

# **MOFFAT COUNTY LAND USE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Monday November 10, 2014**

## **Attendees:**

Jean Stetson, LUB  
Heather McSloop, LUB  
Dean Gent, LUB  
Burt Clements, LUB  
T. Wright Dickinson, LUB  
Jerod Smith, LUB  
Kevin Willbanks, LUB  
Steven Hinkemeyer, LUB  
Doug Wellman, LUB  
Bob Grub, LUB  
Mellissa Yoder, State Land Board  
Mindy Gottsegen, State Land Board  
Al Villard, Guest  
Tom Gray, State Land Board Commissioner  
Chuck Grobe, Moffat County Commissioner  
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County Natural Resources Dept.

## **Call to Order:**

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00

## **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Jean / T. Wright / Unanimous

## **General Discussion**

### **State Land Board Stewardship Trust**

Mindy Gottsegen presented a summary of the State Land Board Stewardship Trust process. She indicated that lands in the Stewardship trust have not been re-evaluated since 2000 and the Board has directed SLB staff to begin a land evaluation process. The initiative is statewide and focuses on Beauty, Open Space, Natural Values, and Wildlife Habitat.

During 2012 and 2013 baseline inventories were conducted and values were inventoried. 38% of the lands were identified for rare plants, 3% for fens, and over half the state lands

inventoried contained qualities that focused on management for Gunnison and Greater Sage Grouse as well as Lesser prairie chickens.

After the land surveys were completed Mindy's recommendation to the State Land Board was 11 parcels totaling 132,000 acres to be added to the Stewardship Trust and 14 parcels totaling 111,434 acres to be removed from the Trust. The net difference is a 15% increase in acreage totaling 20,499 acres. Mindy acknowledges this number must be reduced and hopes the SLB will pick their choice properties to insert in the Stewardship Trust and eliminate those the SLB feel less of a priority.

Timeline:

Nov 17 to Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> is first comment period

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> deadline for new nominations

January 14 - Feb 27<sup>th</sup> second comment period

January 5 through March 31 the State Land Board will review comments and prioritization of properties recommended for removal and designation will occur.

April 2015 the Board will take final action.

T. Wright asked why they didn't consult with tenants or mention this process when Colorado Cattleman's met with SLB to ask about issues coming forward. Mindy said they could have done better but there was no ill intent.

Heather asked Mindy to clarify what happens if lands are in the Stewardship Trust as well as to describe what changes in management would occur. Mindy said that \$100 million have been generated off the lands in the trust. So lands are not put off limits to use, it just assures that the uses are compatible with the Stewardship Trust goals.

Jean asked about the "threats" section and the negative context of grazing, overgrazing, and mineral leases. Mindy said the lands were being recognized for exceptionally good management and the threats are not meant to be negative. Significant discussion with the land use board occurred regarding the negative connotation of the "threats" section. Mindy committed to re-working the summary sheets for each parcel and removing the unintended perceptions of the "threats" section.

Bob indicated that conserving each parcel for its individual values would result in a cumulative positive impact for the environment.

Jeff asked about any comments the LUB would like the County to document. Additional time to review the Stewardship Trust was needed by LUB members.

### **Elkhead Update**

Burt described a discussion at the last stakeholder meeting regarding Elkhead. He stated concern that recovery of the Pikeminnow may not happen and the PBO may go away and a return to section 7 consultations would happen on any action involving the Yampa. Screening of the Elkhead Spillway was discussed and CPW was concerned that larva and eggs would pass through. Burt indicated that larva and eggs are far upstream from a

screen and he did not share the same concern. Burt is on the I & E committee and fish restocking committee and has been asked to join recovery program management workgroup. Burt continued to re-iterate that the shocking program was responsible for much of the decline of the native fish. Burt stated that CPW admitted that electroshocking was the “least lethal” means of removal techniques.

### **Habitat Exchange**

Heather stated the Habitat Exchange group met three weeks ago. The President of Southwestern Energy flew in and requested a science member from industry to be placed on the science team and asked for increased transparency in the process. Next meeting the group will discuss his requests.

The science team is gathering data points from debit and credit sites. Southwestern’s goal is to plug the holes in the science tool document with ultimate goal of having a package that USFWS can stand behind. EDF, Cattleman’s, CPW, State Lands, and DNR all are working together to test the tool from the science team and see what works and what doesn’t so that by spring they can get a proposal to USFWS.

### **Updates:**

### **Future Agenda Items**

Burt- Fish-update  
Heather/T.Wright -update on habitat exchange.

### **Adjourn**

9:33 P.M. Burt/Bob/Unanimous