

## GARFIELD COUNTY ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 1, 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 Thai Chili in Rifle. Orona asked the members present to introduce themselves.

### **EAB members in attendance:**

Bob Arrington	Battlement Mesa
Kurt Grimm	Dry Hollow Creek
Dirk Myers	City of Rifle
Howard Orona	Parachute/Parachute Creek
Scott Stewart	Roan Creek
Tom VonDette	Taughenbaugh Mesa
Don Mumma	Battlement Mesa O & G Committee
Kirby Wynn	Garfield County
Joyce Wizer	Grand Valley Citizens Alliance
Art Riddle	Town of New Castle
Cary Baird	Chevron
Susan Alvillar	WPX
Dana Johnson	Ursa Operating
Jonathan Wentz	Encana

### **APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

The board reviewed the minutes from the April 3, 2014 meeting. Tom VonDette made a motion to accept the minutes and Kirby Wynn seconded the motion; the motion passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Tom VonDette expressed his concern about the content of presentation, Kent Holsinger, who spoke at the April EAB meeting on water rights. 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**

No new business.

### **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

No educational presentation this month.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**Marion Wells, Rulison**

Ms. Wells said she didn't appreciate the comments from the EAB speaker, Kent Holsinger at the April meeting. She felt he didn't have the facts to back up his statements on water rights and issues. She would like to see programs that offer a different perspective and has offered suggestions.

### **Marc Morton, COGCC, Denver**

Morton announced that COGCC would be holding hearings in Rifle on June 17, 2014 here at the library. He said the COGCC was also offering Local Government Designee training in Rifle from 1- 5 pm, on June 16, 2014. He said the Northwest Colorado Oil & Gas Forum would be held on June 5, 2014 at 10 am at CMC in Rifle.

### **COMMUNITY COUNTS (CCC) UPDATE, Susan Alvillar**

**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**

1. Truck traffic on "no truck route"
2. Speeding

#### **Informational E-mails**

1. Request for information if Encana was going to hold the expo this year came through our website - Responded that they had canceled it.

#### **Rig Count – Total 9 rigs Garfield County**

- **WPX Energy** – 7 Garfield County (one new rig currently moving);
- **URSA Operating Company** – 1 Garfield County
- **Caerus Oil & Gas** – 1 Garfield County

**Membership in CCC** – We currently have 96 members

**Community Counts Board Meetings are held every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**, 3:30 – 5:00 pm at the Town of Parachute. Our next Board meeting will be May 14, 2014. **Contact information** is: Nita Smith, Coordinator, (970.712.7317 or 303-916-4009); Sher Long, Executive Director, [sher@sherlongcom.net](mailto:sher@sherlongcom.net) (970.456.8896) or Susan Alvillar, Board President, [susan.alvillar@wpxenergy.com](mailto:susan.alvillar@wpxenergy.com) (970.263.5315)

### **EAB MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **Municipalities:**

##### **Rifle – Dirk Myers**

No new updates or citizen concerns reported.

##### **Town of New Castle – Art Riddle**

Riddle said Bill Barrett has been invited to the next City Council meeting to discuss their drilling plans for the area.

#### **Organizations:**

##### **Battlement Mesa O & G Committee - Don Mumma**

No update and no citizen concerns reported

##### **GVCA –Joyce Wizer**

She said she wanted to report a citizen complaint issue on County Road 320, Taughenbaugh Mesa that trucks were taking more than their fair share of the road and pushing the center line. People are concerned about that.

**Citizen Representatives:**

**Battlement Mesa – Bob Arrington**

Arrington said the Battlement Concerned Citizens group had met recently with Fred Jarman and Kirby Wynn, Garfield County to discuss the proposed plans Ursa has for drilling within the PUD in Battlement Mesa. He thought it was a productive meeting. He asked Dave Devaney a representative of the group to give a report on Ursa drilling inside the PUD. Devaney said Ursa's decision to drill in the PUD is a surprise they had hoped to avoid with horizontal drilling, etc. The group will continue to work with Ursa to minimize problems associated with drilling inside the PUD. He said Ursa would have to get a special use permit from the County to drill in the PUD.

Arrington also discussed what he observed at a WPX location where he saw water gushing out while a well was being worked on. He thinks at least 20 barrels spilled out on the ground based on his observation while driving by along the interstate. He said WPX said not that much leaked and they reported 1.3 barrels to COGCC; COGCC investigated and has closed the incident. Arrington believes he witnessed a larger amount being spilled and said he will probably have to take the issue up further with COGCC.

Susan Alvillar, WPX, indicated that WPX has tried to work with Mr. Arrington and respond to his questions, etc. She said this is what actually happened relative to what Mr. Arrington believes he observed:

WPX employees were working on a high pressure injection well that had not even gone into service yet. They knew it was a high pressure well because they drilled it. They sent a unit out there to pull a plug at the end of the tubing. The employees took clean filtered water from the Rulison facility, they knew exactly how much water they put down the well bore to lubricate the pipe. They also realized when they started to break the connections that water could come up out of the hole. It typically happens and they were prepared for this standard procedure. She said, generally you put a tray down below what is called a snubbing unit to catch any liquids. But since this was a high pressure operation the tray would not fit below the snubbing unit. So they sent a vacuum truck out to the field to be on standby, just in case this water came out of the well.

It is something we planned for and is routine. Water did come out of the hole and the WPX employees observed it. Alvillar said, as water is coming out of the hole there is also gas that comes out of the hole too, so the gas is vented to a tank, so if there is any condensates in it, heavier hydro carbons will drop into the tank. But then the gas is vented to the atmosphere as long as they need to release the pressure. It is a safety precaution. That is what they were doing out there, vapor was being vented, like a vapor cloud. The site was further inspected by other WPX employees and the COGCC. The company thought the matter was closed. Bob Arrington filed paperwork with the COGCC, WPX reviewed. COGCC asked WPX to fill out a form 19 which they did. She explained COGCC forms are filled out accurately under penalty of enforcement. WPX felt the incident was a routine operation but they completed the form and filed the report with the COGCC. COGCC closed out the form and the issue right after it was filed. She said the Company is to the point, again really struggled with this, the reputation of our company, our integrity regarding abiding by the law is all being brought into question. We take that very seriously. She offered to answer any questions that anyone might have on the situation.

Kirby Wynn said he receives these forms and he reviews them. When you look at the spill rules that are in place and the requirement and risk if you don't report or under report there is really no reason to expect a company to not follow the reporting rules. There is no actual motivation to under report it and you had a vacuum truck there I assume they can tell how much they scooped up, so I do not understand why

there is a consternation or a concern about whether it was 1.3 or 5.3 barrels or some other amount. They cleaned it up immediately as it occurred. Wynn said he didn't see a problem with the whole process. Alvillar said they were in total control of the operation the entire time, a tank did not overflow. Wynn said he appreciated being kept apprised of the situation immediately after it occurred and during follow-up.

#### **Dry Hollow Creek – Kurt Grimm**

No new updates and no citizen concerns reported.

#### **Parachute/Parachute Creek – Howard Orona**

Orona said there was concern from a citizen regarding erosion control on County Road 215 and was discussing it with Summit. He said County Road 215 is known for its problem flooding anyway and will be following up.

#### **Roan Creek – Scott Stewart**

Stewart said there is a new pipeline agreement that is coming up Roan Creek for both water and production. The new pipelines are being financed through Black Hills and will coming up to X ½ road.

#### **Taughenbaugh Mesa – Tom VonDette**

Said he was visiting with Summit Midstream and asked if they would notify the County when they will be blowing down pipes. He said it has happened twice in the last month. He said it would be nice if they were notified before it happened. He said there had been lots of truck traffic and tank hauling.

#### **Operators:**

##### **WPX – Susan Alvillar**

WPX Energy has eight rigs operating and one more moving in. It is a new rig called the X rig and the company has found the rigs need to be a bit larger to deal with the pressures and temperatures for their deeper wells. She said WPX is drilling a 36-well pad on Beaver Creek on the western side. It will be the largest pad to date for the company. They have a rig in September scheduled for just north and west of the Parachute bypass intersects County Road 215. It is an existing pad and is in the town limits of Parachute. She said they will be drilling 20 plus wells on the site and will be there till about January 2015. The company will be holding a barbecue at the location on June 11 to detail their plans for drilling with the Community. The Company walked the neighborhood south of the bypass to give people information about the location. She said it was a good experience and that people appreciated it.

##### **Chevron – Cary Baird**

She said they have no incidents to report or safety or environmental issues. She said they will continue working this summer on an eight inch pipeline, which they started last year. They had to stop working on it for the winter. It will connect our CPF into enterprise for gas sales and will be doing work over and things like that this summer.

##### **Encana – Jonathan Wentz**

He said the company is focusing on optimizing their base production. No rigs currently but they do have a completions crew running right now.

##### **Ursa Operating Company – Dana Johnson**

He said Ursa has one rig operating and they are finishing up on McLin B pad right now; no new incidents to report.

##### **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](mailto: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 May EAB meeting and inviting the public to attend.

He said the next meeting of the Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum which is cohosted by the COGCC would be held June 5, 2014 at 10 am – Noon, at the CMC in Rifle. Garfield County has 9 active drilling rigs operating, 1 from Ursa, 1 Caerus and 7 from WPX. Wynn reviewed the monthly rig count comparison chart depicting drilling activity over the last few years. He said last year there were 12 rigs operating in Garfield County and 18 in 2012.

Resident calls to the office for March and April 2014 are: 1 odor; 1 air pollution, 2 traffic, 1 noise, 2 haul route and 39 information requests. Wynn encouraged citizens who are having issues or questions regarding oil and gas to contact him to get the matter resolved quickly. The County has had 112 well starts in 2014.

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](mailto:kwynn@garfield-county.com). Wynn said the next EAB meeting would be June 5, at the Rifle Library.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Orona adjourned the meeting at 6:44 pm.

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

A motion was passed approving the April 3, 2014 meeting minutes.

### **NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

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

Approved by the EAB on June 5, 2014.