

DRAFT  
Daggett County Public Lands Advisory Committee  
February 23, 2015  
6:00 PM at the Daggett County Courthouse

Meeting Minutes

**Members Attending:** Chair: Ross Catron, Vice-Chair: Jon C. Wilde, Hank Gutz, Ryan Mosely, Jack Lytle, Chuck Bennington, Dave McDonald, Chad Reed, Mike Mussleman.

**Members Excused:** Jerry Steglich, Matt Henry

**Public Attending:** David Orr, Clarence White, Ed White, Allan & Patty Wood, Troy Forrest, Bill Hopkin, Joe V. Hickey, Woody Bair, Troy D. Ostler, Karen Henry, Charles Card, Jean Dickinson, Carol Gardiner, Aaron Rees, Morgan Beal, Ritchie Anderson, Orlan Anderson, Brian Raymond

**Welcome and introductions:** Chairman Catron had everyone introduce themselves.

**Review previous meeting notes:** Jon Wilde made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Chad Reed seconded the motion and all were in favor. Minutes approved.

**Update concerning Uintah and Summit County efforts:** Joe Hickey was here and explained the outcome of the last meeting for Summit County. They will be meeting again next week to finalize the agreement and vote on whether to accept it. The environmentalists proposed some additional conservation areas. There are still some areas which the county will not concede to and the Forest Service and BLM is backing them. They are also working on language for roadless areas. Ross asked about grazing language. Joe stated at this time their language is pretty heavy duty and the environmentalists have not agreed to it yet. The environmentalists wanted 27,000 acres and they got them down to 20,000. So far the buffer zone around Spirit Lake has held up. Jean spoke on behalf of the Sweetwater Conservation District. She stated that they have major concerns over how much protection is being afforded for watershed management and other issues. They will submit their comments in writing to the Committee.

Ritchie Anderson of Vernal was here and took a little time to explain what is going in Uintah County, Utah. There were a lot of people down there that were taken by surprise by the proposal. Carol had requested that the Commissioners contact the grazers and they didn't, so Ritchie and several others did. They are working with the Congressional delegation to deal with some desired changes. Most of the proposal they are fine with, but very concerned about the Water Protection Areas. They are concerned that it may be a way for Forest Service to get rid of grazing. Not a lot of knowledge in the Forest Service of

the proposal. They would like the grazing proposals to be across the board not just in the new designations. If we are giving up land for designations, we should get something in return.

Orlan Anderson also spoke as a member of Uintah Public Lands Committee representing Recreation and both motorized and unmotorized. Blue Ribbon coalition started and wheeling and dealing to get some things done and it backfired, so now they oppose all of these types of things that take away access.

Ritchie said they are trying to save the environment, but they don't look at the science. Need some more flexibility.

Ross tried to bring the discussion back to Daggett County and Dave Allison said that we need to work with BLM as they are concerned this proposal will have some negative effects on their RMP and the transportation corridor through Brown's Park/Clay Basin.

**Clay Basin Funding Review:** Commissioner Lytle had a PowerPoint created by SITLA's John Andrews. The PowerPoint was displayed and discussed. It will be made available to the public. Percentages for fund distribution were included and we would get a maximum of 80% of 48% of the revenues from the Clay Basin area that might be exchanged. Dave stated that it would be two years before the county would receive any of the funds. Mike again said there was no language that prevented SITLA from selling it. Chad said there could be a \$98 negative impact to the Road Transportation District if it were exchanged now. There was discussion about the possibility of pooling the money of all of the Counties generated by SITLA to increase Daggett County's payment above the possible \$310,000 that was in the PowerPoint. Dave says he feels we do hold a bargaining chip with the amount of Wilderness that is wanted in our County. Hank said that the no sale clause may not be good if Questar wanted to buy the land and put in a gas fired electric turbine, which Dave said wasn't worth worrying about. There are still some questions. One of which is how much money would we stand to gain if the SITLA funds are pooled. Another is the no sale clause and lastly, when would the money start to be distributed.

Dave says now we need to look at the mechanics of the deal (what land and where). What are we willing to give for this and what will the process be that is used to decide that.

10 Minute Break

**Review public comments and take additional comments:** After reconvening Chairman Catron went through the individual comments received to make sure everyone had them. Karen Henry read through Matt Henry's comments, since he was not available for this meeting. These comments will be made available to the public.

There was discussion concerning some of the smaller items that were put in the proposal simply to make it look like Daggett County was getting more.

Ritchie Anderson talked about the Greendale allotment and what would happen to his allotments in that area. He also said that historically AUMs are down in Wilderness areas 92% and just outside wilderness is down 55% nationwide.

Jean Dickinson said that there needs to be a look at the values associated with the NCA and areas in Clay Basin and other lands that are the gives and takes.

Dave McDonald said the original agreement didn't have any of the gives and takes tied together. There is no way to dissect the agreement. Maybe we tear it apart or just keep what the environmental community has agreed to then ask for more from them. In essence do a new shopping list. The 6800 acre is a pie in the sky idea it isn't worth the land we are giving up. The reservoir and river are our biggest assets not the forests where cows can't go through. Maybe it would be better to do small shore line developments. At this point clay basin is the only high value item in the current proposal.

Ritchie said the Antiquities Act is a big concern as the Presidents have been using it to create monuments at the end of their terms. We need to keep this in mind, but you shouldn't do this if it's not a good deal just to try and avoid the results of the Antiquities Act. The PLI is supposed to protect against the Antiquities Act through language.

Ross started to have each Committee member state their thoughts on the proposal and how to proceed. Jack states that the Commission needs to send a letter letting everyone know that we are starting the process over. Chuck Bennington was the first to state that he liked some of this and but not all. He likes Dave's approach.

Chad went next and he didn't want to throw the whole thing out. He wants to establish a list to get everyone's priority. Those should be rated and ranked. Ryan agreed and said we need to figure out what we want and then we can trade for that. Hank says this is full of trinkets and we should take a shotgun to it and get rid of what we don't want. Mike was against this at the beginning, but he is starting to see the potential for clay basin, but we have to get some true value out of it and then we can deal with the trinkets if they make sense. It will be important that the language is strong. Jack said there is not one piece of it that has a clean value as it's been set up. So scrap it and start from scratch but we can use anything that we like from the previous discussions. Need to do it as a balance sheet. Set a value for what we want and what we are willing to give up. Start from a clean slate and pick the winners. Jon said put it to bed, I'm not willing to have any Wilderness to throw 6 or people under the bus. Daggett County needs to live within its means. Dave would probably side with Jon. He doesn't think any one piece is all that valuable. He appreciates Craig Collett's letter. He thinks that some of it can work.

There is a discussion as to whether to just walk away at this point. Mike asks if there is any hope of this working. Ross, Dave and Jack feel that there is.

Mike motioned that we kill this thing tonight and walk away. Dave seconded the motion and 3 voted to kill the proposal and go home and six voted to keep entertaining this.

Dave motioned to take a vote on the process to either start from Scratch or use the existing gives to try coming up with high value gets that justify the gives. Seconded by Mike to start with a clean slate. There is discussion about the idea of whether we could come up with enough high value items to match the gives. The vote is 6 to 3 to start with a clean slate.

Let's get started with what we want. Purposes of this were to resolve public lands issues and get some economic development going. Issues were Roadless designations, WSAs, road issues with RS2477. Chad said that we need to determine the lines for Wilderness and approach the coalition as to whether they can accept that. Richard asked why we aren't asking for mineral royalties from other Counties, due to the amount of Wilderness we have to give up for the benefit of the bill. It is determined that might be a part of this. Ross said the summer home areas are an issue and Chad said they would bring in value to the school's and county. Brian spoke about Federal land ownership being too oppressive at 90%. Utility towers and other structures privatized, that are now on Forest Land. Jean states that there are current grazing issues. Dave feels that these are cared for under the current issues that are listed. Woody feels that there needs to be protection of watersheds. Canal safety and maintenance may be an issue later on in this process. It is not now. Hank brings up the importance of a County General plan. Jean states that the existing General plan does not entail land exchange. Dave states that this is a County and State problem not Federal. The lack of being able to use the Gun Range is brought up by Mike and that there may be a need of more land for the Dump.

Dave wants to talk about the economic benefits and the biggest one is the economic royalty sharing with other Counties. The next one is the Clay Basin exchange, not how it currently presented, but some other way. Look at lands that could have great economic potential if developed for recreational purposes. Rowdy has a list, Greendale, lake front parcels, Carter Military Trail, mineral potential, transportation corridors. Richard's Gap is almost full. There is a security issue of having one corridor for transportation in and out of portions of the county. Carter Military trail is mentioned. ACEC's and overlapping designations cause more problems and security issues. Privatize more land. SITLA, Jarvies Ranch and Swett Ranch, plus Doc Parson's piece. More Counties share wilderness, oil and gas revenues. Mike says we need to know if others will be willing to make these exchanges.

**Determine next steps and next meeting date and time:** Ross proposed that we meet next Monday night at 6:00 and work towards getting something together by end of March. If we don't make it we don't make it. Ross urges people to not lose steam and become discouraged.

Jean said there is a big issue of missing roads on the County's RS2477 claims and there is a huge impact to the County, its residents and permittees. The inventory needs to be updated and adjusted. There are a lot of recreation, hunting, ranch operation roads that provide access that is needed.

Adjourned at 9:35 pm