

## Pinedale Anticline Working Group

**APPROVED**

Meeting Minutes

1:00 PM • Thursday • May 7, 2009

Trappers Point Conference Room  
Pinedale Field Office  
1625 West Pine  
Pinedale, Wyoming

### In Attendance

#### PAWG Members

In person: Scott Smith (State of Wyoming), Nylla Kunard (Town of Pinedale), Paul Hagenstein (Livestock Operators), Cathy Purves (Chair/Environmental). Absent: Bart Myers (Sublette County), Kevin Williams (Questar), Jackson Schwabacher (Landowner), Chris Corlis (Public).

#### PAWG Task Group Members

Jocelyn Moore (Water Resources), Clint Gilchrist (BLM, Cultural), Bill Wadsworth (BLM, Transportation), DeeJ Brown (BLM, Reclamation), Charles Bragg (Air Quality), Richard Kail (Transportation).

#### BLM

Shelley Gregory (DFO), Kyle Schumacher (NRS), Merry Gamper (Sup. NRS).

#### Public

Sandy Wise (Shell), Tony Gosar (CC), Sid Johnson (Trout Unlimited).

#### Press

Derek Farr (Sublette Examiner)

1

### Meeting Minutes

#### Distributed Documents

Agenda

March 26 Meeting Minutes

Guidelines for PAWG and Task Groups

Summary of Prior PAWG Recommendations

#### Task Group Handouts

Cultural/Historic Recommendations

Transportation Recommendations

Water Resources (Revised) Recommendations

#### Approval of the minutes

**Nylla Kunard motioned to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2009 PAWG meeting. Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### Public Comment

The meeting was opened for public comment; there were no comments.

### Task Group Updates

#### Transportation

Richard Kail presented the unanimous Transportation Task Group recommendation that Corten steel to be used as the steel pole type for the Paradise 230kV Transmission Project.

**Paul Hagenstein motioned to forward the recommendation for using Corten poles. Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

The TG also recommended that BLM Preferred Alternative 3 be the route of choice for the transmission line with the exception of Segment 6. The Transportation Task Group recommended Alternative 1 for Segment 6, which does not follow State Highway 191 and instead parallels the North Jonah Road. The rationale was that Alternative 1 would place the transmission line in closer proximity to eventual distribution points and avoid longer distribution lines. This TG recommendation for Segment 6 was not made with consensus due to the Game & Fish representative on the TG preferring Alternative 3 (6A and 6B) for Segment 6 which would follow the SH 191 corridor and avoid proximity to sage grouse leks and raptors. Scott Smith concurred with the G&F TG opinion. Bill Wadsworth explained the difference between transmission and distribution lines, namely the amount of power carried by each (69kV and above is transmission, 25kV and below is distribution) and the resultant power pole/tower size necessary. He also clarified that burying any line would add additional expense to any project and result in more surface disturbance. After extensive PAWG discussion, Segments 1B, 2, 3, 4B, 5, 6A and 6B, and 7 (Alternative 3) were accepted by the PAWG with reservations on Segments 6A and 6B by Paul Hagenstein in regards to how future need for distribution lines from the transmission line along SH 191 would result in even more disturbance.

**Paul Hagenstein motion to forward the recommendations for segments 1 – 5 and 7. Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Nylla Kunard motioned to decline the recommendation for segment 6 and accept the task group minority recommendation for routes 6A and 6B. Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed with Paul Hagenstein dissenting.**

## **Cultural**

Clint Gilchrist presented the Cultural Task Group recommendations. From the perspective of the Lander Trail, all the alternatives proposed for the Paradise 230kV have equal impact with some minor differences. There are several side branches of the Lander Trail that have never been studied, marked, or defined. It's time to start documenting the side branches so that they can be considered and significance determined. As a part of the mitigation package, document these side branches so that we can have a better knowledge base on future projects. Dave Vlcek clarified that the recommendation was not so much off-site mitigation as it is a delineation of what impacts might be on undocumented trail variances.

**Paul Hagenstein motioned to forward the Paradise 230kV recommendation to mitigate visual impacts to the Lander Trail by studying, inventorying, and documenting side branches. Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

There are archaeological and cultural sites that aren't directly impacted by oil and gas development but because of increases in activity and people, some sites are seeing more impacts. Right now, there is just anecdotal evidence; we need to establish a baseline of data by visiting and documenting these sites and their conditions. We've tried to do this with volunteers but the data is irregular and ineffective. We're recommending that the BLM do systematic monitoring of sites that may be impacted with professionals. This will likely be BLM staff or contractors.

**Paul Hagenstein motioned to forward the recommendation (as modified) for BLM staff or contractors to systematically identify and monitor indirect impacts to sites. Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Air Quality**

The group is reviewing its last primary document, the 2005 Air Quality Monitoring Report, and will determine its next steps when that review is finished.

## **Water Resources**

Jocelyn Moore presented the revised recommendation summary from March 17, 2009. Recommendation #4 was removed since it was erroneously included as a recommendation from the TG when it was a PAWG recommendation to the BLM in October 2008.

## **Reclamation**

Deej Brown updated the PAWG on the monitoring plan. An ID Team is in place. In the next six weeks or so, a draft will be circulated in the office for comments and review. A database of past, present, and future practices is being worked

on so that the public will be able to access information. A lot of comments from the reclamation symposium will be incorporated into the monitoring plan.

## **Public Comment**

The meeting was opened for public comment; there were no comments.

## **SEIS ROD Implementation**

### **Pinedale Anticline Project Office**

*Prepared handout was distributed to the PAWG and reviewed.*

### **Working Relationship Between PAPO and PAWG**

*Prepared handout was distributed to the PAWG and reviewed.*

### **Liquids Gathering System**

Ultra is starting construction on the north LGS this week. SWEPI should start construction on the Central and North Part I next week.

## **Recommendation Response**

In the future, all PAWG recommendations will be summarized for Chuck Otto, Chuck will respond to each individually, the responses will be presented in writing at the next PAWG meeting, and then each recommendation and response will be posted on the web. *BLM responses to previous PAWG recommendations were presented.*

## **Other Topics**

### **Invitation to Secretary Salazar**

The dates of July 23 or 24, or August 3, 4, 6, or 7, 2009 were agreed upon as potential dates for the PAWG Annual Tour. Cathy Purves and Shelley Gregory will pursue inviting Secretary Salazar on the tour.

### **Timeline for Annual Reports**

A potential timeline for task group annual reports was presented. May: Wildlife, Cultural, Socioeconomic; July: Transportation; September: Air, Reclamation; October: Ground and Surface Water. A reminder to the task groups will be sent.

### **Nominations**

BLM has received two nominations for the public-at-large position, Gary Rees and Stephanie Kessler. BLM is in the process of making a decision on who to recommend and then must prepare the nomination packet for the state office and Secretary of Interior. Nylla Kunard pointed out that the PAWG has better luck with members who are local. Paul Hagenstein opined that Gary Rees would be a good man to have because he knows the area and also knows gas and ranching.

### **Guidelines**

Minor changes to PAWG and TG duties were made.

**Scott Smith motioned to approve the PAWG and Task Group guidelines (as modified). Nylla Kunard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Public-at-Large Nominations**

## **Public Comment**

The meeting was opened for public comment; there were no comments.

### **Adjournment**

**Scott Smith motioned to adjourn. Nylla Kunard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.

The next meeting will be July 23, 1:00 pm, in the Pinedale Field Office.

### **Action Items**

- General reminder to all task groups on annual report schedule
- Upcoming Transportation Task Group Annual Report
- Shelley and Cathy to work on invitation letter to Sec. Salazar