

Working Group (WG) Mtg. #11 Summary

February 1, 2010

Durango Recreation Center

4-6:30pm

NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

February 16th, 2010

4pm @ Durango Recreation Center

Agenda

1. Continue to review Community's revisions to Vision/Goals beginning with Transportation Element.
2. WG interest on continuing this work together on Phase III: Future Land Use Plan. Marjo to do follow up with WG individually.

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Participants:

Staff/Consultants: Charlie Deans, Gabe Preston, Julia Stantic, Robby Overfield

Working Group: Peter Treguillus, Sally Bellerue, Dick Norton, Brian Kimmel, Barbara Jefferies, Dick White, Wade Moore, Jeannine Justice, Roy Horvath,

Guest : Susan Hakanson, Admin. Intern with the County

Discussion:

- Overview of the Ideas Forum process and format given by Charlie.
- A heads up from Charlie that the strategies created from Ideas forum will be drafted by the team and sent out to the WG with not much review time before their March 1 meeting- maybe only a day. This was understood and accepted by the WG since they would be involved at the Ideas Forum.
- March 1, 2010 Working Group meeting will be at the Durango Library NOT the Recreation Center
- April 12th – Infrastructure Education Forum. (includes Transportation) Will be more relevant as a future land use education forum introduction.
- Another round of Community workshops on reviewing the Implementation Strategies and prioritization will occur at the end of March.
- WG will not meet on the March 29 (potential conflict with Community Workshops), but will meet on March 15th.

Vision/GP/ Goals Reviews/changes:

- Started the discussion picking up where last meeting ended, WG thoughts on drafting a Property right's Guiding Principle and definitions.
- Charlie began dialogue about the property rights issue being related to planning history in the County and Agric owners feeling that land use rights were taken away (comment made during Ag Committee meeting).
 - Pete Treguillus began dialogue on where the group is in terms of property rights ("is a road impact fee a taking?"). We need to identify what is in that "basket of rights".
 - "Lack of focus" as to where we are with the Comp. plan
- Charlie stated that property rights are important and they are not being taken lightly; definitions of property, property rights and takings are good to understand, but what's more important is having community agreement on the vision, principles, goals, land uses and regulations. One of the consultant team's role is to maintain integrity in the process and that everyone has an equal

voice in developing the agreements, whether they are young or old, own property or not, in the county. People will self-select based on their interest what parts of the plan they want to be involved in developing (some will be more interested in the broader Plan Elements; others will want to deal with the details of land use regulations). But there are legal and administrative boundaries that will be recognized and adhered to during the formulation of the plan.

- Dick Norton: what we have to reach, at this point in the Comp. Plan, is an understanding that we can look at a project and say its cold turkey, it either fits or it doesn't....define use by right.
- Dialogue on where we are in the process.....tendency by some to jump the gun into future land use planning, even though we still have work to do on strategies.
- Barbara Jefferies concerned that neighbors will dictate what people can or can't do on other individuals property.
- Brian feels that think there is no such thing as private property rights. We have rule of law to keep people apart so they don't pillage. Bottom line, come up with a land use code that recognizes various forms of property and how it can be exchanged and how it can be developed.
- Dick White believes the process we are going through is important. People need the opportunity to come to the table and be heard.
- Roy Horvath commented that the reason this is an issue is about how much different this process is now than in the past. Understanding and accountability is what we are doing right this time.

Community Vision & Guiding Principles

- Group agreement to keep in a property rights statement in the vision. Use "We respect property rights" as a standalone statement.
- Group agreement on draft for adding the guiding principle on property rights (including "La Plata County officials and residents honor the importance of private property rights, respect the applicable provisions of the Colorado Constitution and the United States Constitution").

Economic Vitality

- Vision: Discussion as to whether or not the mineral development term should be added. It was removed, could be better framed as a strategy. Most all the changes were left in after some group discussion.
- Acquisition was also mentioned as a strategy for open space, Ag. Issues.
- Many of the strategies could make a clean nexus into the code
- Ag. Wind farms/ Medical Marijuana/carbon sequestration all potential strategies for mineral development as to not limit the topic to oil and gas.
- Peter asked "Are strategies limited to what the county does?" Answer, limited to what the County can do (along with collaboration, etc...)
- Discussion on goal #7 about water. The Durango crowd had a lot of talk about water. Group consensus to move last two goals from E.V. to Sustainable Development Goals and vision
- Remove taxes goals, will be addressed in strategies.

Sustainable Development

- Clean up the private property rights statements now that we have a guiding principle in place that addresses the issue more. Group consensus to delete as necessary.
- What do we lose if we take away the second sentence of SD vision? No response, so the group deleted it. "Big picture view statement."
- The term "supporting Agricultural Lands" seemed out of place to the group. May look for a better term than support. Wade brought up that the term support may mean the County would

take fiscal responsibility for Ag. Lands that is not productive. Preserving may in fact be a better term and supporting ag. May be as strategy for preserving it. Was changed to the term "Maintaining" after some group agreement.

- Strategy: We create criteria for designation of commercial and industrial uses or new growth nodes rather than a map, or in conjunction with a map.

Here's the draft Vision, GP, and EV and SD Goals that were revised by the WG- WG will begin with reviewing Transportation Element vision and goals at next meeting.

Community Vision

Our vision is of a community that is a model of collaboration, partnerships and innovation. We have achieved a balance among economic and social development and environmental stewardship. Our communities are 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 value/celebrate our diversity and heritage. We respect 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:

- La Plata County officials and its residents honor the importance of private property rights, respect the applicable provisions of the Colorado and United States Constitutions, and acknowledge that all county citizens share equal rights with respect to representation and opinion

- Tourism remains an important component of our economic base and vitality.

- Growth and change will continue to occur in the future and will likely continue to alter our rural/agricultural landscape.
- Growth can create great places to live and work if the community crafts a vision and sets standards and reasonable codes for development that express how and where it wants to grow or change.
- An integration of developed 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 accommodates business growth and support economic diversity.
- A diversity of housing types and densities are available to a wide range of income levels, age groups and abilities are essential to creating real and healthy communities.
- Greenbelt/wildlife corridors help ~~to~~ define growth communities.

- 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.
- 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 the local economy and security.
- Agricultural lands, 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 industries at the local and regional levels provide the basis for a sustainable economy.
- Conventional energy production is one of the fundamental pillars of the local economy.
- A prudent community uses water through the most efficient means practical possible.
- Growth and development standards and decisions are clear, predictable, consistent, fair, timely, and cost effective.
- A fundamental role for the county is to maintain fiscal soundness.
- Land use planning with an engaged public remains relevant as the community evolves.

Economic Vitality Element

- **Economic Vitality Vision Statement**

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 regional economic growth. Our county is renowned for entrepreneurial spirit, green industries, local food production, education, and cultural, recreational 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 encouraging 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 conventional traditional and renewable energy industries. Our agricultural industry is thriving as a result of both increased local markets and 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 all people, to stay as they grow their families, and advance their careers and continue to be productive members of the community. Economic vitality is supported by infrastructure investments, learning opportunities, access to health and child care, 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 the municipalities, Sovereign Nations, ~~and~~ [State and Federal agencies](#), private sector and non-profit entities to promote economic diversity and sustainability.
3. ~~Support the~~ [Promote](#) 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 [maintaining and adequate supply of land for businesses and industries](#) and attracting and expanding businesses and industries that ~~strengthen~~ ~~are congruent with~~ our [community local culture](#) and provide livable wages.
6. _____
7. [Support agricultural innovations and sustainable technologies; promote and stimulate local markets as well as export markets for locally-produced agricultural products; encourage development of facilities for value-added products](#)

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 [nations](#), neighborhood communities and property owners. To protect our rural [lifestyle and](#) character, our County has grown around designated centers integrating new and old neighborhoods while [maintaining](#) agricultural lands. These centers are ~~served~~ ~~connected~~ by a well planned [infrastructure and](#) multimodal transportation system. Our agricultural system is an important provider of food to our community [and beyond](#) 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 ~~C~~ounty is renowned for its energy independence and as an exporter of [conventional and](#) renewable energy. Locally we have reduced energy demand through efficiency, conservation, and design.

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 patterns.
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 ~~traditional and renewable~~ energy production and mineral development ~~while that~~ minimizing ~~ing~~ negative impacts ~~on~~ public health, ~~and~~ the environment and infrastructure.
8. Promote historic and pre-historic preservation to enhance heritage tourism and increase restoration of these sites.
9. Continue to Pprotect historic and prehistoric cultural es sites. ~~and significant resources~~.
8. Promote and encourage retention of agricultural lands, while allowing for other forms of development.

(WG BEGINS HERE ON FEB 16)

Transportation Element

- **Transportation Vision Statement**

La Plata County has an efficient multi-modal transportation system that complements our land use strategies. Walking, and cycling and equestrian routes connect our neighborhoods, towns, and employment. We have an efficient countywide public transportation system. Street, road and public transportation networks are 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 state and county boundaries.
4. Recognize rights of livestock passage on county roads through county policies.

5. Minimize conflict between traffic and animals, both wildlife and livestock.
6. Encourage an interconnected network of streets and paths that promote multi-modal transportation options, while respecting sensitive mountain geography.
7. Encourage the use of the most efficient, safe and environmentally healthy transportation designs and technologies.
8. Support ~~Promote~~ the use of telecommunications infrastructure as a substitute to daily commuting and travel.
9. Encourage land use patterns that reduce per-capita average daily trips (ADT) & vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

10. Promote the expansion of aviation services (number of flights, frequency, destinations) ~~and support viable rail connectivity~~. consistent with a regional airport.

11. Maintain traffic, pedestrian, and cyclist safety.

12. Promote efficiency and prioritization of transportation modes considering limited resources.

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 and enhance a healthy ecosystems, ~~regionally appropriate bio-diversity~~ in the county through best management practices.
- ~~10-2.~~ 2. Encourage preservation and restoration of wildlife corridors that connect critical habitat, wetlands and riparian habitats, while protecting [safeguarding] private property rights.
- ~~3-Reduce and~~ 3. Encourage [Support] the reduction of and mitigate-mitigation of wildfire hazards.
- ~~4-3.~~ 3. *Address risks to our natural environment and long-term water resources by appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures.*
- ~~5-4.~~ 4. *Minimize noise pollution, light pollution, light trespass, and glare from future development and encourage retrofit of existing nuisances lights.*

- ~~6.5.~~ Work with residents, businesses, and other agencies to develop energy infrastructure to generate sufficient energy locally to meet future needs ~~without net energy imports~~ to the extent possible.
- ~~7.6.~~ Encourage the restoration or reuse of lands impacted by resource development.
- ~~8.7.~~ ~~Minimize~~ Restrict development in the floodplain and significant geologic hazard areas to protect natural resources and property.
- ~~9.8.~~ Collaborate with federal (EPA), state, sovereign nation~~tribal~~, and local agencies to protect and improve air and water quality and manage noxious weeds.
- 9. Promote profitable recycling and reuse efforts.

Healthy Communities and Housing Element

- **Healthy Communities and Housing Vision Statement**

La Plata County is a great place for multigenerational families. The County strives to maximize the quality of life, well-being and potential of all citizens. The County has taken an active leadership role in affordable housing by encouraging free market development, 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 that to through ~~enhance~~ ing public health. Our community members have access to quality and affordable health care ~~for all income levels.~~ Community members ~~Young people~~ are ~~nourished and~~ 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 for 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 and senior housing, recognizing that manufactured housing offers affordable housing opportunities.
2. Integrate a mix of housing types near employment and services.
3. Encourage ~~Promote~~ construction and renovation of homes to be safe, healthy and energy efficient, while allowing for personal preferences and finance limitations.
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.
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.
11. Promote intergenerational interaction between youth and senior populations.
12. Provide support to youth activity programming.

Organizational Excellence Element

- **Organizational Excellence Vision Statement**

We have a strong sense of community; 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 to resolve community challenges results in effective solutions based upon multiple benefits. 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, innovative 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 consistent and efficient services in pace with economic growth.
2. Collaborate aeross with-local governments, with state and federal agencies, the Sovereign Nations, and for- and not-for-profit businesses, and community organizations to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.
3. Engage and inform citizens in local decision making and develop transparent public processes that encourage respect among between all individuals and groups.
4. Work towards excellence and efficiency in all county management practices functions/endeavors.
5. Ensure two-way interaction between citizens and their county government that includes easy access to information, transparency, and opportunities for citizen input.
- 5.6. Work to align municipal and county goals, visions, and actions through collaboration and communicating.