

GARFIELD COUNTY ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, May 2, 2013  
Location: Rifle Library, Rifle, Colorado

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

Brent Buss called the meeting to order at: 6:03 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
Art Riddle	Town of New Castle
Leslie Robinson	Grand Valley Citizens Alliance
Heather Hoffmeister	Rulison/Holmes Mesa/Morrison Mesa
Bob Arrington	Battlement Mesa
Susan Alvillar	WPX Energy
Richard Carroll	Chevron
Don Simpson	URSA Resources
Michael Meskin	Grass Mesa
Kirby Wynn	Garfield County
Scott Brynildson	Mamm Creek – Hunter Mesa
Mike Gross	Peach Valley – Silt Mesa
Howard Orona	Parachute/Parachute Creek

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Buss said the April Meeting Minutes will be reviewed at the June 6, 2013 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Buss said they were considering a new representative for the Roan Creek area. He said they received an application from Scott Stewart from High Lonesome Ranch and introduced him to the group. Mr. Stewart said he is from High Lonesome Ranch, in the DeBeque area. He said the Ranch is involved in grazing, minerals, and scientific research. *Leslie Robinson made a motion to approve his application for EAB; Kirby Wynn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.* Buss thanked Mr. Stewart for participating on the EAB and said they will submit his application to the BOCC for final approval. He will let him know when he is officially approved by the BOCC.

Buss introduced Dave Keylor from Williams who gave a status report on the hydrocarbon release north of Parachute. Mr. Keylor said he is the Vice President and General Manager of Williams in the Piceance basin. He said the top priorities for the Company have not changed since he talked at last month's meeting. He presented an update on the current cleanup activities. He said the first priority

was to prevent the affected groundwater from reaching Parachute Creek. Unfortunately the contamination has reached Parachute Creek. However, they have been successful in mitigating the contamination. The next priority is to recover any free hydrocarbons to protect/prevent migration. To date they have recovered 145 barrels of hydrocarbons and plan to recover more.

The third priority was to define the overall extent of the affected area. Mr. Keylor said this is one area the Company has been successful and they have been able to delineate the extent of the contamination, a big milestone for the company. The next priority was to address the source and determine the cause of the leak. Keylor said when he was here last month they were not sure of the source of leak. Since then they have reported the source was the leaking gage that was discovered on January 3, 2013. The Company feels they have found and stopped the source of the problem. Keylor said the last task is to develop a long term remediation plan. He said the company has done a huge amount of work. There is a team of 25-30 people working 7 days a week on the clean up. He said the Williams Company is still working on a long term plan with the regulatory agencies.

Keylor pointed out what the company has done:

- 17 daily surface water test sites on Parachute Creek;
- 9 absorbency booms;
- 77 Temporary Monitoring Well Points;
- Surface water aerator in Parachute Creek in the area of low-level benzene detection points;
- Surface water diffuser in Parachute Creek in the vicinity of the area impacted;
- 6 hydrocarbons recovery wells;
- Air sparge and soil vapor extraction trench;
- Deployed on-site mobile laboratory for rapid results;
- Total of approximately 145 test and recovery sites;
- 24 x 7 visual patrols of the creek every half hour;
- Worked diligently with regulatory agencies.

Referring to a map of the area Keylor pointed out the gas lines of the Company and the location of the leak source. He pointed out an inner boundary where the benzene is 1000 parts per billion while the outer boundary is 5 parts per billion. The area with the highest concentration is where the ground water and the creek water meet, where the benzene is going into the creek. The reading at the source is 5 parts per billion and farther downstream it is at 1 part per billion and farther down it is non-detect. Mr. Keylor showed a video of the site that showed the gage, pipes, trenches, etc.

Mr. Keylor said the company plans to install a groundwater treatment system. The system will be constructed to remove hydrocarbons from impacted groundwater so the water can be returned to previous uses. He said samples will be collected throughout the process to monitor hydrocarbons concentrations and the performance of the system. Treated water, which meets EPA standards, will be discharged to infiltration galley trenches to replenish the aquifer. He said they are installing eight vertical air sparging wells next to the air sparge trench and they plan to work with the City of Parachute to strengthen their irrigation system.

Mr. Keylor presented information he obtained from Dave Walker of the CDPHE who used the information at a public meeting April 29, 2013 in Battlement Mesa. He said "there was not, and is not now, an actual impact to public health due to the pipeline release." Keylor presented the Parachute Creek Surface Water Sample Results.

Keylor said he wanted to clear up some misconceptions:

- NGL's are a clear liquid that generally vaporize instantly at atmosphere pressure.
- The Parachute plant is a natural gas processing plant, not a crude oil refinery.
- Williams does not have any production wells in the Basin.
- The Parachute plant does not create benzene; the benzene is naturally occurring in the unprocessed natural gas stream.
- Parachute Creek has not tested at 5,000 parts per billion for benzene; the highest test sample to date reflects 5 parts per billion for benzene.

Keylor finished his presentation and took questions from EAB members.

Q – *Howard Orona – Doesn't understand how Parachute Creek is not considered potable water, because his well is 20 feet from the Creek.*

A – Keylor said the tests they have done farther down in the creek have been at non-detect. Kirby Wynn told Howard that he would get him in touch with the CDPHE to ask them about his well water. And why they consider it non potable.

Q – *Scott Brynildson asked how much the cleanup has cost the Williams Company.*

A – Keylor said he has not been focused on the cost just getting the problem taken care of.

Q – *Michael Meskin - How do you calculate barrels of contaminates? How did you get 145 barrels of contaminate?*

A – Keylor advised they recovered 145 barrels of NGL's. They use on site containment, vacuum trucks that go in tanks that allow them to measure.

Q – *Mike Gross - How deep is the trench? How has the plume changed?*

A – Keylor said the trench is about 6 – 7 feet deep. Keylor said they think the gage broke on December 20, 2012 and they discovered it January 3, 2013. There were 13 days of hydrocarbon release. Since then the plume has moved quite a distance.

Q – *Kirby Wynn - How many feet downstream from the spill site is that CS 6 where you found the first benzene.*

A – Approximately 1400 feet.

Q – *Leslie Robinson - Would you please explain what CPHE did recently.*

A – Keylor said CDPHE issued us a Compliance Advisory when they took the lead from the COGCC on the project.

Q - *Was the Williams plant ever shut down when the leak was discovered?*

A – No the plant did not shut down but they shut down the pipeline. They have tested the pipe and it works fine and will be used in the future.

Q – *Did you test all of the pipes?*

A - We have tested the pipes and removed all manual gages.

Q – *Brent Buss – Does top soil need remediation like ground water?*

A – The leak contamination did go into the ground. The contaminated soil was removed and backfilled said Keylor.

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

Marion Wells, Rulison. Asked for more time on the agenda as she felt what she had to say was of critical importance. She said after the last meeting she requested information about a Chevron spill in Utah. Their prompt response was much different than what happened in Garfield County with the Williams Company. Chevron handled the leak quickly and with common sense she said. She said she could trust the response from Chevron, but she did not trust the Williams Company. She said the Company should be investigated. She said it is important that COGCC/BOCC etc. to charge the Williams Company with all costs of the investigation, etc. Chairman Buss told her time was up. Sandy of Rifle took over reading Marion Wells letter. She believes we need information on the health effects of being exposed to Benzene and medical community does not know how to treat someone with exposure. She said they have requested information from the EAB and BOCC but have not received a response. She does not understand why Garfield County BOCC refuses to act in the citizen's best interest.

Linda Dixon, Silt. She said she was offended as she heard from a friend that a Garfield County Commissioner said the contamination was caused by an old rancher. That statement was offensive to her because she is a rancher and they take pride in caring for the land and its resources. Tom Jankovsky, Garfield County Commissioner indicated he attended that meeting and none of the Garfield County Commissioners said that.

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

This month they are recognizing Brady Trucking. They have won driver safety awards and are assisting Community Counts with developing curriculum for employee training. She said another new member is Black Hill Plateau Exploration. They have interests in over 1000 wells. They do business in nine states, focusing on the Rocky Mountain Region. Their headquarters are in Denver with a field office in Grand Junction. They are currently drilling test wells and hope to begin operations in the third quarter of 2013.

Rig locates – WPX - 6 rigs in Garfield County and 1 rig in Rio Blanco County; EnCana - has 6 rigs; and DuJour - has 1 rig on Jolly Mesa. Black Hills Exploration has 1 rig in Mesa County North of DeBeque.

Recent activities and upcoming events:

- Training presentations to the towns of Rifle and Silt.
- Participated in the EnCana Energy Expo May 1, 2013.
- Will participate in the Energy Symposium & Expo for Local Governments May 15 & 16, 2013, in Grand Junction

### **Municipalities:**

**City of Rifle** – Kirby said Rifle has a new city manager and he is working with him to get a representative on the EAB.

**Town of New Castle** – No updates and no citizen concerns reported.

### **School Districts**

### **Organizations:**

**Battlement Mesa O&G Committee** – No updates.

**GVCA – Leslie Robinson**

Invited everyone to the next meeting of the Grand Valley Alliance. She said it will be held May 13, 2013 from 1 – 3 pm at the Rifle Library.

**Citizen Representatives:**

**Battlement Mesa – Bob Arrington**

Over 120 residents attended the Parachute Informational meeting on April 29, 2013 because people are still very concerned about the Parachute pipeline release.

**Peach Valley/Silt Mesa Michael Meskin** - No update and no citizen concerns reported.

**Rulison/Holmes Mesa/Morrisania Mesa** - No update and no citizen concerns.

**Operators**

**Marathon – Eric Ward**

No drilling and no completions.

**Ursa Operating Company – Don Simpson**

Attended the energy Expo and helped with scholarships.

**Grass Mesa – Michael Meskin**

Meskin said residents will be entering mediation with EnCana in July regarding roads.

**Chevron – Richard Carroll** No new update.

**WPX – Susan Alvillar** No new update.

**Garfield County – Kirby Wynn (KW)**

Kirby Wynn said the Oil & Gas department received a complaint on Saturday morning at 2:50 am that was taken care of immediately by the operator in the area. A complaint regarding a leaking valve from a water truck and was quickly addressed. He hopes to get the US Geological Survey to speak regarding water quality at the next meeting.

**ADJOURN**

- BB adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

**MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING**

- Approved Scott Stewart as the citizen representative for the Roan Creek area.

**NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

- Brent will take EAB recommendation to appoint Scott Stewart to the EAB to BOCC for approval during his June update.

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

\*Bob Arrington requested the following additions be made to the minutes to account for what he deemed incorrect or missing information during question/answer period.

Bob Arrington commented that an operator of a manual remote valve needs a gauge to ascertain pressures and such gauges can be mounted with an in-line valve with a bleed to the gauge. The operator can use the valve to activate the gauge and turn it off when through and bleed the gauge pressure. These valves should have a lock to prevent unauthorized use.