

Daggett County Public Lands Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

For

April 8, 2015

Committee members present: Ross Catron (Chairman), Jon Wilde (Vice Chair), Chad Reed (Secretary), Mike Musselman, Dave McDonald, Hank Gutz, Jack Lytle, Jerry Steglich and Matt Henry.

Absent: Ryan Mosely and Chuck Bennington.

Public present: Clyde Slaugh, Jean Dickinson, Charles Card, Andy Rasmussen, Boyde Blackwell, Casey Snider, Brian Raymond and Pat Aullman.

Meeting called to order: Ross called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. A few introductions are made. There is a review of the minutes for the 23rd and 30th. The partial minutes for both meetings are approved. Chuck has asked to be excused as he is in New York. Matt is running late but will be here. Ross makes sure everyone has the materials that have been passed out as Jack tries to bring items up on the screen.

Jack is asked to overview the map and meeting with Congressman Bishop and Casey Snider. Jack goes over the written summary that has been provided to the Committee. He talks about how Congressman Bishop asked us if the County would want to take ownership of the Sheep Creek drainage area. Jack explains that this has never been discussed and that the County is probably not equipped to perform this type of maintenance. He discusses that Rep. Bishop liked the privatization of the cabin areas, the historic farms out of federal control, the National Conservation Area and the Wilderness Study Areas. Casey states that Rep Bishop didn't feel that there were enough asks or gives. Casey also says that he thinks Rep Bishop left with the feeling that there was still room to work with Daggett County and he was pleased with the meeting. Jack says that what he heard was that if we are to going to forward with this there is still more work to do. Casey also discusses that the SITLA exchange is tangible, but we probably need to work on a bigger scale. Casey asks Jerry if there was ever any language discussed and Jerry stated no.

Ross asks for Jack and Clyde to comment as Commissioners where they would like the Committee to go. Jack states that he doesn't want to tell the Committee to go, that he would like them to continue working with this new information. Clyde feels the same, take the information from the summary and work from there. Dave states that the committee had decided that anything that could be pursued by other means than the PLI should be done that way. Anything that was going to be done through the PLI should be to the benefit of the majority of the County residents. He feels that the land in Dutch John Draw could be pursued through means other than the PLI.

The discussion moves to Doc Parson's, Lake Frontage on the NRA and the cabin areas. Ross feels language should be included to facilitate some of these items. Casey talks about how this could be an

economic driver for the County. Dave warns that it could be at a cost to the county. Chad discusses the privatization of Dutch John and what that cost the County, but the benefits that the Commission at the time saw coming from it. Jerry talks about the cabin exchanges and that the cabin owners are trading land for this and we just have to do the language. The river will not cost the County. He feels these things need to be done to clean the County up. Mike states that the Committee at an earlier meeting to leave the river as it is. Hank talks about how Rob Bishop wants to remove some of the Federal control. Jerry talks about the original intentions of the PLI and that the current proposal does not meet those goals.

Ross states that it seems the proposal as it stands will not fly. The Committee needs to decide whether to go forward or stop. Jack states that we need to have measurements and we have just taken a different path. There is no right or wrong way to do this. The roadless areas do derail this county and stop us from having the flexibility from doing the things we need to do. Are we meeting the County's needs? If the things that others are wanting can work in that structure then that is good. Dave talks about amount of land the County really has to work with. Only 11% of the County is private and Broadbent owns 7%. So there is really only 4% left. We already have roadless, NRA and WSA's. Ross says that the NRA probably has the broadest uses. It is supposed to be managed for recreations, but there is flexibility. Ross says that we shouldn't not put something on because we think it won't happen. Ross wonders how much private land was given up in order to have the lake. Ross states that if we continue down the same path we may be wasting our time. Jack doesn't feel that we are wasting our time he feels that these are long term goals. Casey states that the Congressman probably could not run with our proposal in the form that it is. Daggett County is not giving enough for what they want. To ask for the release of roadless will not work, but to ask for specific modifications may work. It is viable to ask for the release of a WSA if the other is made Wilderness. We can ask to do management treatments for Watersheds.

Ross moves on to the emails that are addressing the Doc Parson's property. He is not very familiar with this part of the proposal. Jack states that he can give an update from the Governor's office. Jerry states that he was at the meetings. He gives an overview of what Mark Allen is trying to do. The property was acquired from the Allen's or Taylors through mitigation when the Dam was built. Mark has met with some resistance from the DWR and so there was a meeting held at the Governor's office to try and resolve some of the issues. The Governor has interest in preserving the history of this property. It was agreed that language would need to be included to affect the mitigation that occurred. It could then be given to the County and the County could allow Mark Allen's 503 to take it over. Dave states that the County would enter into a 99 year lease. Jack states that he had a conversation with Mike Mower about what the Governor's thoughts are on this. Mike stated that the Governor would want the County to own the land and that the revisionary language must be met. There is historical value to the land, however through the mitigation process it was taken over for the wetland values. Boyde talks about what has taken place over time with Mark Allen. There was a special use permit to fix up the cemetery and the Blacksmith shop. After the meeting with the Governor's office it was decided if it was in Daggett County's best interest to own the four acres an exchange would be made. The DWR cannot just lease it to Mark Allen. Jack has some concerns about what door this might be opening. It could be

setting precedence. Ross says that each item would have to be looked at on a case by case basis. Mike does not like the idea of public land private. Ross says that we need to be looking at State and Federal land that might be beneficial to privatize. Chad talks about that the PLI is about as many pieces as can possibly be involved. Mike wants to know why this would just go to Mark Allen. Shouldn't it go up to public auction? Jerry states that it needs to come to the County so this doesn't happen. Mike feels that this is back door politics and doesn't want to be a part of it. Casey states that the property in question is state land and the PLI part of it is simply dealing with the mitigation language. Jean says that it needs to be considered what the General Plan states on land exchanges. Jean says that there were other families involved in the history of that land. It has already been stated that if it isn't managed for Wildlife it will revert back to the Federal Government. She feels the County should really take a step back and think about what they are doing. Jack states that this has not happened to date because the state cannot accommodate what Mark Allen wants.

Dave wants to know from Casey what on our list truly carries no weight. He doesn't want to trade one acre of Wilderness for Mark Allen to have this four acres. Casey states that it is a case by case basis and most likely all of it carries weight. Dave agrees that this is probably the case. Jerry disagrees and says that the Environmental coalition doesn't feel that all of these items warrant Wilderness. Dave wants to know once the deal is done can we bring them up as housekeeping items. Casey states that no, we cannot do that. Ross wants to know why we can't just list them all and state that some of them are items that don't warrant gives. Mike asks Casey how much Wilderness Rob Bishop would want. Casey says that they really don't want any Wilderness, but the politics make it necessary. Rob stated that Daggett would need to give some sort of designation on the West side of the County and the East side. Casey suggest that we be nice and invite the environmental coalition into the discussion. Casey discusses what he thinks the Wilderness areas would need to look like, but that the Clay Basin exchange is not enough of a get, we would need to ask for more. Casey again states to list specifics. If we need motorized travel into a roadless area, justify it specifically.

Jack lets everyone know that he will be meeting with Paul Spitler from the Wilderness Society in order to start some conversations. Jack feels that it is important for us to know where Paul is coming from, but it is also important for them to know where we are coming from.

Chad reads from the General Plan a passage dealing with historical sites. The specific portion read is located on page 11. The passage summarily states that the County will work towards preserving historical sites.

The conversation is moved to the River designation and people from the audience speak in support of this. One gentleman (Andy Rasmussen?) spoke with permit holders and the majority of them support the Scenic Designation. Points were also listed as what kind of protections the users would like to see with this designation (Dam protection, fish and wildlife, outfitter guide recreation protection, fire control and energy corridors). They want to insure that they will not be able to see any development from the river. The river was found eligible and suitable for the Scenic designation. Dave states that he has never supported the designation. How it is being managed now works and the management plan will not be done until the designation passes, so no protection can be promised at this time. There is

discussion as to how much protection can be provided in the language for the PLI. Dave again states that due to the management plan coming after, there can be unintended consequences. Another comment comes from the audience that if we don't form up the language now, the management of the river could change at any time. Ross feels that it is telling that the majority of the guides wanting the designation. Dave says that if we can show a real benefit to the county from the designation and get the proposal to fly in its current form with the addition of the designation it might be important. Dave does not see the listing of the river as an economic benefit.

A break is taken until 8:30.

Sorry guys, but this is as far as the tape went.

Next meeting April 13th at 6:00pm.