

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 10:00 AM to Noon
Jonah Interagency Mitigation and Reclamation Office (JIO)
JIO Agency Managers Committee Meeting
Held at Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pinedale Field Office
1625 West Pine Street, Pinedale, Wyoming
Rendezvous Conference Room
(Please contact John MacDonald, 307-367-5386, for information)

10:30 AM -- Welcome and Introductions

BOARD: John Corra (DEQ Director), Steve Ferrell (WYGF Director), Jason Fearneyhough (WY Dept Ag Director), Don Simpson (BLM Director), Joel Bousman (Sublette County Commissioner)

STAFF: Jim Lucas, John MacDonald, John Ruhs, Brian Davis, Sheila Keating, Molly Keating, Cara Farr, Teresa Gulbrandson, Rob Schweitzer, Deej Brown, Dan Stroud, WGFD/JIO Therese Hartman, WGFD/JIO; Jennifer Frazier, DEQ/JIO; Lorraine Keith

PUBLIC Scott Smith, WGFD; Steff Kessler, TWS; Sandy Wise, Shell; Renee Seidler, WCS; Pete Guernsey, QEP; Luke Lynch, Conservation Fund; Steve Belinda, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; Teresa Hetrick, Shell; Linda Baker, UGRA; C.J. Schinewer, public; Tom Curry, public

MINUTES OF JIO Committee Meeting of March 15, 2010: review and approval of meeting Minutes (Packet Tab "A")

Don Simpson moved, Jason Fearneyhough second, no discussion, approved unanimously

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS REQUESTED RE THE AGENDA:

- there were none from those present
- John Corra added the following items to the agenda, placed following budget summary:
 - × Wyoming DEQ funding for staff position
 - × Wyoming Department of Ag open staff position

JIO UPDATED BUDGET SUMMARY & LIST OF DISBURSEMENTS: presentation by Sheila Keating, BLM Budget Analyst (Packet Tab "B")

- Tom Thorne & Sage Grouse Working Group contributions dollars no longer available for future projects. The amount of \$133,875 is committed under the JIO Focus Area Inventory Project
- list of disbursements are now included as requested; x's indicate paid by the escrow agent; to be shown on a monthly basis/meeting-to-meeting changes.
- escrow agent paid amount will be indicated in the next budget report with a column header

DEQ STAFF FUNDING

- reviewed previous decisions re staff funding
- 2 miscalculations: at time of commitment, employee cost factors were not included, nor were pay increases/adjustments
 - * \$80,000 original vs. \$115,000 current, which makes \$575,000 the new total for DEQ employee costs, including:
 - ✓ vehicle charges incurred by the initial set up include: original vehicle cost (\$30k) plus \$10k annual replacement cost
 - ✓ supplies & equipment \$10k; travel \$4k, telecom & misc \$4k per year
 - * Dept Ag costs will be the same
- Steve Ferrell with Board concurrence: instructed Staff to do a review of the annual JIO/PAPO budgets for the Board at the next meeting, showing:
 - one year actual staff costs and a 5 year estimate
 - * percentage of employee costs each to JIO and PAPO, to help transition staff between the two groups
 - * salaries/expenses paid through each of the JIO/PAPO budgets

REFILLING THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AG POSITION

Board concurred: Jason Fearneyhough should proceed to fill the position and the Board pays for those costs

JIO PROJECT STATUS TABLE: presentation by Jim Lucas, JIO Coordinator (Packet Tab "C")

per Tab C update shown on screen/on website, call for questions from the board:

- Cottonwood Ranches easement has been approved (combined conservation plan which includes all phases):
 - * John Corra: this project is a perfect example of why all conservation plans associated with easements are now to be reviewed by the Board for approval prior to funding
 - * Joel Bousman: There will be a need to track these conservation plans after JIO goes away; Jim Lucas: conservation plans are to be the living document to do that

- * Don Simpson: track with a tally sheet of what needs long term monitoring and incorporate into the Project Status Table or on a separate page

MONTHLY REPORT FOR AIR QUALITY PROJECTS (March 2010): presentation by Jennifer Frazier, JIO Staff, Principal Engineer with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), Air Quality Division (Packet Tab "D")

SEE 'DEQ MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2010'

- Re: High Meadow Ranch Property Owners Inc
 - * DEQ offered a District Engineer to assist HMRPO in selecting the contractor to ensure fairness, transparency, and legitimacy in the process
 - * March 15 minutes show: \$324k onetime payment to High Meadow Ranch Property Owners Inc, which is one time funding for mag chloride treatment of 7.2 miles of roads for dust mitigation
 - * Funds only to be paid to contractor when work is completed and only for amount of actual cost
 - * \$62,680 remains of the \$1.5 million earmarked for air quality mitigation projects

Board concurred: include in future motions the 'up to' concept.. I.e. Up to x miles for up to x dollars

AIR QUALITY, WOOD STOVE CHANGE-OUT PROGRAM – Phase II Funding Application: memorandum by Jennifer Frazier, WDEQ (Packet Tab "E")

- review of project, process, lessons learned, and final product as shown on Packet Tab E
- Sublette County Chamber of Commerce is the sponsor
- 100 homes will receive the change out resulting in considerable air quality improvement
- answer to Don Simpson query: No critical comments heard, nor received from public/private entities re the program
- Joel Bousman: could potentially achieve more local economic positive impact by slowing program pace and using in-county vendors, although no one can be forced to use local vendors. Board is providing \$7200 for project management

Steve Ferrell motion: re the motion in the packet, add 'up to' in front of each of dollar amount, and that wording be included in all future projects. Jason Fearneyhough seconded. Discussion: documentation to be provided regarding what pollution will be taken out with this proposal. Unanimous vote to approve the Wood Stove Change-Out Program

BREAK

PROPOSED GIS DATABASE STEWARD/GIS SPECIALIST POSITION for JIO and Pinedale Anticline Project Office (PAPO) Staff: memorandum from Jim Lucas, JIO/PAPO Coordinator (Packet Tab "F")

- Lucas summary of issue:
 - * have reached a GIS data accumulation sufficient to require hiring one position w/dual role, to be able to manage the data and transfer to the BLM and other agencies accordingly
 - * position would be multi-year, would train JIO/PAPO staff; could be permanent or temporary employee, contract, state or federal employee
- Data consists of:
 - * a variety of information, accumulated from tracking, analysis, etc by various agencies, which needs to be turned into a 'language' which can be used by BLM for planning purposes
 - * includes specific results information about wildlife, reclamation and other on-going activities developed by the projects
 - * needs to be properly incorporated into the BLM culture to accurately reflect true results
 - * outcome will improve public and agencies' ability to read and use the data
 - * first year work would be highly demanding; once completed would be less intense but requiring constant maintenance
- Cost research shows:
 - * contract employee costs: \$80 per hour
 - * federal permanent employee @ GS 9-11: up to \$72k year
 - * state permanent employee costs: \$30/hour equaling \$62,400 salary, plus fringe benefits [Board concurred this figure is too low for the market]
 - * overhead is not included in above costs
 - * USGS recommends the data manager be housed in Pinedale with daily staff contact
 - * BLM Pinedale office currently has no staff to do this
 - * barriers to hiring someone: salary, location, length of term of employment
- Discussion:
 - * Steve Ferrell: Board needs to make a decision, has been talking about this for a year; BLM has no one available; USGS doesn't want to do it; a contractor is twice as expensive as a federal employee; the state is in a hiring freeze
 - * Don Simpson: BLM can take on the position and use a student, incorporating WLCI team expertise, etc..

Don Simpson motion: BLM take on the task of hiring someone for up to \$100k/year for 4 years, housed in Pinedale or Rock Springs, then reevaluate in 4 years. Steve Ferrell 2nd. Discussion: Job consists of taking accumulated data and turning it into useful, universal GIS format which can be utilized by public, private, and agency entities, and maintaining that data for a period of 4 years. Will build layers of data, not get into DEQ air quality data. Board approved unanimously. NOTE: BLM is working on a position description.

MUSEUM OF THE MOUNTAIN MAN Jonah Artifact Exhibit Project: presentation and update by Robert Schweitzer, Archaeologist, BLM Mitigation Team

[SEE TEXT OF MMM PRESENTATION](#) PowerPoint presentation on file JIO/PAPO office

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Steve Belinda:

Requested status update per the requirement (as stated in the ROD, page A7) to implement habitat evaluation procedures for monitoring impacts to resources and assigning value to the alleviating mitigation actions of those impacts, using HSIs on a 'value for value' basis .

Don Simpson: agreed mitigation tracking and creating an HIS Model is required and is stated in the ROD

Linda Baker: In the spirit of the morning's discussion regarding accumulation of information about projects and results, and putting it in a useful form for participants and public understanding, she presented some recommendations for the Board's consideration.

[SEE 'BAKER RECOMMENDATIONS'](#)

for the record: on 4.30.2010 Ms. Baker sent JIO a revised version of her original recommendations (original recommendation and April 30 letter on file in JIO)

SUMMARY AND WRAP-UP

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- update from staff re their evaluation of comments from Mr. Belinda and Linda Baker
- budget, Annual Budget request by agency
- GIS position update

Steve Ferrell moved to adjourn; 2nd by Jason Fearneyhough; Discussion: setting a schedule for the next meeting dates to be deferred to PAPO meeting; unanimously adjourned.

12:15 PM -- ADJOURNMENT

12:15 TO 12:45 PM – COMMITTEE MEMBER LUNCH in Rendezvous Conference Room prior to beginning of PAPO Committee/Board Meeting (no official business to be conducted)