

Southwest Resource Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, November 15, 2013
Dolores, Colorado

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Members

Eric Sanford, Renzo DelPiccolo, Ernie Williams, John Reams, Tif Rodriguez, Mary Monroe Brown, Dale Irby, Mark Roeber, Deborah Gangloff, Wally White, Kathy Welt

Staff

Lori Armstrong, Shannon Borders, Connie Clementson, Marietta Eaton, Brian St. George, Jerry Strahan

Visitors

Darlene Marcus, Jim Mimiaga, John Whitney, Wanda Cason

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Kathy Welt at 9:10 a.m. A quorum for the meeting was determined. Everyone introduced themselves. Minutes from the February and August meetings were approved with a motion by John Reams with the addition of BLM sensitive species and seconded by Wally White. The motion was approved unanimously.

The member roles and responsibilities were presented by Lori Armstrong, BLM District Manager. Marietta Eaton gave an overview of the new Mountain Lion exhibit at the Anasazi Heritage Center.

Priority Round Table

The Southwest Resource Advisory Council worked to determine priority issues for 2014 including:

- Travel management
- Minerals development
- Collaboration/Communication/Partnerships
- Air
- Socio-economics
- NEPA/RMP

The RAC members suggested creating sub-groups to work on these topics. The BLM management team will also work to help identify projects within the subject areas.

Public Comments

John Whitney gave an update on the Hermosa Creek Watershed Bill and indicated it should go to a conference committee. It has three BLM provisions including federal mineral withdrawal around Durango, a land conveyance for multi-use facility to La Plata County and the withdrawal of the Wilderness Study Area near Molas pass to allow over the snow use. He also mentioned the secure rural schools bill has been funded for another year from revenue from the helium reserve. Additionally, Payment in Lieu of Taxes has not been passed in full by Congress. Communities on the western slope need to be aware and advocate for this issue.

Darlene Marcus mentioned PILT is difficult to get passed because it is a largely a western U.S. issue. She also said Congressman Tipton has worked on a committee regarding water takings and the hearing for the Hermosa Creek Watershed Bill.

Wanda Cason also indicated her office is hearing about PILT from the public across the state.

Supplemental Rules for All Public Lands, BLM Meetings, Conduct toward BLM Employees and Volunteers and BLM Facilities in Colorado Update

Lori indicated that NEPA must be done in order to enact supplementary rules, so there will be an opportunity for public comment. As soon as the NEPA process is started, we will bring this issue to the RACs attention.

Oil & Gas Subgroup

Connie Clementson, Tres Rios Field Manager, asked the RAC to help determine tactics to better communicate with the public. Eric Sanford suggested attending community meetings to help provide a platform for people to ask questions. He said, it's important for the public to understand that members of the RAC are available to hear their concerns outside of public comments. Wally White thought there would be general support for education on the issues, because trust between the agencies and the public is a serious concern. Connie Clementson suggested meeting to determine priorities. Lori Armstrong suggested hosting information meetings with outside partners. Connie Clementson, Wally White, Eric Sanford and Ernie Williams will convene to determine the scope of the project. Lori Armstrong will suggest this topic for a statewide RAC agenda item.

Tres Rios RMP Update

See PowerPoint Presentation

Question & Answer

Mary Monroe-Brown asked if the zip line on BLM land near Silverton would have an effect on traffic. Connie Clementson said it would probably not as it ties into the Mayflower Mill tour.

Wally White asked if the City of Durango has expressed interest in the Grandview Ridge project. Connie Clementson said the City has asked the BLM to put the project on hold.

Mary Monroe-Brown mentioned Trails 2000 has a trail proposal that goes around the Perins Peak area (an area that is in the RMP for disposal).

Marietta Eaton said they are working with KinderMorgan to do develop geographic area plans. The goal is to work with them informally prior to proposals. Currently, they are working on a raptor analysis. This should shorten the analysis process in the future.

Ernie Williams also thanked the BLM for working with Dolores County.

Deborah Gangloff said she appreciated the morning session where the RAC developed priorities for the upcoming year.

Upcoming Meetings and Field Trips

- Feb. 6-7: Montrose (locations & date tentative)
- May 15-16: Gunnison (locations & date tentative)
- Aug. 14-15: Silverton/Durango (locations & date tentative)
- RAC Nominations

Adjournment

John Reams moved to adjourn the meeting. Renzo DelPiccolo seconded the motion. The motion carried.