

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

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Location: Rifle Library, Rifle, Colorado

### Disclaimer

Users of these unapproved DRAFT minutes are cautioned that these minutes are for review purposes prior to being finalized by the board

### CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

Brent Buss called the meeting to order at: 6:03 P.M., and asked the members to introduce themselves. Buss noted the new operator EAB members SG Interests, Caerus Oil & Gas, Williams and Summit Midstream that would be participating in EAB.

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

Eric Ward	Marathon
Kirby Wynn	Garfield County
Leslie Robinson	Grand Valley Citizens Alliance
Eric Sandford	SG Interests
Donna Gray	Williams Midstream
Brian Gardner	Summit Midstream
Jeff Powers	Ursa Resources
Hans Parkinson	City of Rifle
Dirk Myers	City of Rifle
Cary Baird	Chevron
Howard Orona	Parachute/Parachute Creek
Jack Castle	Holmes Mesa/Morrisania Mesa/Rulison
Tom VonDette	Taughenbaugh Mesa
Susan Alvillar	WPX
AJ Hobbs	Town of Carbondale
George Wear	City of Glenwood Springs
Art Bollen	Caerus Oil & Gas
Art Scibelli	Colorado Mountain College

### MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The board reviewed the minutes from the September 5, 2013 meeting. Leslie Robinson made a motion to accept the minutes and Cary Baird seconded the motion; the motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

Buss said the EAB is still looking to fill two citizen representative positions for the Dry Hollow area and the Una Bridge/Wallace Creek/Spring Creek areas. He encouraged those attending or watching the meeting on TV that may live in those areas to consider participating. Contact information and a citizen's application form are available on <http://www.garfield-county.com/oil-gas/energy-advisory-board>.

### NEW BUSINESS

Future EAB Programs

Buss said Kirby Wynn had sent out an email looking for input for future EAB meetings. Wynn told the group that there was funding in the budget to pay for quality speakers and future programs. Buss asked the group for topic ideas. Suggestions included:

- **Leslie Robinson**, The Shell oil shale closure on the western slope, she is interested in their reclamation efforts. Wynn said he would contact Shell and find out.
- **Mary Russell**, Carbondale, a citizen attending the meeting, suggested Theo Colburn from Paonia, she is with the Endocrine Disruption Exchange. She will be speaking next week at an air quality program in Glenwood Springs on The Effects of Volatile Organics. Wynn said he planned on attending the program.
- **Tom VonDette** suggested the folks from UNCC to talk about pipe locates due to high pressure lines going across property and locating in general. Wynn asked to talk to him after the meeting to get more details on what he is suggesting.
- **Cary Baird** suggested someone from the COGCC to give an update on regulations new or proposed for next year and how they are dealing with the aftermaths of the Front Range floods. Wynn suggested that might be a good topic in 6-8 months; he didn't think they were through the flood cleanup as of yet so lessons learned are unknown; Baird agreed. Wynn said he would check with COGCC on a program. Baird said she wanted to clarify about the flooding topic, she felt there were probably some interesting stories out there about how to handle such a disaster. Wynn agreed that it was an extraordinary on-going current event.
- **Wynn** said he will find academic and industry speakers with long-term, solid knowledge and expertise on oil and gas, dealing with nuisance, etc...
- **Donna Gray** asked if he was planning to have CSU present their air quality study. Wynn said that program is on schedule for December 5, 2013. He said the program will be an update on how the study is going and not present results, because they are in the middle of the study right now.
- **George Wear** said most jurisdictions are adopting new flood plains so that might .be a tie-in to the flooding issue and new flood plain regulations.
- **Marion Wells** citizen said she has been asking to have someone from TEDX, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange. She said it doesn't have to be Theo Colburn, just someone from the organization. Another possible topic is a doctor in Grand Junction that has had a series of articles in the paper about health issues of people that he has previously treated with oil and gas related issues. She said the Divide Creek Hydrology Study has still not been given; and with all due respect (George Wear) flood plain analysis has little to do with oil and gas and that is what this forum is about. This is an energy advisory board and a lot of the programs we have been having recently are not about the impacts of oil and gas on citizens and landowners and people like me.
- **Scott Stewart** said the incoming chairman of the Western Governors Association is Governor Hickenlooper; they will be hosting their meeting here next year. They just adopted their ten year vision on energy. It might be interesting to get someone from his office to come and present a program from that standpoint. He asked if anyone from Garco was going to the CSU Energy program on October 15, if so, good opportunity to find speakers. Wynn said he was planning to attend and would be looking for potential speakers.

### **Refuel Colorado Fleets: Accelerating Adoption of Natural Gas Vehicles**

An informative presentation was given by Mike Ogburn, Energy Engineer of Clean Energy Economy for the Region. He spoke about the benefits of purchasing new natural gas vehicles for cost savings and a cleaner burning fuel. His 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, asking that each person limit their comments to 3 minutes.

### **Marion Wells, Rulison**

Said she belongs to the Arbor Day Foundation and recently read an article about nature's air purifiers, which are trees. It hit home with her because she thinks her air is not good to breathe. She said thousand's of trees had been removed to build well pads, pipelines and access roads for the oil and gas industry. She said trees are nature's air purifiers and reduce air pollution. She said the Arbor Day Foundation says \$2,600 dollars are saved by one tree. She asked all to consider planting trees. The second item she said is that the EAB is not operating legally. She said, there is a resolution that creates you and also bylaws that keep you in line. For all of the new additions here they are not included in either."

### **Amy Kimberly, Carbondale**

She said she is from Carbondale and as you know people from Carbondale like to express their thoughts and feelings in a passionate and creative way. She read a poem about why would someone drill in a place that is environmentally sensitive.

### **Melanie (no last name) Carbondale**

Read a limerick relating to the Thompson Divide and said she was for healthy communities all over this area.

An unnamed lady played a flute for the EAB for a couple of minutes. The Chair asked her if she was going to speak but she declined.

### **Annie (no last name) from Glenwood Springs**

Said she was inspired to make a dream catcher of items from the Thompson Divide so that it may be preserved. She said she learned to make dream catchers from an Indian lady named Hope and she said she has hope that the Thompson Divide will be preserved. She read a quote and another proverb that says "we will be known forever for the tracks we leave."

### **Mary Russell, Carbondale**

Said she was a fortune teller and had a paper game in hand to get out the message of save the components of the Thompson Divide.

### **Richard Vottero, Carbondale**

Said he started out 3 years ago on the bottom step trying to learn about fracing. He researched the topic and found out fracing is a process that will affect us all. He believes it is a serious issue because of Colorado water issues. He said hydraulic fracing uses water and he feels we cannot trade our water for oil; he thinks it should not be done until we do not have to use fresh water resources. Speaking to the Thompson Divide he feels it is an economic stimulator and asked that drilling stay out of that area.

Susan Alvillar pointed out to Mr. Vottero that fresh water is not used in the fracing process. She said at WPX they use water from the formation they are drilling and then recycle the water to use again. He didn't understand the process and she invited Vottero to come on a tour and see the operation and see that they use produced water to frac the wells at WPX.

### **David Ludlum, Grand Junction, Executive Director of Western Colorado Oil & Gas Association.**

Said he thought the public comment at the meeting was refreshing as it was done in earnest. The concerns expressed are legitimate and should be considered. Regarding the fundamental issues that

surround the Thompson Divide he thinks a missing component is the study of demographics of the area. People in the upper Roaring Fork want to push oil and gas development down valley to Parachute, Rifle, and Silt; they feel their area is too beautiful and economically viable to let oil and gas come in. These communities do not have the wealth to launch such a campaign to keep drilling out of their areas. When you look at the upper Roaring Fork Valley, it is one of the wealthiest places on the planet and consumes large amounts of energy.

Mary Russell wanted to speak again to rebut the comments by David Ludlum. Chairman Buss, told her she had already used her time. He said the EAB public comment period is a time where you can make one 3 minutes comment regarding oil and gas issues, it is not a debate and speakers should make their point all at once.

Kirby Wynn addressed the concerns Marion Wells expressed in her public comment to state EAB was operating illegally in terms of new members not being added per the rules. He said he didn't think EAB was operating outside of the bylaws and everyone attending was sitting where they are supposed to be. Energy companies are automatically EAB members by the fact that they have operations in Garfield County and do not need approval. He also added that he would be happy to ask for clarification from the Board of County Commissioners if provided specific details of the concern or Ms. Wells or anyone who has concerns about how EAB follows the rules is always welcome to go the Board of County Commissioners and discuss it with them.

#### **COMMUNITY COUNTS UPDATE Susan Alvillar**

**Response Line:** Said the response line did not receive any calls in September. She felt that showed the system was working, if someone calls and reaches an operator and the operator can take care of their problem, the citizen usually will chooses to deal directly with the operator. The response line is at 1-866-422-9034 and if people call that line they will get a menu; they can choose from many options including the major operator's number. If they choose an operator, they get a real person on the line, no matter what time it is. The person taking the call can deal with it themselves in some cases or they will find out and help the person get relief from their problem or issue from within their company. Most of the calls received she said are traffic complaints and are resolved within 24 hours.

She reminded everyone to attend the Community Counts annual meeting to be held on November 6 from 3:30 to 5 pm with a special member social reception to follow at 5 pm. The meeting will be held at the Grand Valley Community Center. The public is welcome to attend.

#### **Municipalities -**

##### **Glenwood Springs, George Wear**

He said Glenwood's electric utility is in the early stages of considering where the City is going to get future power supplies. One idea that has come up is a 25 mega watt facility in South Canyon.

##### **City of Rifle – Hans Parkinson**

He said he is new to this meeting, having been recently elected to Rifle City Council. He and alternate Dirk Myers came tonight to learn more about the EAB

##### **Town of Carbondale – AJ Hobbs**

He said the citizens of Carbondale are very passionate about the Thompson Divide and protecting it from oil and gas. He said he has never seen oil and gas development done responsibly, because you can read about spills and accidents almost daily in Colorado. He reminded everyone of the EAB

Mission Statement and read it to the Board. He thanked the Board for having the meeting and thinks it is a good opportunity for us to come together. He thinks the reason the citizens and operators attend the meeting is because they care. He said we need to acknowledge that groups, environmentalists and operators care and if we really want to get something accomplished we have to work together.

Kirby Wynn said to AJ Hobbs, "Your comment is fine, it is your opinion. You represent the city of Carbondale that is fine. That you have never seen oil and gas done responsibly is a very broad statement; you are sitting here talking positively and proactively to industry folks. I think a lot of folks here might differ with you. I differ with you too; I am out there every day and I see development done responsibly. I think that is quite an overreach to say the operators in Garfield County have never operated responsibly."

Hobbs replied – I am glad you said that because the wording on that was poor. Wynn said we are here to communicate, please consider you are bigger than yourself when you are on this board and he thinks everybody on the board should be held to that standard. Hobbs said he appreciated Wynn's comments. The way I said that "I have never" is not true; I haven't done enough research to say that. Even companies with good practices have things go wrong. There are variables, so thanks for calling me out on it. Wynn said it just struck him as so black and white – you are a good man, just wanted to clarify.

### **School Districts.**

#### **Colorado Mountain College – Art Scibelli**

He said the college is focused on a mix of renewable energy and oil and gas training. CMC recently (with grant funds) acquired and equipped a mobile lab which has equipment to technically train oil and gas students with instrumentation. They are in the process of developing some hybrid classes that will allow the school to take the mobile lab out in the field.

### **Organizations**

#### **GVCA – Leslie Robinson**

Robinson said what makes the GVCA different is that they work on regulatory COGCC issues. GVCA is presenting an Air Quality in the Gas Lands Program at the Glenwood Springs Community Center from 7-9 pm, on October 9, 2013. The Air Quality Control Commission is proposing new air quality standards and needs to hear from the public about impacts of drilling and fracing operations.

### **Citizen Representatives:**

#### **Roan Creek – Scott Stewart**

No problems to report. He said there is a great book coming out by Greg Hanson, called *Green and Gridlock*. It is about common goals, common ground and compromise; he thinks all on the Board should read it, if the group is going to achieve what AJ Hobbs described earlier.

#### **Holmes Mesa/Morrisania Mesa/Rulison – Jack Castle**

Reported that the Mesa had no problems or concerns at this time.

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

No update or other citizen concerns reported.

#### **Rifle North Rifle, Brent Buss,**

Said he is attending classes and will not be able to attend EAB meeting on Thursday evening. He took off from class to come to the meeting tonight. He said his term will be up at the end of the year and the EAB will need to elect another chair at that time. He thanked everyone for allowing him to lead the group for the last two years. Susan Alvillar said she wanted to thank and recognize Brent Buss for his efforts in leading the group. The board members gave Buss applause and thanked him for his service.

**Taughenbaugh Mesa – Tom VonDette,**

VonDette reported some new traffic issues with Beaver Creek road. Since it was repaved trucks speed up and down the road, he thinks it will be a safety issue this winter with snow and ice. He asked the operators if they have trucks in that area to ask them to slow down. On September 5, Summit Midstream cut the major Taughenbaugh ditch without contacting any homeowners and letting them know what was going on. He said for any company to do that is wrong and not acceptable to him as a homeowner. He said traffic and road issues affect us more than the gas pads do and he feels it has been a nightmare to get the ditch repaired. Kirby Wynn will follow up with VonDette concerning the road issues.

**Operators**

**Marathon – Eric Ward,** no drilling and no completions.

**WPX – Susan Alvillar**

Avillar said WPX is ending the rig tour season with a few more tours scheduled this month. She said she was sincere in offering rig tours. She said if you know of a group that would like to tour to give her a call and she will make the arrangements. She said WPX has 6 rigs operating south of the interstate 70 in Garfield County and 1 in Rio Blanco.

**Chevron –Cary Baird**

She said she wanted to report on comments Michael DeBerry had made last month at EAB. He mentioned the company was working on 4 injection well and were on the last one. The company is undergoing normal winter activities. She said they have a herd of goats on their property to deal with noxious weeds.

**Ursa Operating Company – Jeff Powers**

Powers said they have one rig operating and will have drilled about 22 wells by the end of the year. He said they just had their community update meetings in Rifle and Parachute and that those had gone well.

**Summit Midstream, Brian Gardner**

Said this was his first meeting attending EAB. He said he was sorry for the problems Tom VonDette had experienced with his ditch. He said he would look into the situation. He said Summit is a midstream company that collects gas from the well head; compresses it and dehydrates it and takes it to a main line for distribution.

**Donna Gray, Williams Midstream**

Said Williams is also a midstream company that processes natural gas. The company has continued cleanup from the Parachute Creek spill and the company feels they are making good progress with that.

**Eric Sanford, SG Interests**

He said he was also new to the board and this was the first meeting he had attended. He said he was glad he came as most of the public comment was related to their leases on the Thompson Divide. He

said the BLM has all of their leases in suspension right now. He said they are continuing to negotiate with environmental groups in the area, specifically the Thompson Divide Coalition. The Coalition has approached SG about buying out their leases and the two groups continue to negotiate.

**Art Bollen, Caerus Oil and Gas**

Bollen said his company had acquired the assets of PDC and are in transition mode right now. He invited everyone to attend the Caerus Oil & Gas open house at 6 pm on October 8 at the Battlement Mesa Fire Station No. 1 and hopes to see everyone there. He said the company will detail their plans to put a soil treatment facility in the Battlement Mesa area.

**Garfield County – Kirby Wynn**

(Provided as a Power Point presentation.) Wynn introduced himself as the Oil & Gas Liaison of Garfield County. He 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. He said meetings are held the first Thursday of the month and are held here at the Rifle Library. Newspaper ads were placed in the *Glenwood Post Independent* announcing the October EAB meeting and inviting the public to attend. The paper also included two community briefs on the meeting.

Garfield County has 14 rigs operating; one of those from Chevron is an injection well and is being used to drill injection wells. He announced that Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum would be held on Thursday, December 5, at 10 am, at a location to be determined. He said it is another opportunity for community engagement about the oil and gas industry as well as the state regulatory agencies. He said the County has had 266 well starts this year, down from the 498 last year. He said approved drilling permits for the County are at 583, compared to 1046 last year. Recent calls to the oil and gas office include 5 odor, 4 noise, 4 traffic related and 62 information requests.

He said he has received the first draft of the Hydrogeology Phase III special study and the consultant continues to work on it. He hopes the final data and report will be available before the end of the year so it can be presented to Board of County Commissioners and at EAB and all the data and the report made available online.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Buss adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

**MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING**

A motion was passed approving the September 5, 2013 meeting minutes.

**NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

EAB is seeking citizen representatives for the Dry Hollow Creek and the Una Bridge/Springs Creek/Wallace Creek areas.

A bylaws review and update may be needed.

Kirby Wynn to research traffic issues on Beaver Creek road with Tom VonDette.

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

Approved by the EAB on \_\_\_\_\_.