

**Jonah Interagency Mitigation and Reclamation Office (JIO)
Managers Committee Meeting
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2010
10:00 a.m.
BLM Pinedale Office**

ATTENDING:

BOARD: Chairman John Corra, Director WDEQ; Don Simpson, State Director BLM; Steve Ferrell, Director WGFD; Joel Bousman, Sublette County Commissioner; Absent: Jason Fearynhough, Director WDA

STAFF: John MacDonald, BLM JIO/PAPO Office Coordinator; John Ruhs, BLM High Desert District Manager; Nancy Baker, BLM Pinedale Acting Field Manager; Deej Brown BLM JIO/PAPO Reclamation Specialist; Therese Hartman, PAPO/WGFD Wildlife Biologist; Cara Farr, BLM JIO/PAPO Range Specialist; Jennifer Fraizer, JIO/DEQ-AQD Engineer/Inspector; Dan Stroud, JIO/WGFD Wildlife Biologist; Molly Keating, BLM Budget Tech; Sheila Keating, BLM HDD Management Analyst; Rob Schweitzer, BLM PAPO Archeologist

PUBLIC: Luke Lynch, The Conservation Fund; Art Reece USQ; Margaret Spearman, USQ; Diane Casich, The Wilderness Society; Bernard Holtz, WGFD; Scott Smith, WGFD; Nicole Thiele, Aster Canyon; Jordan Vana, GRVLT; Clint Gilcrest; Linda Baker, UGRA; Belinda Salinas, Ultra

10:20 Welcome and Opening Remarks: Board Chairman
No opening remarks; public was asked to and identify themselves

Review and approval of April 21 Board meeting minutes
Steve Ferrell moved, Don Simpson seconded; unanimous approval

Air Quality Project Update: Jennifer Frazier, DEQ-AQ Specialist
[SEE JULY 2010 AQ REPORT HANDOUT](#): an update of the status of the air quality projects was presented

Discussion:

John Corra: re EPA Diesel Fund: is there more money available to apply for?

Jennifer Frazier: no

Project Status: Cara Farr, JIO/PAPO Range Specialist:

- New Fork-East Fork Confluence Boat Ramp: FONSI/ROD signed June 22, 2010; to start construction this fall
- Boulder Lake Campground: FONSI/ROD signed July 12; to start this fall
- Noble Cora Peak: FONSI/ROD signed July 22, 2010; finalized NEPA last week; similar to Trappers Point water source development for wildlife; construction to begin this fall
 - ✓ In order to comply with sage-grouse core area requirements, wells were moved outside the buffer zone and higher up on the hill, requiring them to be drilled deeper than planned
 - ✓ This will cost \$60K more; doubling the cost to \$121,540
 - ✓ Board would need to approve during today's meeting or the project is stopped
 - ✓ John Corra: reasonable overrun
 - ✓ Don Simpson in agreement
 - ✓ Motion by Steve Ferrell, seconded by Don Simpson with caveat to limit the project at \$121,540 as presented
 - ✓ Unanimous approval

JIO Budget: Sheila Keating, BLM Management Analyst and John MacDonald, Project Coordinator
Public in attendance have copies of budget: [SEE JIO BUDGET SPREADSHEET HANDOUT](#)

John Corra: now that Sheila Keating and John MacDonald are engaged in the process, the Board is able to see an appropriate accounting of the budget; what the public has is what the Board has settled on as the approved budget accounting process and the budget as it currently stands

John MacDonald presentation:

- As tasked by the Board in the last meeting, they created 1-year and 5-year budgets showing obligated projects while breaking out and showing the administrative costs of each
- In the report:
 - ✓ 2nd page of Budget Spreadsheet: administrative costs are shown for 2010 and 2011-2015:
 - Their process determined how much it cost to run the JIO office on an annual basis and carried that out for five years
 - Shows what each agency is charging to the JIO; total charges for 2010 are \$486,000; carrying out for 5 years gives an indication that the 5-year need would be a total of \$2.663,000
 - ✓ 1st page: shows project costs by subtracting the 5-year-administrative costs from total funds available
 - Leaves \$2,400,000 left to do projects over the remaining life of the office
 - The final EnCana payment when it comes in won't add to that bottom line as it has already been recognized as available for future expenditures
 - \$1.84M interest is included in the \$2.4M; the Board agreed to apportion the interest back to projects in the same ratio as initial funding was allocated, i.e., @ 2/3 for wildlife, 1/3 for other viable projects

Discussion:

- Don Simpson suggestion: review the 5-year projection to identify the declining costs of the projects, e.g., staffing costs, as they reach monitoring status or end of project; add that information into the next budget report to give the Board an indication of the true life of the JIO office and when/how the remainder of the funds are to be spent
- Steve Ferrell: this is a logical and needed next step: staff needs to provide a breakout of administrative costs and project costs for each project so John MacDonald can then inform the Board, allowing them to prepare for future decisions and budget allocations
- John MacDonald also noted that the last page of the budget lists disbursements made since April 9th; x's indicate disbursements which have been made; those without x's show budget obligations which had not yet been disbursed
- Board expressed appreciation for this new accounting of the budget
- John MacDonald explanation: since last spring's meeting, and until the accounting process was developed and approved as it is now, the project application process has been frozen, resulting in a markedly shorter meeting than usual

Public Comment Period

Art Reece: what happens when JIO money runs out?

Steve Ferrell: by the next meeting the staff, per the earlier discussion, will have an accounting of the projects budget needs so they can understand the true cost of the long-term monitoring requirements; the goal is to understand those costs and adjust the JIO budget accordingly; JIO will either run out of money at a point in time or the remainder will be shifted to the PAPO budget to be included with what is left of its \$2.4M. When this long-term picture is developed then the Board can truly answer Art's question; eventually the budget will decline to zero.

Joel Bousman: any future projects approved for JIO or PAPO will have the administrative and /monitoring costs identified over the life of the project

Don Simpson: JIO was designed to front load the spending and was not designed to last forever; now monitoring is becoming the predominant cost of the projects

Noting the brevity of the meeting to this point, the Chairman asked for other topics or comments. None being raised, he suggested the Board share any new information they might find useful:

John Corra: in regards to Plains Exploration (PXP): the State is engaged with them; their project will be in an air quality nonattainment area in Sublette County; the Forest Service is the federal agency involved; at some point this project will become a new factor in the JIO/PAPO arena regarding air quality

Joel Bousman: re PXP (USFS project): Sublette County was asked to be a cooperator but to date has not been invited to any cooperators meeting; very interested in PXP being held to the same standards of air quality as everyone else

John Corra: DEQ is pressing to have that happen; will check on cooperators meetings

No further business:

Don Simpson moved to adjourn, Steve Ferrell seconded: unanimous approval by the Board

11:55 Adjourn