

Pinedale Anticline Working Group Meeting – Draft Minutes  
April 20, 2006, Sublette County Library

Attendees

PAWG: Susan Kramer, Nylla Kunard, Steve Duerr, Paul Hagenstein, Robin Smith, Bob Barrett, Betty Fear, Linda Baker. (Mary Flanderka not in attendance.)

Facilitator: Jeff Edelstein

BLM: Matt Anderson (PAWG Liaison), Dennis Stenger (Field Manager), Roy Allen (by phone)

Task Group members: Perry Walker, Dave Vlcek, Sam Drucker, Charles Price, Clint Gilchrist, Gene George, Jeffrey Jacquet

Public: Peter Aengst, (The Wilderness Society), Pete Guernsey/Katie Isacksen/Dennis Foley (Questar), Phil Washburn/Patty Washburn (affected landowners), Bill Boender (Sublette Examiner)

Agenda

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| 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.   | Call to order, approve meeting minutes from March 21 meeting, welcomes  |
| 9:45 – 10:15 a.m.  | <b>Wildlife:</b> BLM response to PAWG January 31 recommendations.   |
| 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. | <b>Water Resources</b> Task Group Report and Recommendations  |
| 11:00 – 11:15 a.m. | Break   |
| 11:15 – 12:00 a.m. | <b>Socio-Economic</b> Task Group update   |
| 12:00 – 12:15 p.m. | <b>Public comments</b>  |
| <b>Lunch</b>       |   |
| 1:15 – 1:45 p.m.   | <b>Air Quality</b> Task Group update  |
| 1:45 – 2:15 p.m.   | <b>Cultural/Historical:</b> Follow-up to March 21 recommendations   |
| 2:15 – 2:25 p.m.   | Break   |
| 2:25 – 3:30 p.m.   | <b>Transportation</b> Task Group Report and Recommendations   |
| 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.   | Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ROD matrix</li><li>• June PAPA field tour</li><li>• Traffic: trip numbers, enforcement</li><li>• LIDAR and other mapping</li><li>• Notetaker for air quality task group</li><li>• PAWG master schedule, term expirations – members and chair</li><li>• Letter to task group members</li></ul> |
| 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.   | Public comments, other business, suggest items for next meeting agenda  |

MEETING OUTCOMES:

New Recommendations (See attached document for full recommendations):

1. The PAWG forwarded all the Cultural/Historic Task Group's revised recommendations to the BLM (see attached).
2. The PAWG forwarded the Transportation Task Group's recommendations with revisions to BLM (see attached).
3. The PAWG forwarded the Water Resources Task Group recommendations with revisions to BLM (see attached).

Action Items:

1. **Matt** will send a copy of 2005 PAWG recommendations to Dennis Stenger.
2. **Dennis** will provide PAWG a written reply to the Wildlife Task Group recommendations in two weeks.
3. **BLM** will provide the Transportation Task Group with an abbreviated report on projected rig counts for the PAPA for 2006 and any other easily obtainable operators' information.
4. **Linda** will give Matt the original thank you letter from the PAWG to the Task Group members to copy and send.
5. **Jeff E.** will send recommendations to the BLM and the PAWG.
6. **Matt** will send Federal Register notice of the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting cancellation.
7. **PAWG member groups** will note that nominations for PAWG representatives are due to BLM by May 22, 2006.

Jeff E. opened the meeting and previous meeting minutes and action items were reviewed. Jeff will add the phrase "and determine whether the SHPO BLM statewide PA is sufficient for the PAPA or needs adjustment" to item #2 under the Cultural/Historic's next steps meeting agenda. No other changes to the minutes were made. Jeff E. reported that he followed up with Mary F. to give her the name of a consultant who could provide some info about the LIDAR technology and its application.

Matt A. began a discussion about the PAWG nomination process. The BLM's call for PAWG nominations went out Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and there is a 45 day nomination process. The PAWG members current terms expire May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (except for Steve Duerr and Betty Fear). BLM had hoped to get 120 day extensions, but was unable to get the approval from headquarters. Dennis stated that the PAWG could still meet on May 16<sup>th</sup> with the two new PAWG members in attendance. Others are welcome to attend and provide recommendations to BLM as members of the public.

A long discussion ensued regarding the legal issues raised by this, pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The question was raised as to whether the PAWG process should be shut down until everything is worked out. Dennis said he'd prefer to be pragmatic and keep the process moving because if the process is shut down, then there will be no recommendations. Dennis said he expects that there will be money for monitoring.

The PAWG members discussed forwarding the recommendations to BLM approved in 2005 with highest priority given to recommendations not yet acted upon by BLM. There

was general sentiment in support of this, but no formal consensus was obtained. Dennis stated that he did not have a copy of those recommendations. **Matt** agreed to send them to him.

PAWG also agreed to forward to BLM all recommendations agreed upon in this meeting.

### BLM Response to Wildlife Task Group Recommendations

Linda & Wildlife TG chair Rollie Sparrowe met with Dennis previously to discuss and clarify the WTG recommendations noted at the last meeting. The discussion centered on the viability of the herd. The recommendations, as forwarded by PAWG, from the January 31, 2006 meeting are:

1. PAWG recommends to BLM the development of an implementation plan to achieve the following goals on the PAPA, especially the Mesa:
  - a) maintain current numbers – specifically, no further decline in wintering deer numbers, and
  - b) maintain current remaining, undisturbed habitats useful to deer in winter.  
(Response requested from BLM by March 21, 2006)
2. PAWG recommends that BLM create a GIS-based Habitat Quality Assessment as a baseline for a broader attempt to manage wildlife in the face of development.  
(Response requested from BLM by March 21, 2006)
3. PAWG recommends to BLM that a pilot flyover be used to assess the usefulness of the LIDAR technology for mapping vegetation in the PAPA area.

Dennis said that he's okay with the main statement of recommendation #1, but a) and b) are problematic, particularly maintaining existing undisturbed habitat – there will be more drilling. Dennis stated that BLM will look at the viability of the Mesa mule deer herd, and agrees with the concept of maintaining herd viability. He also stated that he agrees with the concept of no further population decline as a goal, but not as something that BLM can guarantee, nor can BLM guarantee that there won't be a displacement of the herd. Dennis said he does not agree to the recommendation as written. **Dennis** will respond to the recommendation in writing to the PAWG within two weeks.

### Water Quality Task Group Recommendations

Gene George re-affirmed the previous recommendations made to the PAWG. He stated that the PAPA operators have contracted with Sublette County Conservation District (SCCD) for sampling of water quality. SCCD has five years of surface water data, collected from three sampling sites. SCCD has one year of ground water chemical data, and two years of static water level data. SCCD has found no evidence of hydrocarbons or abnormal salt load. SCCD monitors all water wells within one mile of PAPA activity.

There was a discussion of analysis reporting lag time. SCCD finishes the field season on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, then it takes 2-3 weeks before the analytical lab returns the results for surface and groundwater chemical data. Then the data goes to SCCD for Quality

Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) and entry into the SCCD database in December/January. So the Water TG can get surface & ground water chemical data results in April of the following year. But macroinvertebrate analysis does not come back until June of the following year, and is then sent to an expert for analysis and any changes or trends with a report to the task Group by July 31. So the Water TG can report results to the PAWG in Aug. The Water TG then meets in August to review all data at once.

Gene stated that groundwater data results could be presented to the PAWG in April, but surface water could not be presented until the following December. However, if the analytical lab sees something alarming in the data results, they immediately notify SCCD and DEQ, then BLM. DEQ & operators would then work on a cleanup plan.

SCCD does an analysis of 3 surface locations on the New Fork River, with a fourth location to be added. They don't sample for bacteria. SCCD now has a dedicated teflon hose for water well sampling.

The PAWG reached consensus in support of the following two recommendations:

1. \$21,000 should be provided for surface water data trend analysis.
2. Produced water is a large issue that needs review, but not necessarily by this task group.

The following recommendation from the TG was not passed along by the PAWG:

The Water TG also recommended that BLM should consider requiring that any installation of condensate pipelines be done above grade to enable detection and repair of leaks. The PAWG did not forward this recommendation to the BLM because of agricultural, wildlife and safety concerns.

#### Socio-Economic Task Group Recommendations

Sublette County Socio-Economic analyst Jeffrey Jacquet and BLM liaison Roy Allen stated that there had been no determination from the State solicitor's office re: BLM's legal responsibilities for socio-economic impacts to communities affected by PAPA development.

The SETG met previously with Dennis Stenger, who said that BLM didn't want to get into the middle of these issues, that that was the role of the county and cities. BLM has an obligation to analyze socio-economic impacts in EIS's, but has no authority or obligation to mitigate or enforce socio-economic impacts. The State gets 50% of royalties from energy production because of the impacts from it.

#### Air Quality Task Group Recommendations

Task Group chair Perry Walker provided the information that the TG is still pursuing the next round of NOx tracking information that Susan Caplan was going to develop. Dennis reported that the responsibility for producing it has now been assumed by Ken Peacock and is no longer with Susan Caplan.

DEQ & operators are negotiating a \$7 million agreement for a five-year monitoring plan (to be split 50/50 between the state and operators), but DEQ has to go through some procedural steps to get the funding in place.

There are maps of monitoring sites and current monitoring data available at the Wyoming Visibility Network website: [wyvisnet.com](http://wyvisnet.com).

The Task Group is currently working on producing its report for the PAWG.

### Cultural/Historic Task Group

Dennis reported that the BLM will advertise Kierson Crume's job, and hopefully Sam Drucker will get it. If so, they will then look at replacing Sam's position.

BLM will work with NRCS to make any appropriate modifications to the protocol for geomorphological surveys, but they don't have data yet.

Because the State has completed a Wyoming protocol revision, the Task Group felt that the Programmatic Agreement does not need to be pursued. If necessary, BLM & SHPO could craft an MOU to supplement the State protocol.

The PAWG accepted and forwarded the C/H Task Group's recommendations to the BLM.

### Transportation Task Group

Task Group chair Charles Price presented the following:

- 1) Report estimating "Projected Transportation of Water & Condensate Produced in PAPA"
- 2) Maps entitled "Pinedale Anticline & Jonah Field Road Network", "PAWG Transportation Group Digitized Roads, Pipelines, and Pads", and "Pinedale Anticline & Jonah Field Road Network"
- 3) A completed report with eight recommendations to which two were added as Charles instructed: Number 9: keep map information up to date; Number 10: Pipe condensate & produced water, once the level of liquids can be predicted, in shared pipelines.

Charles stated that a speed radar system has been installed on Paradise Rd. and on the main Anticline road.

The Wyoming Dept. of Transportation (WYDOT) will build a traffic model using radar data. Traffic counts are recorded at the BLM office and sent to WYDOT. Using Paradise and Anticline data, it's possible to model all traffic on the PAPA.

Roads are being created faster than can be mapped, but satellite mapping that was done in the Jonah Field also occurred on the PAPA. Digitized roads are created with Quickbird, and could be made available to emergency management crews and sheriff's office.

The TG recommended that, as operators receive APDs and create new roads or reclaim them, that information should go to BLM to update records.

There was follow-up on the discussion at the March PAWG meeting about BLM waiting to request annual information on drilling, roads, pipelines, and other construction plans until next October, which would be a request for 2007 plans. At the March meeting, it was agreed: "Because this would be a postponement of the approach discussed at the January PAWG meeting, the PAWG agreed to have Jeff E. request input from the task group chairs on whether their task group's work would benefit from having such information on operators' plans for 2006. If so, the BLM can consider whether it can pull the information together by using information already submitted by the operators in their APD's and other sources, and then begin the more formal process in October."

Charles reported that within the Transportation Task Group, both WYDOT and Sublette County Roads and Bridges Department said that they would benefit from having info about 2006 operators' plans. The info could possibly be as simple as rig counts for 2006 versus 2005. Matt and Dennis indicated that they would pull together a "quick and dirty" report on those numbers.

The PAWG reached consensus on forwarding the Transportation Task Group's recommendations to BLM as follows:

The PAWG recommends the following as mitigation measures, provided that issues such as environmental impacts and property rights are appropriately considered.

1. An alternate access to the North end of the Mesa to reduce/eliminate traffic on Tyler Street. This access should be south of Pinedale off of Highway 191. This would alleviate a lot of traffic going through Pinedale and down Tyler street.
2. Alternatives to connect the Boulder South Road (23-106) with the Paradise Road (23-136) should be considered, including no action.
3. A turn lane off Highway 191 onto the Paradise Road (23-136). WYDOT has contracted for this. (Estimated completion date is Sept. 06.)
4. A turn lane off Highway 351 onto the Paradise Road (23-136). This is currently in the process of being implemented by WYDOT (estimated completion Sept. 2006). The purpose of this recommendation is to encourage the BLM to support it as need may be.
5. Use of the connector road between the Antelope area and the Luman Road on the south end of the Anticline. This would eliminate traffic, especially big heavy

trucks, turning onto and off of Highway 191. It is recommended that the BLM support this. Traffic and drilling in this area is increasing.

6. That the Highway 351 traffic plans be reviewed by WYDOT for safety considerations including shoulder width and sight distance, especially in the Green River and New Fork valleys and at the Paradise Road (23-136) junction. This is within the authority of WYDOT. The group feels that with the traffic increase caused by the Anticline area this recommendation should be carefully considered by the WYDOT.
7. Meeting with the BLM and all operators on the PAPA to get an estimate of the drilling, production, and development on the PAPA for the coming year. This should be done to meet the requirement of the ROD that was originally delegated to the TCP (pp. B22-B23, PAPA ROD, Transportation Plan Appendix B, July 2000).
8. Passing lanes on Highway 191 between Rock Springs and Pinedale to facilitate passing convoys of heavily loads trucks going to or returning from the PAPA. This item is within the authority of WYDOT; however, the BLM should support this need at the state level.
9. BLM should make sure that maps for PAPA are kept up to date as new roads, well pads and pipelines are added to the complex or reclaimed.
10. Alternative methods of handling produced liquids should be examined.

After all TG reports were presented, Linda passed around a thank you letter from the PAWG to the Task Group members thanking them for their service. (Linda subsequently received permission from Mary Flanderka to sign her name to it as well.) Linda will ask Matt to make copies and send to all Task Group members.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the June 20<sup>th</sup> field trip, which is still scheduled.

The PAWG nomination process ends May 22, 2006, and nominations should be decided upon by Aug. 2006.

Linda mentioned that the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting cancellation must be sent to the Federal Register.

Jeff E. will send recommendations out to the BLM and PAWG.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.