

MOFFAT COUNTY LAND USE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Monday May 16, 2011

Attendees:

Jean Stetson, LUB
T. Wright Dickinson, LUB
Steve Hinkemeyer, LUB
Dan Lowe, LUB
Dave Watson, LUB
Roy Karo, LUB
Bob Grubb, LUB
Ed Winters, LUB
Doug Wellman, LUB
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County
Tom Gray, Moffat County
Chris Winters, Guest
Lane Osborn, State Land Board
Ray Beck, Craig City Council
Darcy Owens Trask, Craig EDP
Wendy Reynolds, BLM
Todd Hagenbuch, Senator Bennet
Kara Choquette, TransWest
Steve Weber, Western
Liana Reilly, Western Area Power Administration
Garry Miller, TransWest
Tamera Gertsch, BLM -Gateway South
Sharon Knowlton, BLM - TransWest
Rod Fisher, Rocky Mountain Power-Gateway South

Call to Order:

Ed called the meeting to order at 7:01

Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Motion was made to accept December Minutes with one change of \$500,000 to \$500,000,000. Jean/Steve/Unanimous

General Discussion

The Land Use Board welcomed Wendy Reynolds to her new position as Little Snake Field Manager. She gave a quick background and stated she looked forward to working with this community in the future.

County Attorney Jeremy Snow spent several minutes summarizing Western Area Power's condemnation authorities, and discussed the process for Moffat County to enact 1041 powers. T. Wright asked about the timeframes to conduct the public process to enact 1041 powers. Jeremy described the commissioner hearing requirements and timeframes.

Sharon Knowlton, BLM project lead for TransWest summarized the scoping comments and stated her team was in the process of writing the scoping report now. Regarding Cooperating Agencies, BLM is looking for consistency between the project and existing plans. Cooperators will begin to review comments after the scoping report is compiled.

Tamera Gertsch, BLM project lead for Gateway South, stated that they were in the middle of public scoping and discussed her impression of how the scoping meetings were progressing. The scoping report will be issued to all cooperating agencies after it is compiled.

Currently both projects are in the data collection stages and Alternative Comparisons will begin in 2012 with the goal of issuing a Record of Decision by 2015.

Alternative routes proposed must consider Western Coordination Council (WCC) guidance which ultimately may minimize flexibility in options.

The Plan of Development (POD) is very important, as it is an operation and maintenance guiding document. It identifies fire, emergency, and other basic operations of the power lines. The POD also contains mitigation guidance and it is a rough framework for Best Management Practices.

The LUB questioned any identified cumulative impacts of multiple power lines in the same corridor. Tamera said NEPA and CEQ don't ask agencies to review cumulative impacts, but rather to only look at what is 'reasonably foreseeable.' Much discussion occurred about what is reasonably foreseeable. T. Wright commented that he was not satisfied with what he viewed as an inadequate review of cumulative impacts.

Jeff asked what the BLM had considered regarding sage grouse mitigation. After much discussion about wildlife and sage grouse the LUB ultimately requested that both Sharon and Tamera use the local Sage Grouse Working group to help develop the sage grouse mitigation plan development regarding both powerlines. BLM committed to working with the local sage grouse working group for input regarding mitigation options.

Garry, TransWest, highlighted that the data which points to power lines contributing to sage grouse and nest mortality is not conclusive and that there is good reason to research this more.

The discussion on predation's effects on sage grouse became involved, and it was pointed out that Idaho has significantly more predation data than Colorado.

Ed discussed concerns about the 250 wide corridor and if this width will create infrastructure for roads. Sharon answered that it was BLM's intent to utilize all existing roads and that the EIS will determine the impacts of a road network under or around new power lines. There may be two kinds of access granted by BLM, permanent and temporary. WAPA agreed. Rod, Gateway South said that reclamation would likely have temporary roads or reclaimed roads in certain sensitive areas of projects.

Lane asked about sedimentation impacts of the power lines. Erosion control techniques were discussed.

TransWest commented they have aerial photos of the project and at tomorrow's scoping meeting for Gateway South, there will be flight views if anyone wants to review them.

Future Meetings:

T. Wright requested that the next LUB meeting discuss Wendy's decision to lock gates on Diamond Breaks.

Group discussed timeline for recommendations by July.

Dave reminded group that there will be an open house regarding the Colorado Roadless issue on May 25th in Steamboat.

Adjournment:

Steve/dave/unanimous: 10:10 pm. (Yawn)