

# PAWG SOCIOECONOMIC TASK GROUP

Nov. 9, 2005

**Members present:** Jeff Jacquet (ex officio member), Roy Allen (on speakerphone), Carmel Kail, Annette Pepin, Laurie Latta, Dana Ward, Mary Byrnes, Randy Johnson, and Jana Weber.

**Members Absent:** Marilyn Filkins, Steve Reynolds, Judi Adler, Eric Sechrist, Diana Hoff, Tom Burns, Cyd Goodrich

**Visitors:** Colin Carrier, Kathy Pompy

**Meeting held:** Big Piney Library, 1:00-5:15 p.m.

**Minutes taken by:** Jana Weber. Revised by Jeffrey Jacquet (11/15/05).

Minutes from the Oct.12 meeting were approved. The group set the next TG meeting for Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 1:00 p.m. The big meeting room at the library has been reserved.

Jeff gave a housing survey update. Drop boxes have been set in several places; he was not sure as to their effectiveness. The number of surveys out and the number coming back are uncertain at this time. It was indicated that it would possibly be mid December when we would have results. Jeff discussed the efficacy of having someone on site during a shift change to get more surveys.

The TG's rig forecast request letter was discussed. PAWG forwarded this draft letter and recommendation to BLM at their last meeting, but BLM has not yet officially responded. BLM (Mike Stiewig) recently indicated to Carmel that the PFO manager's initial reaction was not inclined to implement our recommendation, but noted that this is not a final or official response. Roy indicated that he had spoken to Prill Mecham and Bob Bennett and that the letter would be discussed at the next BLM management meeting. It was not clear who would respond to the PAWG recommendations or when.

The quality of life survey was discussed and revised question by question. A consensus was reached by all present, and it was agreed that Jana Weber would send a copy by e-mail to the TG for final revision and comment.

Kathy Pompy attended the meeting briefly to discuss the compilation of responses to the quality of life Survey; she has agreed to oversee this data compilation as part of her government classes at Big Piney High School. Jeff offered to visit her classes and help facilitate the compilation.

Possible future activities for the TG were brainstormed independently and then put forth for group review and discussion. The ideas were then discussed and broken down into three groups: 1) bad ideas, 2) good ideas that the SETG should explore, and 3) good ideas that are likely outside the realm/authority of SETG.

The latter two groups are as follows:

Good Ideas the SETG Should Explore (in no particular order):

- Encourage industry-wide support for volunteerism outside the gas field (i.e. EMS, Firefighting, etc)
- Publish/distribute collected data trends and analysis, including a website
- Alternative Energy Fair/Community Education: what role individuals can play in reduction of air pollution, energy efficiency, etc.
- Guest editorials to local papers; Monthly news article using collected statistics; Public informational meetings on SETG; community forums to find out what matters to community
- Sponsor an affordable housing forum/Workshop

- Encourage a gas industry-based housing mitigation strategy and investigate better ways to house rotational/short-term gas workers.
- Encourage a consistent, industry-wide standard for drug testing/"zero tolerance" practices. Promote a "zero tolerance" campaign, including drugs/drug testing workshops.
- Widely distribute aerial photos of Sublette County, including Jonah/PAPA, and Rural Sprawl.
- Collect and regularly publish air/water quality stats.
- Encourage industry worker training programs to keep up with technological advances.
- Create PR around the Quality of Life survey and what can be done with the results
- Encourage or Sponsor Hazmat/Fire/Emergency training workshops for gas workers
- Encourage community discussion of planning and zoning matters.

Good Ideas likely outside the realm/authority of SETG (in no particular order):

- Encourage use of excess county funds to upgrade roads/rural divisions/rural infrastructure.
- Help in recruiting foster homes
- Create and promote knowledge of town/city/county history.
- Create community culture activities. (ie. Art classes, cowboy poetry festival, drama, etc).
- Create an Arts Center to house such activities.
- Explore building or developing a community center to house human/social services and to provide services to youth and families. Including mental health and substance abuse treatment. Help in recruitment of the administration, specialists, and skilled workers needed to run such a facility. "One-stop" facility could cut costs associated with separate programs.
- Lobby (or otherwise contact) legislators on public policy issues, redirect of revenues to towns, DEQ regional office, Job service, Drug Treatment, etc.
- Investigate economic diversity incentives in the county, info-packets/workshop on how to obtain WYO economic dev. dollars and small-business grants and loans.
- Help Sponsor National EMS month.
- Sponsor a Boys and Girls club.

It was decided that the brainstormed ideas should be further organized, discussed, and prioritized at a future time.

It was discussed that the good ideas likely outside the realm of SETG could be passed on to the Community Oversight Committee for their consideration. Roy, Colin, and Jeff discussed the desirability of the Community Oversight Committee and the SETG to be kept abreast of each other's activities and to work together when warranted. Jeff said he will attempt to facilitate conversation between the groups.

It was discussed whether the SETG is allowed to formally lobby legislators as a group. Carmel said she did not think so, while Roy said he didn't see why not. Carmel said she will investigate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Certified as accurate: \_\_\_\_\_