

**Approved Meeting Minutes for Pinedale Anticline Project Office  
Manager's Committee Meeting  
December 4, 2014 starting at 8 am  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department Headquarters—Elk Room  
5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, Wyoming**

**Attending:** Don Simpson (BLM), Mark Storzer (BLM), Scott Smith (WGFD), Joel Bousman (Sublette County Commissioner), Todd Parfitt (DEQ), Eric Decker (BLM/JIO/PAPO), Darla Potter (DEQ/JIO/PAPO), Walt Loewen (BLM/JIO/PAPO), Kristen Wilkerson (First Interstate Bank), Jason Fearneyhough (WDA), Mary Jo Rugwell (BLM)

**Call In:** Shane DeForest (BLM), John Lund (WGFD), Sherri Meeks (WDA/JIO/PAPO), Jeremy Perkins (BLM/JIO/PAPO), Rob Schwietzer (BLM/JIO/PAPO), Theresa Gulbrandson (BLM/JIO/PAPO), Therese Hartman (WGFD/JIO/PAPO), Dylan Bergman (WGFD/JIO/PAPO), Chris Wichmann (WDA)

**Public Participation:** Kelly Bott (Ultra), Nancy Prosser (Representative, Congressman Cynthia Lummis Office),

**Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda**

- Introductions were made and the Board approved the agenda by unanimous vote.

**Review and approval of 5/29/14 meeting minutes**

- The Board approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

**Agency Update**

- **Darla Potter, (DEQ):**
  - Pre-Winter Ozone DEQ meeting December 9
  - Ozone discussion: Out of 197 inspections, 7 violations were noted.
- **John Lund, (WGFD):** Pass
- **Chris Wichmann, (WDA):** Pass
- **Mark Storzer, (BLM):**
  - Walt Loewen has accepted a new planner position in the State Office.
  - The Board should know that Eric Decker was working two BLM jobs for seven months this past year and I want to thank him for that. Besides his JIO/PAPO duties, Eric was the Acting Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) Coordinator from early January through mid-August.

- **Joel Bousman, (Sublette County Commissioner):** Asked if it was only WGFD that could initiate adaptive management. It was noted that any agency or entity can provide an adaptive management proposal for BLM consideration.

### **Investment Income Overview**

- **Kristen Wilkerson (1<sup>st</sup> Interstate Bank Update)**
  - Kristen provided background information on how annual operator deposits are invested in short-term fairly liquid investments.

### **PAPO Proposed 2015-2020 staff cost projections**

- Eric Decker provided an overview of the assumptions made for the spending plan which included the following: spudded well revenue will average one million/year with drilling generally completed by 2020 or 2021; project funding is based on \$450,000/year starting in 2015; available staffing dollars will be reduced starting in 2016 with Sheila providing the details; and that ROD required wildlife monitoring will continue with the possibility that the BLM will go through the adaptive management process if a proposal is brought forward to reduce any required monitoring.
- Sheila Keating then provided information on the proposed state agency PAPO staff salary allowances through 2020 that included the following: DEQ's inspector salary through June 30, 2020 will not be phased out due to a previous Board decision (total of \$912,500); WGFD salary total through June 30, 2020 will be a total of \$446,822; and WDA salary total through June 30, 2020 will be a total of \$221,283. For BLM staff, there will be a phased reduction for three staff (total of \$602,617) that relate to the database manager, archaeologist and wildlife biologist positions. For the BLM project coordinator position, there will not be a phaseout reduction with a total of \$402,428 available. For the BLM planner position there will be full funding through 2017 then the funding is eliminated starting in 2018.
- Don Simpson reminded the Board and attendees that how the Agencies spend their money for salary is up to them.
- Joel Bousman: After 2020 there will still be on-going mitigation.
- Mark Storzer: BLM will continue to transition funding for staff.
- It was noted that there is a cost overrun authorization up to 20% for projects; authorized by the Board in prior years.
- The Board discussed adding "Not to Exceed" language for projects beginning in 2017.
- It was noted that the Chalk Buttes Project may exceed the initial budget for the project due to the length of time it has taken to proceed.
- A note was made to bring up and remind the public of the JIO Sunset date in 2020.
- Don Simpson: A request was made to inquire on the cost to manage the PAPO funds

### **PAPO Proposed Spending Plan for CY 2015**

- It was noted that the spending plan was not showing staff salary decreases for 2014.
- Concept of 2020 PAPO Salary Reduction scenario approved by the Board with unanimous vote with the caveat the Board may make adjustments as necessary.
- Jason Fearneyhough: Move to approve the 2015 calendar/pay schedule/spending plan; the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

### **Update on PAPO Wildlife Reports**

- Therese Hartman:
  - Wildlife reports for the Pygmy Rabbit/Prairie Dog have been posted online.
  - Greater Sage-Grouse Report has been posted online; Staff reviewing comments and a re-posting of comments is expected in January.
  - Pygmy Rabbit's and Prairie Dog populations are stable; Greater Sage-Grouse posted a -50% decline in the Duke's Triangle Lek; Yellowpoint Lek saw a -36% decline: both lek's hit triggers.
  - Discussion of Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation actions including possible future projects involving guzzlers/windmill conversion/fence marking and/or forb interseeding.
  - Fluctuating Pronghorn populations discussion.
  - Would finish the WGFD report by end of June: Dahlke Report
- **Public Comment:** Kelly Bott: Asked about the two year average figure for peak male attendance in Yellowpoint.

### **PAPO Greater Sage-Grouse Report & Mitigation Actions**

- Theresa Gulbrandson:
  - Discussion of Greater Sage-Grouse overall mitigation actions to address triggers.
  - Overview of current projects, actions and mitigation efforts to address the noted decline in population/triggers.

### **Funded Projects Summary**

- Eric explained the project summary which is posted on the website.
- Joel Bousman: Stated concern about the JIO Chalk Buttes Project and why it has not been completed yet; discussion of issues surrounding the project.
- Staffing turnover was discussed as one reason why some projects take longer than others

### **Adjourn**