

MOFFAT COUNTY LAND USE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Monday June 9, 2014

Attendees:

Bob Grubb, LUB
Doug Wellman, LUB
Steve Hinkemeyer, LUB
Dean Gent, LUB
Ken Bekkedahl, LUB
Jean Stetson, LUB
Kevin Willbanks, LUB
Dave Watson, LUB
Heather McLaughlin-Sloop, LUB
Ray Owens, LUB
Jerod Smith, LUB
T. Wright Dickinson, LUB (via phone)
Tom Soos, Guest
Roger Richmond, Guest, Southwestern Energy
Chuck Grobe, Moffat County Commissioner
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County Natural Resources Dept.

Call to Order:

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Dean / Doug / Unanimous

General Discussion

Coal Regulation Update-

Steve presented a summary of the green house gas emissions proposed rule recently announced (June 2nd) by the Obama administration. There will be a requirement for 20% reduction of CO₂ from 2005 levels between 2020 and 2029. By 2030 a 30% reduction will be required.

Moody's analysis of the proposed rule results in a 30% shut down of US coal plants in the long run. The board discussed whether that was actual closings of plants or reduced operation of existing plants. The Board discussed the results of the recent CO₂

sequestration research project conducted on Trapper Mine recently. Using cleaner technology to reduce CO2 emissions is not likely considering the economic and political ramifications.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAABS) draft proposal will be available December 2014 with a final expected September 2015. It will address several issues such as NO2, SO2, lead, carbon monoxide, and fine dust particulate matter. The rule is expected to move particulate matter standards from 75 ppb to 60-70 ppb.

Updates:

Southwestern Energy- Heather provided an update on Southwestern's plans for the next two years. She provided a slide show describing Southwestern's company culture and emphasized Southwestern's goal of retaining the small company relationships within the areas they work. She discussed her role as a government relation liaison and introduced Roger Richmond in the land department. Southwestern is currently planning 5 wells in the Yampa Valley this year and 15 next year. Southwestern will be completing some existing wells in addition to the drilling program. Fracking is a part of Southwestern's program.

Heather also described Southwestern's commitment to the newly launched Habitat Exchange Program and announced that Southwestern will provide funding and act as the lead company to pilot the program.

Antiquities Act Designations- Jeff shared the High Country News article, the Grand Junction Sentinel article, and several internet news sites that have all consistently asserted that Vermillion Basin was next on the Presidents list of areas to use the antiquities act and designate Vermillion Basin as a national monument. Various members of the Land Use Board had also heard similar reports from additional sources. Since the source of these news story predictions could not be determined a motion was made to ask the Commissioners to write a letter to all our delegation, including the Secretary of Interior asking for factual information regarding antiquities act use in Colorado as well as Vermillion Basin, so that the Board could respond accordingly.
Dave/Heather/Unanimous.

Future Agenda Items

Steve requested an update on Travel Management and Lands With Wilderness Character Inventories from BLM.

Adjournment:

9:00

Doug/Dave/Unanimous