

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

Thursday April 2, 2015

Location: Rifle Library, Rifle, Colorado

### **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

Chair Howard Orona called the meeting to order at: 6:03 P.M. Secretary Robin Haney conducted roll call and read the EAB mission statement.

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

Dirk Myers	City of Rifle
Kirby Wynn	Garfield County
Art Riddle	Town of New Castle
Juanita Williams	Town of Parachute
Don Mumma	Battlement Mesa Oil & Gas Committee
Karen Meskin	Grass Mesa Homeowners Association
Bill McKee	Holy Cross Cattlemen's Association
Ginny Harrington	Holy Cross Cattlemen's Association
Robin Haney	Colorado Mtn College
Scott Brynildson	Citizen Rep Mamm Creek/Hunter Mesa
Brent Buss	Citizen Rep Rifle/North Rifle
Scott Stewart	Citizen Rep Roan Creek
Tom VonDette	Citizen Rep Taughenbaugh Mesa
Jeff Powers	Ursa Operating Co.
Howard Orona	Citizen Rep Parachute
Jake Janicek	Caerus Oil & Gas
Jeff Simonson	Citizen Rep Divide Creek
Deb Fiscus	Garfield County road & Bridge
Lou Vallario	Garfield County Sheriff's Department
Steve Ficklin	BLM

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

The board reviewed the minutes from the March 5, 2015 meeting. Motion made by Jeff Simonson and seconded by Brent Buss. The motion to approve last meeting minutes passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Howard Orona – No old business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Howard Orona – Topic of tonight's meeting is traffic and road issues and the traffic subcommittee, along with our guest, will present the open discussion that transpired from the subcommittee meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> to the full EAB board.

Robin Haney – The traffic subcommittee was trying to gain knowledge on traffic or road issues from the guest that were present at the subcommittee meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Attendees and guest of the March subcommittee meeting were: EAB, Kirby, Robin, Leslie, Howie, Jake, Tom, Stuart McArthur (Parachute). Other, Hank Kracht and Larry White (H &K Trucking), Mike Knowles (Knowles Enterprises), Lou Vallario, Kurt Conrad and Brian Sutter (County Sheriff), Deb Fiscus and Wyatt Keesbery (Garfield County Road and Bridge Dept.), Karl Mendonca and Steve Ficklin (BLM), Rick Barton (City of Rifle). The subcommittee did not formalize any specific recommendations out of this meeting and we hope those recommendations will come further down the line after this meeting and additional meetings.

Brent Buss – What is the goal for tonight’s meeting? Are we trying to come up with recommendations in writing tonight? I understand it takes discussion and just want to make sure we are moving forward.

Bill McKee – Has a list of the top ten issues been created and if so we can line them up and knock them down one at a time. Something else I hear are people calling the sheriff and saying this truck is doing something illegal, so topic is, are these trucks legal? I would like to hear from the sheriff on this topic and to prioritize the list.

Kirby Wynn – A list of top ten was not developed so more open discussion could take place tonight to help decipher what those may be.

Robin Haney - We are trying to gather up all the information about traffic with oil and gas development and I see tonight as a continuation of that. The first thing that was brought up was that most of the roads that are used by the oil/gas industry were historically farm-to-market roads. It was pointed out that the oil and gas industry has given a lot of money to help improve roads, not saying all roads have been improved, but a fair contribution has been accomplished. “Haul routes”, defined, are for oversize and/or overweight vehicles/loads and not a legally defined route that prohibits normal large trucks from using them.

Tom VonDette – The county road map for 2002 shows prohibited roads and it definitely states prohibited county road and truck traffic.

Deb Fiscus – There are some roads that state they are prohibited to oversized and overweight.

Tom VonDette – The map states prohibited trucks not prohibited oversized or overweight. You have prohibited roads that are being used by trucks right now. That is the map that the oil and gas industry has been working with for the past 20 years. There conceptions is that they are not allowed on some of the roads you are saying they are.

Deb Fiscus – We can only regulate through a permitting process for oversized/overweight. With all roads through the county, with the exception of a few bridges, if they are not oversized or overweight, then they can access those roads. That is something that can be changed on the map to make it clearer.

Kirby Wynn – Provided in the March 18<sup>th</sup> subcommittee notes: Important distinction is to realize that industry voluntarily avoids using non heavy haul routes rather than the county actually having the ability to enforce it. Works well and when complaints come in, companies shift traffic back to the haul routes but it is not legally enforceable.

Deb Fiscus – The map provided tonight is a working map and changes were made to this map after the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. This map is a working map and is not adopted or official as of right now.

Tom VonDette – Should 320 still be a haul route?

Robin Haney – I think that should be a recommendation made to the county is to reexamine roads that are currently designated. We were going to ask the industry to provide their future plans are to help us better look at the roads where they are going to be and determine are these roads substantial enough for the activity. This will help determine which roads are wide enough, do new roads need to be built or repaired to get to that area.

Dirk Myers – Route 13 will now become a city owned road/street from the I-70 exit across the bridge over the bypass.

Scott Brynildson – Certain roads should be enforced as no truck traffic at all for all industry trucks and get a permit for access.

Bill McKee – These trucks have a right to use county and state roads. They pay taxes just as we do. The signs posted that say 'No Truck Traffic' are courtesy signs.

Lou Vallario – There are two issues, one being who manages/maintains county roads, which is Road and Bridge and the other being what is considered criminal law or violation of such law is the Garfield County Sheriff Department's responsibility. Public roads are for the public and you cannot just put up a sign that says no oil and gas industry trucks and is not legally enforceable by the sheriff's office. What is enforceable is the speeding, careless driving, and things of that nature. "Model Traffic Code" is how local governments adopt state traffic codes and is primarily a benefit in terms of "revenues". Allows local control to add things above and beyond state code requirements. We cannot enforce haul routes, but we are getting into safety inspections of trucks. DOT does the citing of oversized and overweight trucks. Our number one calls within the county are speeding trucks. If we do get calls about jake brakes it's always about 4 mile road, but again we cannot enforce this issue. It is a necessary piece of equipment for safety reasons.

Deb Fiscus – If we get a call about dust from the trucks, we will call the industry and the industry will send out a water truck. If that is not available then we will take on of ours out.

Ginny Harrington – Lou do you get a lot of calls or can you enforce issues when it comes to multi use of roads?

Lou Vallario – It is more management and education process. We can't tell people that they can ride their bike in a certain spot or tell a truck they can drive near areas where it is being use by bikes. It's more of a common courtesy from all parties. If it's multi use then everyone has to take responsibility.

Ginny Harrington – I think the education or awareness is very important for everyone to understand, just like when we herd our cattle. Some people don't understand the process and should be aware or more educated since the roads are multipurpose.

Jake Janicek – Community Counts is good about sending notifications to operators when an event might be taking place, for example the bike race in Rifle.

Robin Haney – I believe the other topics discussed at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were snow chains on big rigs are an issue for county roads when run on dry pavement. Road width is definitely an issue for large industry vehicles on most county roads. Mud and dust issues on county roads should be reported to R & B first, then Community Counts and/or operators. Permitting process should require that access roads that intersect with county roads should be better maintained to reduce the amount of dirt/mud that is carried onto county roads by industry trucks. BLM and Forest Service collaborate on road/access permitting issues on government lands and dealing with use and maintenance issues on BLM and Forest Service roads. They have "administrative roads" and public roads to deal with. Question was asked as to how to change speed limits on county roads. What should we be doing now (while industry has retracted) in order to be better prepared when the industry comes back in full swing.

Lou Vallario – If we can recognize mistakes made in the past and try to get past those, we will be better prepared for the next go around. We can't solve those with enforcement, but education and training.

Bill McKee – Another thing is wise use of funds available from the industries and such severance tax.

Juanita Williams – They just passed a bill where they took our severance tax and put it in the general fund. They basically took the money from the Western slope and gave it to the Eastern slope.

Kirby Wynn – Need to create a refined list for the next subcommittee meeting: should 320 still be a haul route, language on the haul route, multi-use roads, investment of funds for roads, dual speed limit/better signage, sound; jake brakes, DOT traffic engineer for education on traffic, and mud on the roads.

Bill McKee – Would like a traffic engineer to come to the next meeting to educate us on traffic and roads.

Jake Janicek – We should have Community Counts to come to next subcommittee meeting.

### **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

No Educational Presentation

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Orona invited public comments, asking that each person limit their comments to 3 minutes each.*

No Public Comment

### **COMMUNITY COUNTS (CC) UPDATE**

No update required at tonight's meeting

### **STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES**

No additional updates at this time

### **EAB MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **Municipalities:**

##### **Town of Parachute – Juanita Williams**

Nothing to Report

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

Nothing to Report

##### **City of Rifle – Dirk Myers**

Nothing to Report

#### **Organizations:**

##### **Colorado Mountain College – Robin Haney**

Nothing to Report

##### **Battlement Mesa Oil & Gas Committee – Don Mumma**

Nothing to Report

##### **Holy Cross Cattleman's Association - Bill McKee**

Nothing to Report

##### **Grass Mesa Homeowners Association – Karen Meskin**

Nothing to Report

**Citizen Representatives:**

**Mamm Creek/Hunter Mesa – Scott Brynildson**

Nothing to Report

**Roan Creek – Scott Stewart**

Nothing to Report

**Parachute/Parachute Creek – Howard Orona**

Nothing to Report

**Divide Creek – Jeff Simonson**

Nothing to Report

**Rifle/North Rifle – Brent Buss**

Nothing to Report

**Taughenbaugh Mesa – Tom VonDette**

Please ask drivers to tie up their chains, it is very dry out and sparks from the chains could cause fires.

**Operators:**

**Caerus Oil & Gas - Jake Janicek**

Still have one rig drilling, nothing further to report

**Ursa Operating Co. - Jeff Powers**

Nothing to Report

**Garfield County – Kirby Wynn**

I've had few complaints since last EAB meeting. Had a trash complaint today, northwest of De Beque. Talked to operator and they are going out and talk with the resident about the change in roads and litter.

Black Hills has two rigs running in Garfield County, Northwest of De Beque. WPX has one rig at the moment in the county. Ursa has one rig as well. Nothing pressing as liaison to get out and will catch up on updates next meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Orona adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm.

**MOTIONS PASSED AT THIS MEETING**

A motion was passed approving the March 5, 2015 meeting minutes.

**NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

Kirby – DOT the give educational presentation at May meeting by traffic engineer.

Kirby and EAB members – To get more of the public involved for May's meeting on the topic of traffic and road issues.

Prepared by Marie Payne, Garfield County Oil and Gas Assistant.

Approved by the EAB on May ?, 2015.