

PAWG SETG Minutes of February 8th, 2006

Members Present: Jana Weber, Tom Burns, Roy Allen, Geoff Sell, Carmel Kail, Stephen Reynolds, Laurie Latta, Jeffrey Jacquet (ex-officio member)

Members Absent: Mary Byrnes, Marilyn Filkins, Cyd Goodrich, Diana Hoff, Randy Johnson, Steve Noffke, Annette Pepin, Mark Stewart, Dana Ward

These Minutes taken by: Jeffrey Jacquet.

Vocational Education Subcommittee report (Subcommittee consisting of Laurie, Diana, Geoff).

Discussed possible development of summer programs to get students interested/educated in working in the gas industry, and to retain students in the area. Discussed possibility of operator-initiated effort to encourage students, and provide scholarships, possibly tying the scholar to working for the operator sponsoring student.

It was noted that operators are helping to develop gas industry-based training curricula at Western Wyoming College, and high schools and outreach programs in Rawlins.

Emphasized that interaction and coordination between Big Piney (has good welding, machining etc. program) and Pinedale (has good ag program) high schools should be encouraged.

Adult workforce training was discussed, noting that encouraging more women to enter the gas industry workforce could be beneficial.

Laurie indicated that development of vo-ed / workforce training is on-going, and that SETG action was not needed at this time. No action was taken.

Crime Subcommittee report (Subcommittee consisting of Marilyn, Carmel, Geoff, Jeffrey, Roy and Laurie)

Jeffrey presented his recently created graph which indicates that the crime rate is highly correlated to rig activity in the county.

High priority 'mitigation opportunities' recommended in the 2005 SETG report were reiterated, including the need to get all operators working together (form operators council) and develop and promote "Best Practices". Need for common organization/common goals for operators dealing with drug problem. Need to get information from county court to determine workplace of drug offenders. If employer data were available, operators could self-enforce companies with poor drug records.

Shift and work schedule was identified as an obstacle to a drug-free workforce. Possibly lowering number of hours per day and/or days per week was discussed. However, workforce shortage was identified as a hurdle to shortening work schedules. To encourage families to relocate permanently to the area, need to pay workers enough money to afford permanent residence in the area. Housing shortage (prices) plays a big part.

Agreed Crime Subcommittee should meet soon to develop plan/proposal/recommendations.

Break for lunch.

Minutes of the January 11, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Economic Subcommittee had no progress to report.

Housing Subcommittee report (Subcommittee consisting of Carmel, Laurie, Steve Noffke, Geoff, Mark, Roy, Jeffrey)

Jeffrey reviewed / updated gasfield worker housing survey results. Noted that over half of non-resident respondents said they were thinking or planning on moving to the area.

Roy presented estimated per-diem expenditures for industry which he developed with Steve Noffke. Non-local employees are paid an annual estimated \$26,000 per year, which could be redirected to help workers move permanently to the area.

Dr. Allen's Affordability Calculator was presented. Roy developed this in an effort to identify the 'target' housing market. Noted that an 'average' employee of a large-service company could foreseeably afford a \$200,000 home in Sublette County.

Reviewed findings of housing construction contractors investigated, much of this info previously sent out via email: Wardcraft info from Mark Stewart, Cedar Designs info from Geoff Sell, Lodge Logs from Carmel.

Carmel's figures: 220 employees / families would be thinking or planning on moving permanently to the area in the very near future. Recommend/ Proposed: build 55 houses throughout the county (handout).

Group identified possible sources of capital for affordable housing development: Service Companies, Investors, BLM.

Discussed planting a seed with industry to get them interested in taking the initiative.

No action was taken.

Community Connective-ness Subcommittee report (Subcommittee consisting of Steve Reynolds, Annette, Jeffrey, Laurie, Tom, Jana)

The idea of a "connected" community was discussed at length. Members in attendance discussed their personal opinions as to what makes them feel connected to their own and other communities where they spend time. This appears to be a very subjective area that would require the group to identify several areas that could actually be defined as desired "connected" qualities worth pursuing.

No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned.