

MOFFAT COUNTY LAND USE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Monday April 14, 2014

Attendees:

Burt Clements, LUB
Dean Gent, LUB
Ken Bekkedahl, LUB
Bob Grubb, LUB
Kevin Willbanks, LUB
Heather McLaughlin-Sloop, LUB
Ray Owens, LUB
Jerod Smith, LUB
T. Wright Dickinson, LUB
Doug Wellman, LUB
Dave Watson, LUB
Burt Clements, LUB
Bob, Grubb, LUB
Tom Soos, Guest
Jay Galleger, Mt. Warner Water District
Chuck Grobe, Moffat County Commissioner
John Kinkaid, Moffat County Commissioner
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County Natural Resources Dept.

Call to Order:

Bob Grubb called the meeting to order at 7:00

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Doug / Burt / Unanimous

General Discussion

Water Basin Implementation Plan:

Jay Gallager, Mt. Warner Water District, and our representative on the Colorado Water Conservation Board gave a presentation about the Governor's water plan for Colorado. He went through a slide show that described the Colorado water planning process. Jay discussed the variability of water from year to year based on climate and snowpack. Jay discussed the annual river flow volumes of water leaving Colorado, and talked about the process of the Prior Appropriation Law, which Colorado water law is based. Jay

discussed how the water flowing from Colorado fulfills 'lower basin' compact requirements. He then discussed the local basin roundtable process and pointed out several members of the Land Use Board that are also on the local Basin Roundtable. Jay discussed the water shortfall predictions within Colorado and stated the only way those shortfalls would be countered is: 1) Agriculture Transfers (dry up agriculture) 2) Projects and Processes (add new supply projects in-basin such as dams or lease agreements with senior water right holders and municipalities), 3) implement water conservation (savings and efficiencies) practices, and 4) new trans-mountain diversion projects. The local roundtable is writing a plan on how to meet the predicted shortfalls utilizing the above 4 approaches. Standards/criteria are being discussed for each of the approaches to meet the predicted water shortfalls. The Basin Plan was scheduled to be completed by July 2014, but now deadlines may be extended a few months. All are welcome at the monthly basin roundtable meetings.

Sage Grouse:

Jeff provided a brief update of where the BLM is in its planning processes for completing a final sage grouse plan. He expressed several concerns that arose between the draft and final. Moffat County will provide a letter with detail to the BLM describing feedback on recent changes in the Grouse Plan.

Power Line Route Discussion:

Jeff described a request that was presented to the County Commissioners at the Gateway South Scoping Meeting. The request was to evaluate the three proposed routes to cross the Park Service Road and let the BLM know its preference before the Comment period ends in May. The Land Use Board requested more detailed maps of the choices to consider at its next meeting.

Updates:

Sage Grouse Research Letter: Chuck provided a copy of the sage grouse research funding letter that the Commissioners wrote to Colorado Department of Natural Resources at the request of the Land Use Board during its March Meeting. In addition, the response from the State was shared. The response indicated no cuts to the sage grouse research budget next year.

Air Quality Control Commission: Chuck announced that he had been appointed by the Governor to the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission. The Land Use Board expressed their appreciation for Chuck being willing to commit the time necessary to be on the Commission, as well as his commitment to represent the Western Slope on air quality issues.

Future Agenda Items

Power line route discussion

Adjournment:

9:10 PM

Burt/Steve/Unanimous