

Study Group
February 13, 2008
Land Use Office

Those present included: Ted Collins, Ken Lipton, Lynn Connaughton, Sarah Coulter, Don Batchelder, John Clark, Doug Canright, Keith Meinert, Craig Fetterolf, Heidi Albritton, Rene Tegtmeier, Connie Hunt, Sheelagh Williams, Mark Castrodale, Chris Pike

Meeting was called to order at 9:38am.

Keith convened the meeting and clarified which members were still involved. Both Mike Baker and Dick Allison have indicated that they will not participate. Craig Fetterolf will follow up with Bill Fugazzi to see if he still plans to participate. Alan Staehle was absent but has indicated that he plans to attend. Keith questioned whether or not we had adequate representation from the various sectors of the County. Don suggested that the BOCC contact the Ouray City Council to invite additional participation from Ouray. The group felt that the mesa was adequately represented even without Dick Allison, no further action was taken.

The second item of discussion was the issue of who would chair the study group. Don indicated that the resolution drafted by the BOCC asked for a chair, and Keith encouraged the group to discuss how this would work. The BOCC clarified that they will do their best to attend the meetings of the study group, and at the very least will commit to rotating their attendance among the 3 of them. The group voiced the opinion that having members of the BOCC present is useful to the process, and that they were in favor of their attendance. Ken Lipton volunteered to chair the group, and the group supported this. Ken suggested having a vice-chair. John Clark offered to vice chair, and the group agreed.

Keith asked that since the basic organization was now complete, that the new chair could now carrying on with the business of the meeting. Don suggested that this would be a good opportunity for any questions from the group to the BOCC in terms of the goals and deliverables listed in Resolution #2007-019. Ken agreed.

Beginning with "Study Team Goals" – The goals indicates a desire for a synopsis what the two studies indicate for the County presently and in the future. The BOCC wished that this synopsis should be based on several themes including Finances, Land Use and the interaction of Finances and Land Use. Ken suggested that shortcomings of the study should also be taken into consideration during this evaluation. Rene stressed that these goals are worded more as themes, and could be specified. He viewed the goal as an identification of the issues inherent in these two studies, and that the group could be more specific in its analysis. Keith noted that it is not defined in terms of the extent of personal views or criticism that the BOCC was looking for from the group. He noted that the BOCC did indeed want that element to be present in the discussions and deliverables. Craig asked if under goal #2, an item 'd' could be added to include 'modifications, deficiencies or additions to the study' to accommodate an update to the studies. Heidi mentioned the issue of the mining claims in terms of the Theobald study, and while this would be a lengthy addition, it is something that at the time of the study was not believed

to be a relevant item. Now however, it is extremely relevant. Rene also noted deficiencies in the RPI study that may need to be addressed.

The group agreed to follow the BOCC's recommendation of the 3 themes of analysis – finances, land use and the interaction of the two. Ken felt that any deficiencies should be addressed in the deliverables. Lynn C. is willing to use her GIS skills to augment any additional GIS work that may need to be done. She felt that her work would be compatible with what the County would be utilizing. Connie felt that the County's new GIS employee who starts in March would also be a great asset to the process. Doug C. mentioned that he could also help in this regard.

On the deliverables piece. Ken reiterated that all meetings will be public meetings with public notice on the web and via e-mail, Connie will handle these notices. Ken suggested that the group break into 2 subgroups, one for the Theobald and one for the RPI to begin the process of analyzing the two studies. Ted felt that better input would be gathered by keeping the group together, and not breaking down into separate groups. Lynn clarified what was meant by synopsis. Keith felt that because the 2 documents are so lengthy and technical that they were not easily understood by the public. Heidi stressed that the BOCC is truly looking for a philosophical interpretation of what the technical data is indicating for Ouray County and the decision-making process. The BOCC would like for the public and the officials to have a working document that allows an easier connection to the data, and how the implications of the data will realistically impact policy decisions in Ouray county. The issue of separating the group was discussed, and most felt that it would be beneficial to keep the group intact in order to benefit from the talent in the group, and to allow for a better melding of the two studies. Ken withdrew his suggestion, and the group will tackle the two studies jointly..

Ken suggested setting definite meeting dates, possibly weekly in order to get this done. Ted suggested meeting every other week. Lynn has a tough time meeting during the day because of her work schedule. Craig felt that choosing a time that would allow for the public to attend would be beneficial. Heidi stressed that the group should focus on finding a time that works for the group members right now, and that later in the process we can schedule some larger scale public meetings later in the evening to garner more public attendance.

Starting the 3rd Wednesday of February (the 20th) the group will begin meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 4pm at the Land Use Office. Ken will try to keep the meetings to 1 ½ hours or 2 hours.

Ken suggested that the group offers a chance for public participation at the beginning of the meeting. Sarah asked for clarification as to what needs to be done by next week. Ken suggested that members do their homework, and commit to reading the studies and coming prepared to discuss the studies. Sarah and Lynn suggested focusing on one study and then moving to the other. Craig agreed that emphasis should be placed on one or the other. Ted suggested that the group should also go through the Master Plan, so as to incorporate the work into the #3 goal of the resolution, which asks for the document to be utilized as the underlying measure for the synopsis. Lynn has offered to provide CD ROMs for everyone that would include the studies and maps. Connie also mentioned that the Master Plan is available on the website. Connie will make sure that the executive summaries are available on the County's website with links to Theobald's site to access the maps. Keith suggested that the group should outline where the

information will be available by the public. Lynn offered to put together a website that could include any and all information to be accessible to the public in order that people can keep up with the process.

In terms of an estimate of length of time, the BOCC does not have a specific timeframe in mind, other than stressing the idea that there should be an ending, and an expectation of deliverables. 6 months was an agreed-upon timeframe that seems reasonable, but could vary depending upon scheduling issues. Ideally sometime in August would be plan A, but the group acknowledges that summer will be a challenge for scheduling, and the timeframe may extend into fall. John felt that September is a good month to host the forums to present the final product. Ken also would like to hold a forum of some sort in the middle of the process as well, but agreed that September would be a good month for a final presentation forum. Don asked for the group to keep in mind what extent staff would be needed for these meetings. Heidi will be taking minutes and should be able to do so most of the time. There will be a few occasions where she will be unavailable, and she will work with Connie to make sure this duty is covered. It was agreed that Land Use should be represented at each meeting. Rene asked that the Assessor's office be present from time to time, potentially the Treasurer and Admin, as well as the GIS tech should also be available to the group. Don asked that the group be aware of overloading staff, and it was agreed that the group would communicate its needs as far ahead of time as possible, and that the County would make sure it provides the level of staffing for the meetings as much as reasonably possible.

Sarah clarified that the group would start with the Theobald, and the Master Plan for the next meeting. The Master Plan is an adopted document that will be referred to throughout the process, however if there are areas noted for improvement in the Master Plan, the minutes will reflect that input. The goal of these meetings is in no way to reinterpret or revisit the master plan, however if productive input on the Plan comes as a result of the discussion, this input will be taken into consideration in any future discussions. Connie stressed the need to keep some sort of 'ground rules' in effect, to respect others' opinions in order that the process stay on track and remain functional. Connie offered to bring some guidelines to the next meeting for the group to look at and discuss. Don suggested using the one previously used for the Road and Bridge Committee. In the event that there is disagreement among the group in terms of the final decisions, the group agrees that there will be opportunity for a "minority report" that should be presented to the group before being sent to the public.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 10:48.