement Mesa O & G Committee
Don Simpson	Ursa Resources
Kirby Wynn	Garfield County
Joyce Wizer	Grand Valley Citizens Alliance
Michael Meskin	Grass Mesa
Sandy Kent	Encana
Cary Baird	Chevron
Sandy Kent	Encana
Sherry Walcher	WPX
Eric Sanford	SG Interests

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

The board reviewed the minutes from the March 6, 2014 meeting. Tom VonDette made a motion to accept the minutes and Kirby Wynn seconded the motion; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Kirby Wynn reported that EAB is still looking for a citizen representative for the Una Bridge - Spring Creek area. He encouraged the members to help recruit a representative, if they know of anyone who lives in the area that might be interested in participating.

NEW BUSINESS

Wynn announced that AJ Hobbs had recently been elected to the Town Council of Carbondale and offered his congratulations to Hobbs. Hobbs said he was eager to get started on issues that affect the Town of Carbondale such as the leases on the Thompson Divide. Orona said he had presented a quarterly report to the Board of County Commissioners on March 3, at the Rifle Sheriff Annex.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

The educational program “**Water, Oil and Gas: energy production, the water rights priority system and drinking water supplies**” was presented by Kent Holsinger, Manager, Holsinger Law, LLC, Denver, CO. His law firm that specializes in lands, wildlife and water law. The presentation is posted on the Garfield County website www.garfield-county.com/oil-gas/energy-advisory-board.aspx.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Orona asked for public comments, asking that each person limit their comments to 3 minutes each.

Marion Wells, Rulison

Ms. Wells talked about the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) that was recently published a report on toxic releases by oil and gas companies. She reported that EIP gathered data from facility reports and state emission inventory reports to publish the study. She reported the amount of waste for several Garfield County companies with a total of 2,568,000 pounds. She said she was concerned at the last meeting when, in her opinion, a county official over simplified air quality data. She feels it should not be trivialized and that it merits concern for our future.

Linda Dixon, Silt

Ms. Dixon commented on the educational presentation dealing with water law and water rights, saying that the gas companies are using too much of Colorado’s most valuable resource, water. She said that agricultural water use contributes to the food supply and benefits the local community. She feels that oil and gas companies take water resources for themselves to benefit their companies. She said companies need to learn to be better neighbors.

Richard Votero, Carbondale

Mr. Votero voiced his opinion about the Thompson Divide gas leases and said he lives in Carbondale where they have a very different economic base, mostly based on tourism. He said natural gas is being touted as the bridge fuel and he doesn’t feel like it is. He feels fossil fuel users should conserve because we are running out of resources. He doesn’t think government is listening to the public as they (the public) do not want oil and gas development.

Stacy Stein, Carbondale

She said that we all rely on and need water and she is concerned about fracking, because it takes water away from future use. She feels water recycling needs to be increased and hopes the technology improves for that to happen. She said, “People can’t drink money.”

Rick, Silt-Parachute area

Said he thinks the landowners are not being compensated enough for the gas development on their land. He said companies make people sign non disclosure agreements that do not allow them to talk about problems they have had. He said the gas companies buy people off; then don’t let them talk about it.

Larry, Silt-Parachute area

Said he feels like crying. His family has lived in the area for 160 years and they used to be able to drink out of any stream on their property. He said, now they can’t because the water is not drinkable. He feels the oil and gas companies are experimenting on people like what was done in Nazi Germany many years ago. He encouraged everyone to work together to take care of our resources.

COMMUNITY COUNTS UPDATE, Don Simpson

Response Line: 866-442-9034 - The response line system is designed to connect residents with the source of their issues and concerns for timely response and resolution. Once Community Counts facilitates that connection, we are no longer involved. The operator and resident address and resolve the issue, and in the future the resident contacts the operator directly. To close the loop with calls that come to Community Counts, the operator gets back with us to let us know the issue has been resolved.

Concerns - Non reported to CCC
Informational E-mails

1. County put up requested electronic sign just downhill on Morrisania Mesa Rd and Battlement Pkwy junction per the request of residents attending the CCC meeting
2. March 21 road closure on CR 317 (Beaver Creek road)
3. Rig Count – Total 8 rigs Garfield County and 1 Rio Blanco County
 - a. WPX Energy – 7 Garfield County;; 1 - Rio Blanco County
 - b. URSA Operating Company – 1 Garfield County
 - c. Caerus Oil & Gas – 1 Garfield County

Community Counts Board Meetings are held every other month on the 2nd Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:00 pm at the Town of Parachute. Our next Board meeting will be May 14, 2014.

EAB MEMBER UPDATES

Municipalities:

Town of Silt – Kelly Lyon

No new updates or citizen concerns reported.

Town of Parachute – Juanita Williams

No new updates or citizen concerns reported.

Town of Carbondale, AJ Hobbs

Hobbs said the Thompson Divide Coalition is working with the lease companies trying to hammer out an agreement on the buying out of their leases. He said it was announced recently that Garfield County has a large number of birth defects and he feels oil and gas development should be evaluated for cause. He said before there is continued drilling we need to evaluate to protect resources. He said both sides need to learn to live and work together.

Organizations:

Battlement Mesa O & G Committee - Don Mumma

No update and no citizen concerns reported

Grass Mesa - Michael Meskin

No update and no citizen concerns reported.

GVCA –Joyce Wizer

She said she wanted to invite all to the river cleanup sponsored by the Middle Colorado Watershed. She said the group will meet on April 26, 2014 at 8 am to clean up the river area in New Castle. She said there will be food and rewards for the volunteers.

Citizen Representatives:

Battlement Mesa – Bob Arrington

Said they has no new complaints but recently they had a serious incident in Battlement where water was gushing out on the road; he reported it to COGCC but not to Community Counts

Dry Hollow Creek – Kurt Grimm

Grimm said it was finally spring on his farm. No new updates and no citizen concerns reported

Mamm Creek/Hunter Mesa - Scott Brynildson

He reminded everyone of the 18th Annual Rifle Rendezvous to be held in May and asked if anyone had time to volunteer to help out to please let him know.

Parachute/Parachute Creek – Howard Orona

No update and no citizen concerns reported.

Divide Creek – Jeff Simonson

No update and no citizen concerns reported, trucks are driving slowly.

Peach Valley/Silt/Silt Mesa – Michael Gross

No update and no citizen concerns reported

Taughenbaugh Mesa – Tom VonDette

Said he wanted to thank WPX for picking trash up on his road. He said he has been working with Kirby to monitor the truck traffic, as there are 3 rigs operating near his home.

Operators:**Chevron – Cary Baird**

She said they have no incidents to report

Encana – Sandy Kent

She said the company is concentrating on production at this time.

Ursa Operating Company – Don Simpson

Simpson said Ursa has one rig operating; no new incidents to report. He said they had their semi-annual community meetings, March 12 & 13 in Parachute and Silt. He said they were well attended. He said they had a safety meeting with all of their contractors and had gone through the Community Counts Good Neighbor training program, which he hopes to be beneficial to the companies and the community.

WPX – Sherrie Walcher

WPX Energy has seven rigs operating in Garfield County and the company has had several rig moves this spring. She said WPX has been working on the new COGCC rules and spill reporting requirements. She said the company has no fines or penalties at this time.

SG Interests – Eric Sanford

He said the BLM has issued the extension on the Thompson Divide leases. He said they are at an impasse in the negotiations with the Thompson Divide Coalition.

Garfield County – Kirby Wynn

(Provided as a Power Point presentation.) Wynn introduced himself as the Garfield County Oil & Gas Liaison. There is an email sign up list available if any new attendees would like to be added to the mailing list for EAB and other notifications, or you can contact gdubois@garfield-county.com or call 970-625-5915. EAB meetings are held the first Thursday of the month. Newspaper ads were placed in

the *Glenwood Post Independent* announcing the April EAB meeting and inviting the public to attend. The paper also included a community brief on the meeting.

Garfield County has 9 active drilling rigs operating, 1 from Ursa, 1 Caerus and 7 from WPX. The map comes from the Community Counts web site, where you can find lots of useful rig information. Wynn pointed out the Rig Count Comparison. He said last year there were 12 rigs operating in Garfield County and 18 in 2012.

Resident calls to the office for February & March 2014 are: 4 odors; 3 spills, 2 traffic, 1 noise, 1 haul route and 48 information requests. Wynn encouraged citizens who are having issues or questions with oil and gas to contact him to get the matter resolved quickly.

The County has had 65 well starts in 2014 and 244 well permits issued, which 28 percent of the state permits issued.

If folks have questions about oil and gas topics or would like to report an issue please contact Kirby Wynn, Garfield County Oil & Gas Liaison, 970/625-5905 or 970/987-2557 or email at kwynn@garfield-county.com. Wynn said the next EAB meeting would be May 1, at the Rifle Library.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Orona adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING

A motion was passed approving the March 6, 2014 meeting minutes.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

Prepared by Gretchenn DuBois, Garfield County Oil and Gas Administrative Assistant.

Approved by the EAB on May 1, 2014.