

## Working Group (WG) Meeting #9 Summary

December 14, 2009  
Durango Recreation Center  
4 – 7:00pm

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### NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA

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January 19

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Durango Recreation Center

#### AGENDA:

- Review comments and revisions to the Plan Goals from the 4 community workshops (summaries from workshops will be sent to the WG on or before January 17).

**Working Group members should attend as many of the 4 workshops as possible and participate in the discussion with the Plan Team to the residents on how the draft goals were originated. See attached flyer with workshop schedule.**

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### SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 16, MEETING

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*Meeting Participants:*

*Staff/Consultants:* Robby Overfield, Tracie Hughes, Julia Stantic, Jason Meininger, Gabe Preston, Charlie Deans

*Working Group:* Jack McGroder, Scott Brinton, Barbara Jefferies, Dick Norton, Wade Moore, Jeanine Justice, Sally Bellerue, Dick White, Roy Horvath, Travis Craig, Brain Kimmel, Jack Llewellyn

#### DISCUSSION:

Review Draft Community Vision, Guiding Principles and Goals based on input from 12.5.09 workshop

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Lively discussion around the “disproportional impact on agricultural lands” with new development.
- Discussion around the role (appropriateness) of agricultural lands within economic development (Break Econ. Vitality and Ag. Lands into two separate bullet points).
- Need glossary for terms (critical lands, open space, etc.....)
- Energy Efficiency guiding principle: Add in term “A prudent community....”
- Discussion on clear, predictable, consistent guiding principles to remove the end statement stating “based on sound principles.”
  - Add term “effective” to the beginning of the goal. Seemed to be consensus to remove anything at the end of the goal that included regulations and codes.

#### ECON. VITALITY

- Brief discussion about whether some of the goals are actually stating strategies in them.
  - “Collaborating with other entities is a strategy.
- Discussion on nomenclature of Tribal Entities, changed to say Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute-Mountain Ute Indian Tribe.

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Vision statement was unanimously approved with minor word-smithing changes.
- Most of the changes in this section were very minor in nature and the working group was supportive of most, if not, all of the changes.

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- Discussion on combining goals #8 and 9. After group discussion, it was agreed to leave goals 8 & 9 separate. After separated, the goals were retrofitted to satisfy the working group.

### TRANSPORTATION

- A little heartburn on the changes in the vision. Specifically, the term “system fueled by renewables” Don’t want to restrict the vision to use only re-newables even if it is the most expensive etc...
- Vision was altered back to its original state (believed what was proposed to be added is in other sections of the vision and goals).
- Many new goals were added to the transportation section. Glossary needed on some terminology. Some were kept, some were removed. See updated revisions.
- Concerns regarding goals about encouraging a network of streets and paths. Public streets, private roads etc.....

### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- First goal revamped and removed the word “native” out of fear of the term as a limiter

### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES/HOUSING

- Concern on the vision, why exclude citizens and only include elderly, children etc...
- Discussion about community removing the “healthy communities” goal. May have been the only place healthy communities were mentioned- result was to leave it in.
- Transparency term added into goal number 5.

Here’s the redline revisions drafted by the Working Group for the next set of community workshops (assuming Charlie got his dyslexia corrected about which changes to accept and which to reject):

### **Community Vision**

*Our vision is of a community that is a model of collaboration, partnerships and innovation. We have achieved a balance between economic and social development and environmental stewardship. Our communities are designed to create real neighborhoods that are connected physically and socially to each other. We have a strong sense of community and work together for the county as a whole. We honor and celebrate our diversity and heritage and value private property rights. Our community is a caring place that supports residents' effort to achieve their full potential. Our efforts make us one of the best places in the nation to live and raise a family.*

### **Guiding Principles**

Guiding principles serve as a basis of reasoning and action; a set of beliefs that lead, show the way and direct the decisions of the plan. They are the fundamental basis for any decision. They will shape the solution and define the way strategies are developed. Each principle should be defined with a rationale that explains the principle's purpose and implications. Guiding principles define the ground rules for the process and development of the plan. La Plata County will embrace these Guiding principles in the development of the Comprehensive Community Plan:

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- Growth and change will continue to occur in the future and will likely continue to alter our rural/agricultural landscape; it can either serve or not serve our community interests and values.

Growth can create great places to live and work if the community crafts a vision and sets standards and codes for development that express how and where it wants to grow or change.

- An integration of land uses such as housing, retail, work places, schools, parks, and civic facilities are important to the daily life of the residents, and when conveniently located are components of achieving better places to live.
- A variety of commercial land uses accommodate business growth and support economic diversity.
- A diversity of housing types available to a wide range of income levels, age groups and abilities are essential to creating real and healthy communities.
- Providing a continuous system of greenbelt/wildlife corridors help to define identified growth communities.

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- Communities are desirable places to live when they include a system of connected streets, infrastructure, pedestrian paths, and bike routes to commercial, educational, recreational, and residential destinations.

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- Land use planning integrated with a larger transportation network encourages a variety of transportation choices and modes.

• Agricultural land and agricultural production are important to local economic vitality.

• , Open space, and critical natural areas are important to the local character and the community's quality of life.

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy production at the local and regional levels provide the basis for a sustainable economy.

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- A prudent community uses water through the most efficient means possible.

• Growth and development standards and decisions are clear, predictable, consistent, fair, timely, cost effective,

• A fundamental role for the county is to maintain fiscal soundness.

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**Economic Vitality Element**

- **Economic Vitality Vision Statement**

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*Our local businesses are prosperous, our economy is diverse, and our county is fiscally healthy. We approach our economic development with a long term view and seek cooperative, integrated, and creative solutions to foster economic growth. Our county is renowned for green industries, local food production, education, and cultural and heritage tourism. We recognize there is a balance between economic and social development and environmental protection and we achieve this balance by promoting our assets while including a sustainable ethos in business development. Our reliable and fast internet and well educated community attract knowledge based industries. We are a national leader in renewable energy industries. Our agricultural industry is thriving as a result of both increased local markets as well as innovative programs in the County that support agricultural viability. Our county is a vibrant and exciting destination that shows off our natural assets, rich heritage, and diverse cultures. The county's economy provides opportunities for young people to stay as they grow their families and advance their careers. Economic vitality is supported by infrastructure investments, learning opportunities, access to childcare, and a balance between cost of living and wages.*

**Economic Vitality Goals**

1. Develop incentives for economic activities that promote business sustainability and diversity.
2. Actively collaborate with municipal, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, private sector entities and non-profits to promote economic diversity and sustainability.
3. Promotes development and management of infrastructure necessary for a sustainable local economy: water, energy, waste, communications, housing and transportation.
4. Preserve and enhance our cultural landscape, scenic resources, recreational opportunities, and county-owned assets for residents, tourists and businesses.
5. Stimulate economic vitality by attracting and expanding businesses and industries that are congruent with our local culture and provide livable wages.

**Sustainable Development Element**

**Sustainable Development Vision Statement**

*Our community develops on principles that respect and protect our natural, cultural, and heritage assets that contribute to our high quality of life. Our community takes a big picture view in planning for the sustainable development of our county. We employ effective principles to achieve our desired development pattern that creates and enhances the development of real communities. La Plata County guides development in a way that is symbiotic with local municipalities, sovereign states, neighborhood communities and property owners. To protect our rural character, our County has grown around designated centers integrating new and old neighborhoods while preserving agricultural lands. These*

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centers are connected by a well planned multimodal transportation system. Our agricultural system is an important provider of food to our community and agriculture is supported through innovative local programs that ensure its viability. Our community is appreciative and is knowledgeable about our treasured cultural legacy, historic resources, and scenic assets which we strive to maintain. We recognize water is a finite resource and plan based upon that understanding. We are proactive in addressing impacts of drought and potential water shortages. Our planning takes into account the unique characteristics and needs of each watershed and ensures a reliable water supply for all users. La Plata County promotes water conservation and reuse to reduce our water consumption. As a community, we planned for higher conventional energy prices by investing in new technologies. Thus, our county is renowned for its energy independence and as an exporter of renewable energy. Locally we have reduced energy demand through efficiency, conservation, and design.

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### Sustainable Development Goals

1. Support the enhancement of local food, fiber and forest production systems (growing, processing, marketing, consumption).
2. Support the enhancement of renewable natural resource systems (forest and range products, fisheries, wildlife).
3. Promote access to healthy, affordable, culturally influenced, and sustainably produced food, sourced as locally as possible.
4. Promote a resource-efficient growth and settlement pattern.
5. Meet local energy and materials needs as much as possible through efficiency and with locally or regionally renewable resources.
6. Support investment in adequate and sustainable water resources for social, environmental and economic purposes.
7. Promote energy production and mineral development that minimize impacts on public health and the environment.
8. Promote historic and pre-historic preservation to enhance heritage tourism and increase restoration of these sites.
9. Protect historic and prehistoric cultures and significant resources.

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### Transportation Element

#### • Transportation Vision Statement

*La Plata County has an efficient multi-modal transportation system that complements our land use strategies. Walking and cycling routes connect our neighborhoods, towns, and employment. We have an efficient countywide public transportation system. Street, road and public transportation networks are*

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well planned to enable people of all ages and abilities to get around safely, efficiently, and conveniently through the county. Our airport connects us to the rest of the world contributing to our economic vitality.

• **Transportation Goals**

1. Promote development that is accessed with multiple modes of transportation.
2. Prioritize a road and transportation network that connects existing developments.
3. Promote a regional public transportation system that includes communities beyond the county boundaries.
4. Recognize rights of livestock passage on county roads.

Minimize conflict between traffic and animals, both wildlife and livestock.

5. Encourage an interconnected network of streets and paths that promote multi-modal transportation options.
6. Encourage the use of the most efficient, safe and environmentally healthy transportation designs and technologies.
7. Promote the use of telecommunications as a substitute to daily commuting and travel.
8. Encourage land use patterns that reduce per-capita average daily trips (ADT) & vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
9. Promote the expansion of aviation services (number of flights, frequency, destinations) for the County and support viable rail connectivity.

**Natural Environment Element**

• **Natural Environment Vision Statement**

La Plata County supports the protection and enhancements of a healthy natural environment on a local, regional and global scale. We are a leader in environmental stewardship and a model community for our proactive and balanced approach to conserving natural resources. We enjoy a healthy environment with clean air and water and dark night skies. Wildlife corridors connect natural areas throughout the county creating ecosystem linkages and improving wildlife vitality. Our community members continue our legacy of land stewardship engaging in activities on their land that enhances land health. Damage from invasive weeds has been reduced and our native species are thriving. As extractive industries develop and decline, disturbed lands are successfully reclaimed.

• **Natural Environment Goals**

1. Protect & enhance a healthy, regionally-appropriate, bio-diversity in the county.

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2. Encourage preservation, and restoration of wildlife corridors, wetlands and riparian habitats.
3. Reduce and mitigate wildfire hazards.
4. Address risks to our natural environment and long-term water resources, by appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures.
5. Combine with Goal #11 and address specific airshed issues in strategy.
6. Minimize light pollution, light trespass, and glare from future development and encourage retrofit of existing lights.
7. Work with residents, businesses, and other agencies to develop energy infrastructure to generate sufficient energy locally to meet future needs without net energy imports.
8. Encourage the restoration or reuse of lands impacted by resource development.
9. Combine with Goal #11. Minimize development in the floodplain and geologic hazard areas, and when it occurs, mitigate site and watershed impacts.
10. Collaborate with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to protect and improve air and water quality.

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## Healthy Communities and Housing Element

### • Healthy Communities and Housing Vision Statement

La Plata County is a great place for families. The County strives to maximize the quality of life, wellbeing and potential of all citizens. The County has taken an active leadership role in affordable housing so that citizens are able to live and work in the county. There are ample housing choices for all income levels. Through programs and organizations, all citizens are provided the support they need to reach their personal potential. Childcare is widely available and affordable. Our community promotes an active and healthy lifestyle. The County supports quality recreational and park facilities through the county enhancing public health. Our community members have access to quality and affordable health care for all income levels. Young people are nourished are viewed as assets and are encouraged to be involved community members. They have the opportunity to continue to live here. Our community provides opportunities for lifelong learning and development of every individual, including educational excellence for all.

### • Healthy Communities and Housing Goals

1. Encourage and take an active role to increase the supply of affordable/attainable/workforce housing.

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2. Integrate a mix of housing types near employment and services.
3. Promote construction and renovation of homes to be safe, healthy and energy efficient.
4. Encourage life skills and lifelong learning opportunities.
5. Support access to affordable healthcare and to a variety of providers.
6. Support a continuum of choices that helps seniors and disabled persons to thrive in La Plata County.
7. Promote healthy communities through neighborhood design, transportation networks, and public education.
8. Support quality childcare and elder care that is widely available and affordable.
9. Encourage dedicated access to public open space, recreation and trails.
10. Support and encourage partnerships with local agencies in the provision of recreational and community facilities.

### Organizational Excellence Element

#### • Organizational Excellence Vision Statement

*We have a strong sense of community where individuals, neighborhoods, and communities all work together to achieve common goals for the county as a whole. Communication and collaboration across the community is effective and citizens are confident in their county government. Respectful and informed dialogue results in effective solutions based upon multiple benefits to resolve community challenges. Groups work together to maximize scarce resources and people are aware of the various services available. Diversity in our community is valued and celebrated. People from different age groups, cultures, backgrounds, and interest frequently come together to participate in local activities, events, and projects. Within local government, La Plata County supports a work environment that values productive employees, progressive personnel practices, and continuous workforce development to ensure county services are delivered in an efficient, ethical and responsible manner.*

#### • Organizational Excellence Goals

1. Provide citizens with user friendly and efficient services.
2. Collaborate across local governments, with state and federal agencies, the Sovereign Nations, and area for and not for profit businesses to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

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3. Engage and inform citizens in local decision making and develop transparent public processes that encourage respect between all individuals and groups.

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4. Work towards excellence in all county management practices.

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5. Ensure two-way interaction between citizens and their county government that includes easy access to information, transparency and opportunities for citizen input.

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