

**Approved Meeting Minutes
Pinedale Anticline Project Office
Agency Managers Committee Meeting
December 4, 2015 8:30 am – 10:00 am
Wyoming Game & Fish Department (5400 Bishop Blvd.) in the Elk Room
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

Attending: Scott Talbott, Todd Parfitt, Doug Miyamoto, Joel Bousman, Mary Jo Rugwell, Adam George, Chris Wichmann, Darla Potter, Matthew Brown, Caleb Hiner, Tim Novotny, Sheila Keating, Eric Decker, Cindi Etcheverry, Shayla Shell, Christian Venhuizen, Debbie Stanberry, Kelly Bott, and via teleconference John Lund, Therese Hartman and Angus M. Thuermer

Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda (Scott Talbott, Chairman, Director of the Wyoming Game & Fish Department) Mr. Talbott welcomed all to the meeting, introductions were made and there were no agenda modifications.

Review and approval of the 05/21/15 meeting minutes (action item, Chairperson)
There was a motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Bousman; then a 2nd by Mr. Parfitt that was approved unanimously by the Board.

Department of Environmental Quality update by Darla Potter

Ozone

Ozone monitoring within the UGRB Ozone Nonattainment area shows that we have gone four winters (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) without an ozone exceedance. In addition, EPA published a Proposed Rule on August 27, 2015 that included Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, including that the UGRB attained the ozone air quality standard by the attainment date of July 20, 2015. The proposed determination of attainment does not constitute a redesignation of attainment. Redesignation will require the WDEQ-AQD to meet a number of additional criteria.

The 2016 Winter Ozone Season is coming up for January, February and March. The Air Quality Division (AQD) will once again be doing daily forecasts for January through March to issue winter ozone updates as well as ozone action days. During the winter ozone season regulatory monitoring will continue in addition to monitoring for the Upper Green Winter Ozone Study. The WDEQ-AQD is continuing promotion of the development, and implementation if necessary, of Ozone Contingency Plans (OCPs) for the 2016 winter and encourages all stakeholders to seek additional, innovative solutions to incorporate into this year's OCP to continue to maintain the ozone air quality standard. Development of OCPs is a PAPA SEIS ROD requirement.

October 26, 2015 EPA finalized revisions to the ambient air quality standards for ozone, which will be effective December 28, 2015. The primary and secondary standards were set at 70 ppb with the same form. All ozone sites in Wyoming are attaining based on the 2012-2014 monitoring data. The Governor's recommendations for designations are due by October 1, 2016 and will likely be based on 2013-2015 Monitoring Data.

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality update by Shayla Shell

PAPO DEQ Staffing Updates:

- Jamie Brewer vacated position 11/14.
- PAPO DEQ position was vacant 11/14 to 3/15.
- Shayla Schell in PAPO DEQ position 3/15 to present.

What really helped is that Jamie completed her 2015 assigned inspections before she left.

Pinedale Anticline compliance activities

FY2015 Inspections:

- 55 wellsite inspections were conducted.
- Two (2) Title V facilities: Falcon & Paradise Compressor stations (Enterprise JGG) were inspected.
- Enforcement Actions (NOVs): There were five NOVs issued on the Anticline.

Open communication about field operations and compliance needs with the operators has been helpful.

Planned FY2016 activities include numerous wellsite inspections and seven scheduled Title V facility inspections on the Anticline.

Wyoming Department of Game and Fish update by Eric Decker

Eric spoke for John Lund who mentioned that Dylan Bergman recently resigned from the JIO/PAPO G&F biologist position because he was selected by G&F to go through the G&F Game Warden program. Eric stated that Dylan did a great job and he will be missed. Eric further reported there were numerous applications for Dylan's vacancy and John Lund will begin interviews in early January 2016.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture update by Chris Wichmann

Chris noted the departure of Shari Meeks (Dept. of Ag JIO/PAPO representative) who took a position with the Sublette County Conservation District. Chris mentioned the current state hiring freeze and other factors may make it difficult to replace the position in the short-term. Chris also mentioned that Joe Budd (Senior Policy Analyst with the Dept. of Ag and former JIO/PAPO Ag representative), is available to help the JIO/PAPO in the near-term if there is a need for Ag representation on a given project or task.

Bureau of Land Management update by Adam George

Adam explained that Tim Novotny is currently the Acting Field Manager for the Pinedale Field Office (PFO). Adam went on to say that Caleb Hiner was selected as the new Field Manager for the PFO and his first day on the job is Monday January 11, 2016.

Adam concluded by mentioning Mark Storzer left his District Manager position for a job in Alaska and the new District Manager is Timothy Wakefield who will start his position later this month based in Rock Springs.

PAPO budget update (action item by Sheila Keating)

Last December the Board approved to sunset the office in 2020 and phase-out salaries. At that time additional commitments for salaries and administrative costs were approved and committed for 2016-2020 for another \$1,872,000. Also at that time, we estimated starting in 2014 our deposits would be around \$1 million per year based on a decrease in spudded wells.

However, last year (2014) we received \$1.36 million and this year (2015) we are expected to receive \$1.38 million.

With the expected deposit of \$1.38 million this year, our estimated ending balance for this year after deducting all our commitments through 2020 and expenditures to date is approximately \$1.8 million.

The spending plan for 2016 includes a couple of action items. One item is the request for \$610K for wildlife monitoring which includes a 20% cost overrun allowance for those monitoring projects. The second item is a proposed amount of \$450K for new projects for 2016. If these two items are approved by the Board, we will go into 2016 with an approximate balance of \$788K.

Mr. Miyamoto made a motion to approve the 2016 spending plan as presented by Sheila. There was a second by Ms. Rugwell. The Board approved the motion by a unanimous vote.

Update on Pinedale Anticline wildlife monitoring reports by Eric Decker and Therese Hartman

- The 2014-2015 PAPA sage-grouse report explained there was another mitigation trigger event (4th consecutive year) in the Duke's Triangle area due to the continued loss of one lek in the two lek complex. Noise monitoring at PAPA leks in 2013-2015 indicated there were no noise exceedances above the allowed 49 dba threshold. It was mentioned the current 49 dba threshold may have to be changed due to lower thresholds established in the recently approved BLM Resource Management Plan amendments relating to sage-grouse.
- Mule deer numbers on the Mesa increased 9% compared to the baseline years (2004-05/2005-06 = 2,856). The 2014-15 count was 3,121. There was no mitigation trigger event this year.
- Pronghorn monitoring from January through March 2015 indicates there were 5,347 pronghorn compared to 1,533 in 2010. However, the large numbers of pronghorn may be misleading since the proportion of time spent by pronghorn on the PAPA has decreased over time (but no mitigation trigger event).
- Pygmy rabbit occupancy in both the PAPA and reference area have been slowly increasing since 2011. However, the PAPA had a lower overall occupancy compared to the reference area (48% compared to 61% respectively) from 2011 through 2015 but no mitigation trigger event.

- Prairie dog numbers within the development areas (Core) declined from 2011 to 2013, increased dramatically in 2014, then decreased in 2015 but no mitigation trigger event.

In summary, there was one mitigation trigger event for the five species which leads into the next discussion topic which includes a discussion of the mitigation actions taken on the PAPA to address the sage-grouse trigger event in the Duke's Triangle complex area.

Update on the PAPO Greater Sage-Grouse Report & mitigation actions by Eric Decker

Eric mentioned the report is still in draft form and one more meeting may need to be coordinated by Theresa Gulbrandson to address winter concentration areas in the report. A summary of the report is included as a handout for Board members and on the next page of the same handout is a summary of sage-grouse mitigation projects that have been implemented since 2013. These projects include: installation of two water guzzlers to provide additional water sources for the grouse and other wildlife; a pilot project that relates to the installation of "flushing bars" on the front of tractors during haying operation to minimize sage-grouse mortality; continued efforts to mark priority fences near leks with sage-grouse markers to minimize mortality of sage-grouse due to fence strikes; working with industry to implement noise mitigation near active leks; a weed inventory and treatment to improve sage-grouse habitat; and a pilot project in the Duke's Triangle area using sage-grouse decoys in mowed sagebrush areas to help replicate a new lek. Besides the decoys, recorded sage-grouse mating sounds are vocalized in the area. To date, this new project has attracted a number of sage-grouse. The project has great promise and Eric thanked Therese Hartman and Theresa Gulbrandson on their innovative sage-grouse work.

Scott Talbot also thanked all those involved in sage-grouse mitigation efforts and encouraged continued on-going efforts.

Funded projects summary by Eric Decker

Eric referred to the seven page project summary handout that was made part of the Board packet. Eric also mentioned the summary document is posted on the PAPO website. Eric provided information on following projects: aforementioned sage-grouse mitigation; Boulder Lake Campground maintenance (now completed), Muleshoe Bend Water Enhancement (landowner may pursue additional funding for the water pivot project), PAPA weed inventory & treatment (500 acres treated), Mesa Fence modification (project completed), Sublette Mule Deer EA (currently under final review), Mesa Fertilization project (summary will be posted on the website with the final report) and the Chalk Buttes water improvement project (EA completed and signed with no appeals and the water well is scheduled for drilling in 2016).

JIO/PAPO Operating Plan (action item) by Eric Decker

Eric explained the Board-approved 2013 version of the Operating Plan was revised by staff to include a number of standard operating procedures relating to fiscal management, project tracking, project file responsibilities and numerous other topics. Eric explained the various expanded sections of the Operating Plan that was also made part of the Board packet.

Mr. Bousman made the recommendation to include one change in the Operating Plan relating to how much time the public has to review documents. The recommendation was to allow the public 30 days to review documents that need public review on the website.

Joel moved to approve the Operating Plan with the one aforementioned change that was seconded by Mr. Parfitt. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Board members thanked the JIO/PAPO staff for the work that went into the revised Operating Plan.

Public Comment by Chairman Scott Talbott

Chairman Talbott asked if there were any public comments on any agenda items.

Kelly Bott provided some comments. She mentioned that sage-grouse projects should continue to be a priority. Kelly also mentioned the JIO/PAPO Team had a tight schedule with a February 1 project deadline with a 30 day public comment period and other steps necessary to complete the Board packet for the May project meeting. Her last comment was a recommendation to have a summary of the Mesa fence project with a map be posted on the website.

Debbie Stanberry had a question on how much money was appropriated by the Board for the Mesa Fertilization project that was not spent and returned back to the general PAPO account. The answer was provided by Chris Wichman which was \$161K.

Proposed next JIO/PAPO Board meetings by Chairman Talbott

The Board agreed the next Board meetings should be in Pinedale on May 24 and 25, 2016.

With no further business, Chairman Talbott adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am.