

GARFIELD COUNTY ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, August 1, 2013  
Location: Rifle Library, Rifle, Colorado

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

Brent Buss called the meeting to order at: 6:02 P.M., and asked the EAB members to introduce themselves.

**EAB members introduced themselves. EAB members in attendance:**

Eric Ward	Marathon
Brent Buss	Rifle/North Rifle
Kirby Wynn	Garfield County
Leslie Robinson	Grand Valley Citizens Alliance
Sheree Walcher	WPX Energy
Bob Arrington	Battlement Mesa
Don Simpson	URSA Resources
Don Mumma	Battlement Mesa O & G
Scott Stewart	Roan Creek
Mike Gross	Peach Valley – Silt Mesa
Jeff Simonson	Divide Creek
Cary Baird	Chevron
Robert Winn	Colorado Mountain College
Howard Orona	Parachute/Parachute Creek
Sandy Kent	EnCana

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The board reviewed the minutes from the June 6, 2013 meeting. Leslie Robinson made a motion to accept the minutes and Don Simpson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Brent Buss stated there was no old business on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mileage Reimbursement Form**

Buss said the first thing on the agenda was the mileage reimbursement form and asked Kirby Wynn to explain the form to the members. Wynn said Garfield County offers to pay mileage for Energy Advisory Board members to attend the monthly meetings. He said the rate is .565 cents per mile and can be retroactive to the first of the year. He said members were emailed copies of the form and that he had copies available if anyone wanted to submit a reimbursement form.

**Citizen Representatives**

Buss said the next item was consideration of two citizen representative applications. Jack Castle, Parachute, has applied to be the representative for the Rulison-Holmes Mesa/Morrisania Mesa area.

Tom Vondette, Rifle, has applied for the Taughenbaugh Mesa representative position. Jack Castle was present at the meeting and introduced himself. He said, he has lived on Morrisania Mesa for ten years. He has a degree in water technology and is interested in water issues. Mr. Vondette was also present at the meeting and said he has lived in the area all of his life and is concerned about energy issues. Kirby Wynn said another person had applied for the Una Bridge area, but the person doesn't qualify as they actually lived in the Battlement Mesa area; according to the bylaws you must live in the area you represent.

### **Municipal Representatives**

Buss said there were two new municipal member nominations for the City of Rifle and Town of Carbondale. He introduced Kimberly Bullen from Rifle and said she is the new government affairs coordinator for the City. He also introduced AJ Hobbs, civil engineer who is being by Carbondale as their municipal representative. Buss said the municipal representative letters of interest will go directly to the BOCC for consideration and appointment.

Buss discussed options for accepting the citizen representative applications. He said, in the past a subcommittee has been appointed to interview candidates. But since there is only one applicant applying for each area, he thought we could shorten the process. A brief discussion on emailing the members to poll them about the candidates or voting at the meeting was held; it was decided to review the candidates and vote at the meeting. That way the recommendation can go immediately on to the BOCC for appointment.

Buss asked the candidates if they would like to say a few words to the group. Tom Vondette said that he has lived in the area all of his life and works in the oil and gas industry. He said he knows many of the operators and said they know him. He said he could bring balance to the EAB because he works in the industry and also lives there and has to deal with traffic, etc. Kirby Wynn asked the candidates if they could devote the time each month to attend the meeting. Both said yes they could devote the time. Jeff Simonson made a motion to accept Jack Castle as the Citizen Representative for the Rulison-Holmes Mesa/Morrisania Mesa area and Tom Vondette as the citizen representative of Taughenbaugh Mesa. Don Mumma seconded the motion and the motion passed. Wynn will place these nominations on the BOCC agenda for final action.

### **WPX Energy Update**

Tyler Bittner, production engineer from WPX Energy addressed the group regarding a spill in the Kokopelli field on July 2, 2013. He said in the Kokopelli field they operate two systems, a high and low pressure to move water to higher elevations. During the time of the leak they were operating the high pressure system and a valve failed. This line was pressure tested in December 2012, so the company was in compliance with their own regulations on testing. There is an operator on site that checks the operations of things and he found the leak quickly and was able to minimize the spill amount. They discovered they lost about 50 barrels of water.

The water was contained to a cattle pond in the system and ran down to a nearby ditch. He said the Company did see absorption in the soil, down to about 3 inches this was in the ditch leading to the pond. They tested the water in the cattle pond and found benzene at 2.7 parts per billion. He said, the rate of 2.7 parts per billion is actually below the Colorado drinking water standard of 5 parts per billion. WPX removed the contaminated soil to a designated landfill and flushed the ditch with fresh water and retested the cattle pond. It came back no detect for hydrocarbons. The pond water level was low to begin with and WPX is working with the landowner to refill the pond. Bittner said he wanted to point out that WPX manages about 800 million gallons of water per year in their system. He said the company is reviewing their operating practices and does try to improve them on a regular basis. He said WPX takes a proactive stance on training employees in spill mitigation and spill prevention. He said once the

spill was discovered the company worked efficiently and quickly to minimize the spill impacts. They have replaced the leaky valve and the line is back in service and the company is finishing up the required paperwork for the COGCC.

### **Air Quality Presentation**

An informative air quality presentation was given by Dr. Shauna Kocman, Bureau of Land management who is an engineer in the Silt office. She spoke about how they measure air quality on BLM lands. Her presentation is posted on the Garfield County website, [www.garfield-county.com/oil-gas/energy-advisory-board.aspx](http://www.garfield-county.com/oil-gas/energy-advisory-board.aspx).

### **Public Comment**

Buss asked for public comments limiting each person to 3 minutes each.

#### **Marion Wells, Rulison.**

Wells said she had some friends stay with her this past month. They stayed a couple of hours, became ill and had to leave. For her, this is déjà vu from last summer. I have got the noise, the odors just like last year." She said she wanted to ask some questions. "Please raise your hand if live in Garfield County. Keep it up if you live outside the city limits. Keep your hand up if you have a drilling rig within one mile of your house. Keep your hand up if you have compressor station, pipeline, or evaporative pit near your house. Keep your hand up if you have dealt with noise, odor and lights inside your home for more than a year." She said her point is: "this board was established by the citizens of Garfield County and its purpose is to minimize conflict between citizens and industry through communication and action." She said, "The past couple of years we have heard the industry's side and we heard a lot about modeling, but not much else. There have been repeated requests to hear the other side of the coin." But she feels requests go ignored. She said, "There are people like me have been adversely impacted in this County. I would request two things: Number one, the Liaison and the Chair afford us the same respect and courtesy they lecture us citizens about to people like Bob Arrington; because tonight's (treatment of Bob) was egregious. The other thing I want you to do is hear us out. We are bringing you real life experiences of issues we have had daily for years and will continue to have in the future. I want you to question what goes on in this meeting."

#### **Linda Dixon, Peach Valley.**

Dixon said she was at the meeting to talk about the Kokopelli spill. She said she didn't come to beat up on any company or industry. She said she knew companies were not going to have perfect records, but wants to know why it takes so long for residents to hear about it. In researching the spill she didn't know where Kokopelli field was. Turns out the field is on the Jolley Mesa. She asked, "Why didn't someone from the company say that instead of Kokopelli field. She asked "why didn't the newspaper dig deeper and find out where the field was." She said she did some research and found 20 spills in that area since 2007. Dixon said, "Eventually all of this stuff goes into the ground water and affects those of us who have water wells in the area." She wants to know why Garfield County spill information cannot be readily available and accessible. She said, "Designating it as a field does not cut it and is just another way to dilute the problem."

#### **Donna Gray, Williams Midstream**

(This is an operator update that occurred during public comment period) Gray gave an update on the Parachute hydrocarbon release near the Williams Parachute gas plant. She said, the company continues doing creek sampling on Parachute Creek. There is one point in the creek where they have detected benzene, approximately 1300 feet downstream from the spill site. She said, on July 29 the test result was 2.2 parts per billion, which is well below last week's sample, which was above 5.5 parts

per billion. All of the points downstream below CS6, have registered non-detect since the company started sampling them. She said, they have two systems in place to treat the contaminated soil and the contaminated ground water. They use a technique called air sparging. They have disposed of 1700 tons of contaminated soil. Another remediation system came online today that is called a hydrocarbon recovery system to treat the contaminated ground water. After treatment the water is returned to the aquifer. There is a dedicated website for information on the release, [www.answersforparachute.com](http://www.answersforparachute.com). The latest information is updated weekly and test results are posted.

### **Richard Vottero, Carbondale.**

In the old mining days they came up with a system to monitor the gas in the mines. They used canaries to take in the air. When the canaries died the miners knew it was time to get out of the mine. Mr. Vottero said “what I am submitting here is that our children and our children’s children are the canaries in the gas patch”.

### **COMMUNITY COUNTS UPDATE by Nita Smith**

#### **Response Line:**

- June and July response line had very few reports to Community Counts directly and we continue to thank our operators for the collaboration that allows this system to work so well. In June we had one inquiry come in through our website regarding a traffic issue and July has had a couple of traffic concerns of speeding and reckless driving. All concerns were quickly addressed by operators.
- **Kudos that came to Community Counts –**
  - **H&K drivers** were helpful and courteous
  - **Summit Trucking drivers** were praised for their courteous driving
  - **Monument Transportation** received praise regarding their drivers in the Morrisania Mesa/Rulison area that drivers are being very conscientious about speed
  - **Black Hills** – received praise from Mayor Klahn of Debeque for close attention to the needs of their town during the rig move

#### **Rigs – June**

- **WPX** – 6 rigs in Garfield County; 1 in Rio Blanco County
- **Encana** – 5 rigs in Garfield County
- **Black Hills** – 1 in Mesa County

#### **Rigs – July**

- **WPX** - 6 rigs in Garfield County; 1 in Rio Blanco County
- **Encana** – 4 rigs in Garfield County; 1 in Rio Blanco County
- **Black Hills** – Moved out July 22<sup>nd</sup> – no more drilling activity in the near future
- **URSA Operating CO** – 1 in Garfield County

#### **In the community:**

- Sher and Nita met with Rio Blanco County BOCC
- Sher and Susan met with Mesa County BOCC
- Sher met with new members Monument Transportation and Rule Engineering
- Sher gave an update to the Grand Junction BLM Field Office
- Sher met with Colorado Municipal League director, Sam Mamet

#### **Membership stands at 79, Five New members:**

- **Monument Transportation** - has been serving the Trucking Industry since 1988. They are a family orientated business that believes in hiring locally, with over 40 employees and continues to grow. The company serves

the Oilfield industry and Highway Hauling. They specialize in Dry Bulk / Pneumatic Tankers. They are dedicated to providing the best Customer Satisfaction that can be offered.

- **Rule Engineering, LLC** – was founded in 1997 to offer professional environmental engineering, and safety, health and industrial hygiene consulting services to industry. Rule's focus is to develop and implement business approaches that meet the requirements of a variety of environmental and safety related risks and regulations. Sean Norris is the new Area Manager and can be contacted for services of providing permitting for land use of E&P facilities, air, water and waste; project planning designed to identify and mitigate environmental, regulatory and stakeholder concerns; Gap assessments and efficient implementable solutions; Compliance and safety assessments; and Assessment, characterization, remediation and reclamation.
- **RJ Taylor-Wyatt LLC** – is a general contractor in industrial construction specializing in the oil and gas industry constructing natural gas pipelines, compressor stations, processing plants, metering stations and infield gathering systems. They also have two fabrication shops where meter skids are built and assembled as well as fabricating components for piping systems. They are also a full service general contractor which includes dirt work, excavation, concrete and civil, welding and fabrication of pipe and structural steel, pressure testing, storm water management and painting.
- **Rio Blanco County Commissioners and Mesa County Commissioners** – Sher and Nita met with Rio Blanco County BOCC in June and Sher and Susan met with Mesa County BOCC in July and they are both are in the process of signing up with CCC
- **Recent other memberships over the last few months** – City of Rifle, Town of Silt, Town of Debeque, Shell Exploration & Production, Black Hills Exploration & Production, Brady Trucking, Hyland Enterprises, Janet Rowland with Local Government Solutions, Olsson Associates, Safety Tek Industries, Inc., Phil Vaughan construction Management, Landowner Kent Jolley and citizen from Eagle, Larry Cavanaugh.

#### **Upcoming:**

- Our plan to **develop community relations trainings** for energy industry personnel has changed focus a bit after several meetings with member contractors. We are now looking at a 2h training that will take place on site at company facilities.
  - Safety Tek, Brady Trucking, Rain For Rent and Hyland Enterprises have volunteered to help us put this training together.

**Community Counts Monthly Board meetings** – second Wednesday of each month from 3:30-5p at the Town of Parachute. If anyone would like a time on the agenda to speak to the Board or have a request, please call Nita at 970.712.7317 or [nita@communitycountscolorado.com](mailto:nita@communitycountscolorado.com). Agendas close Wednesday prior to the meeting.

**Municipalities** - No updates.

#### **School Districts**

##### **Colorado Mountain College – Robert Winn**

Robert Winn said the College had just hosted an open house to let the community know about the new integrated training mobile energy lab equipment that was recently purchased with a grant funds.

#### **Organizations:**

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

No updates and no citizen concerns reported.

##### **GVCA – Leslie Robinson**

Robinson invited everyone to the next meeting of the Grand Valley Citizen Alliance. She said it will be held August 12, 2013 from 7 – 8 pm at the Rifle Library, public is welcome. The GVCA is anxious to see the Divide Creek water quality study.

#### **Citizen Representatives:**

**Battlement Mesa – Bob Arrington**

Arrington said during the summer break they have been meeting with Ursa Resource Group, and receiving updated information about their drilling activity. He said, Ursa has been upfront about the drilling and have been telling us what activity they will doing around the PUD and letting us know what to expect. The group meets with Ursa on the second Tuesday of the month. The BMA is now meeting only one time per month, the fourth Wednesday of the month; compared to two times per month previously. No citizen concerns reported.

**Divide Creek – Jeff Simonson**

Simonson said, they have had a lot of activity in the Divide Creek area, with Ursa, Dejour and WPX. He said, residents are seeing heavy truck traffic. He said the truckers have been doing a good job driving and traveling at lower speeds; and the homeowners really appreciate their efforts. No citizen concerns to report.

**Grass Mesa, - Mike Gross**, no update and no citizen concerns reported.

**Parachute/Parachute Creek – Howard Orona**, no update and no citizen concerns reported.

**Peach Valley/Silt Mesa**, no update and no citizen concerns reported.

**Rifle/North Rifle – Brent Buss**, no update and no citizen concerns reported.

**Roan Creek – Scott Stewart**, no update and no citizen concerns reported.

**Operators****Marathon – Eric Ward**

No drilling and no completions.

**Ursa Operating Company – Don Simpson**

Simpson said he appreciate the positive feedback from Battlement Mesa Alliance. The workover program that was started in April was completed in May; they worked over 25 wells. Ursa acquired a new rig and is currently drilling in Battlement Mesa. They just hired a local for a management position and will be looking to hire another position soon.

**Chevron – Carey Baird**, no new updates.

**WPX – Sheree Walcher**

Walcher said WPX is currently operating 7 rigs. two in Grand Valley, one in South Grand Valley, one in Rulison, one in Rhinebulge, and two in Parachute. WPX took their Board of Directors' on a tour of the Piceance Basin in July. They toured the Aztec rig and the water treatment facilities; the Directors were impressed with the operations and the community.

**EnCana – Sandy Kent**

Kent said EnCana has 5 operating rigs. She said the CNG station in Parachute is located behind the Shell station and is currently open to Garfield County vehicles and EnCana. Currently the gas station is

not open to the public; they are working on some tax issues. She will let the group know when the station is open to the public.

**Garfield County – Kirby Wynn**

(Provided as a power point presentation) Wynn said there is a email sign up list available if any new attendees would like to be added to the mailing list, or you can contact [gdubois@garfield-county.com](mailto:gdubois@garfield-county.com) or call 970/625-5915. Wynn said he had been working to fill vacant positions on the EAB. Newspaper ads were placed in the *Glenwood Post Independent* and *Rifle Citizen Telegraph*. He said two positions were filled this evening and will be submitted to the BOCC for approval. The EAB is still looking to fill two citizen vacant positions: one for the Dry Hollow Creek area and the Una Bridge/Wallace Creek/Spring Creek area. He encouraged the EAB members to see if they knew of someone that may be interested in participating.

Wynn said Garfield County has 11 active drilling rigs: Ursa has one, EnCana has 4 and WPX has 6. An updated rig map is located on the Community Counts website for anyone who is interested. He said residents are encouraged to call the County if they have problems or complaints with operators or truck/traffic complaints. From January to July of this year he has investigated over 25 citizen complaints and provided technical information to more than 90 requests.

Wynn said Donna Grey gave an update on the Williams pipeline release earlier in the evening and reminded attendees they could go to [www.Garfield-county.com](http://www.Garfield-county.com) for regular updates and the Williams website [www.answersforparachute.com](http://www.answersforparachute.com). He said there have been 207 well starts in Garfield County so far this year, which is below 247 this time last year. He said there have been 469 approved drilling permits in Garfield County this year. He said the Hydrogeology Phase III special study on Divide Creek is being reviewed by Geotrans Tetrattech, project consultant; the report is expected in 4-6 weeks.

Wynn gave an update on the COGCC Rules that recently went into effect. The Revised Setback rules became effective August 1, 2013. It increases the existing setback to a uniform 500 feet statewide and imposes technically advanced best management practices to mitigate adverse impacts within 1000 feet of an occupied building. The Pre- and Post- Drilling Groundwater sampling rules became effective on May 1, 2013. This new rule requires monitoring of groundwater resources before and after oil and gas development. The most recent COGCC rulemaking, Wildlife Definitions and Restricted Occupancy Maps and Sensitive Wildlife Habitat Maps will be held on September, 16 & 17, 2013. Garfield County will participate in that rulemaking. Wynn participated in the Thompson Divide on Site Evaluation that was held July 1, 2, & 9, 2013. SG Interests have submitted applications to drill on the Thompson Divide. He said a large and diverse group of people participated in the on site evaluation of the proposed drilling sites, including Pitkin County and the Wilderness Workshop.

He said Citizen Representatives are needed for the Dry Hollow Creek and the Una Bridge/Wallace Creek/Spring Creek areas.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Buss adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.

**MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING**

Approved Jack Castle as the citizen representative for the Rulison/Holmes Mesa/Morrisania Mesa area and Tom Vondette as the citizen representative for Taughenbaugh Mesa.

**NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

Kirby Wynn will take EAB recommendations to appoint Jack Castle and Tom Vondette to the EAB to BOCC for approval at an upcoming meeting. Wynn will pass on letters of interest from Kimberly Bullen, proposed Rifle EAB representative and AJ Hobbs, proposed Carbondale EAB representatives for BOCC approval.

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