

Working Group (WG) Mtg. #19 Summary

May 24, 2010

DRO Public Library Room 4-6:30pm

NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

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**June 7 at 4 pm to 6:30 pm @ Durango Rec Center**

Agenda:

1. Review/revise strategies (revised draft attached incorporating 7 WG member comments, online survey, and comments from workshops) beginning with **Natural Environment Goal 5** and then Org Excellence. Time allowing, review revisions from Jenn et al, Jeanine, Charlie, and the Senior LT care group's requested revisions (also included in this attached draft).

NEXT WG MEETING DATES

June 21 at DRO Rec Center Sunlight Room- Review/refine strategies and consider the CEAP, Ag Subcommittee and Sr Housing/Long Term Care group suggestions; and, review next steps/meeting dates (see attached timeline):

*July 12 (due to July 4th)- review draft Comp Plan and FAQs responses.*

July 19

August 2

August 16

All meetings at the Durango Recreation Center Sunlight Room, 1st & 3rd Mondays of the Month (4:00 - 6:30 PM)

MEETING SUMMARY

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Meeting Participants:

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

Meeting Participants: Wade Moore, Dick Norton, Barbara Jefferies, Jennifer Lopez, Jeanine Justice, Sally Bellerue, Dick White, Roy Horvath, Travis Craig, Brian Kimmel

**Strategy Discussion**

The discussion began with Sustainable Development Goals and Strategies.

1d. The ability of the County to enforce this was discussed. Open space is addressed elsewhere; group decided to leave it off.

All other changes accepted by the group.

2a. Value being added from production was discussed.

Dick White noted Goal One only had one strategy after edits and questioned if we should keep this goal at all, incorporate it elsewhere or add more strategies. Wade Moore asked if it was a goal or a strategy. Is buying land supporting the enhancement of food? The agriculture subcommittee's input was referenced and Charlie was to look through their materials for clarification. 3b. The group decided to have Charlie work on this strategy more and suggested it may be moved somewhere else. Discussion was centered on what part of the strategy could be defined and what could not. Agriculture use being connected with retail use was discussed. Charlie clarified the intent of this strategy and highlighted the difference between this and home businesses. Agriculture uses, designated rural centers and not allowing commercial growth in rural areas was highlighted as the three main points of this what this strategy was attempting to address. 3c. Build out analysis was discussed and defined. The group decided to leave it in so we were sure to do this in the future. Charlie highlighted that we would be addressing this analysis. Maximum was replaced with projected.

Travis asked if we were keeping a list of topics/words which need to be clearly defined. Public wanted this last go around, (i.e. index).

Goal 3's two new strategies are moved to goal 2 if they are to be kept at all. The intent of greenhouses receiving incentives was discussed. Barbara was concerned the county would be providing money incentives to one person over another. Incentives being financially viable was pointed out. Dick White proposed to take out the word incentives and replace with encourage. 4b. Language was edited to take out the presumption that lumber would be affordable. Additionally, the intent of the strategy was discussed. 4d. Major renovations were delineated as being noted there to not be burdensome on the applicant. Discrepancy between first cost and life time cost was discussed. A minimum energy code was proposed by Jenn Lopez. Education and incentives together may be more palatable was also

suggested. Balance with minimum needs to be balanced with affordability. Jeanine Justice raised the argument that the ability to regulate our building codes to be better (green standards implemented) was not currently the norm and suggested it should be in the future.

#### TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION:

1 e. Transit ready was discussed. Transportation plans in the future were discussed. Decided it was covered in other strategies and it was deleted. All other changes in Goal One were accepted by the group.

2a. Standards of roads were discussed. Charlie mentioned that he would talk with Jim Davis and Victoria Schmitt regarding this strategy. The group agreed to move on. 3a. Wade Moore asked that trails/paths be added in. Regional transit authorities, road access, etc. was addressed. The group agreed to get rid of a Goal Four and there was no comment on Goal Five. The group decided to move Goal Six to Jim Davis discussion Charlie suggested. 7a. Complete streets and understanding terminology was questioned. It was suggested definitions of Right to Farm and Complete Streets to be on defined on proposed index list. 8's telecommunication effects were discussed as being a reason/possibility they are not involved in the community. Charlie clarified the intent is to create an environmental where those can happen. 8b & c. Adding language in these goals to clarify the role of the County as being supportive was added. 9b. Questioned how this strategy supported the goal. The group agreed to take the second half of the strategy out. Wade mentioned nowhere do we find a way to address congestion. Schools and work week times matching was identified as major causes of congestion. Congestion added to the goal. It was questioned if employment patterns, not just land use patterns, should be taken into consideration.

10a. The existing infrastructure was noted as being important and it was stressed we should not be presumptuous that expansion is not possible. 10c. Charlie stated that Animas Airpark is a public airport that is privately owned and does receive federal funds for improvements.

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#### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT DISCUSSION:

1c. Deleted due to redundancy? 2a. The word designate was suggested as making wildlife corridors too defined. The group talked about DOW already designating corridors. General discussion on County matching to funds to do things like wildlife fencing. The group accepted 3 and moved on. 4a. Need clarification from planning's natural resource team on process. Robby is to help assist with this. 5a. It was suggested the strategy interjects the county at a scale that it hasn't done before. Are we addressing a problem that doesn't exist? Travis said there were objections from the public in the past concerning lighting regulations. Discussion of the need to regulate was discussed. How other counties regulate this was questioned? Examples are to be provided by planning staff.

WG would begin at this point on June 7.

## Draft 2 Preliminary Timeline LPC Comprehensive Community Plan (6/5/10)

(WG = Working Group; PT= Planning Team (consultants/staff); TAC= Technical Advisory Committee; SPC = Sector Plan Committee)

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND STRATEGIES

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |               |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1. | Prepare final draft Implementation strategies                                                                                                                                                     | WG    | June 21       |
| 2. | Prepare first draft of assembled LPC Comp Plan and Strategies Matrix                                                                                                                              | PT    | July          |
| 3. | WG review draft LPC Comp Plan                                                                                                                                                                     | WG    | July 12       |
| 4. | WG/BoCC joint meeting to review strategies and matrix                                                                                                                                             |       | July 19       |
| 5. | Community workshop on draft LPC CP and prioritize strategies (keypad)                                                                                                                             |       | August 4 or 5 |
| 6. | Community meetings (3) on draft Comp Plan                                                                                                                                                         |       | August        |
| 7. | Develop Implementation Workbook with priorities/costs/timeframe/responsible entity and matrix of collaborations/programs/land use topics and alignment with other County and organizations' plans | PT/WG | September     |
| 8. | Joint work-study session with LPC PC and BoCC on draft Plan                                                                                                                                       | PT/WG | September     |

### FUTURE LAND USE PLAN/COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

- |    |                                                                                              |       |               |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1. | Initiate mapping analysis for:                                                               |       |               |
|    | • Sector Plan areas (revised District Plan boundaries)                                       | PT/WG | June/July     |
|    | • Opportunities and Constraints Overlay mapping                                              | PT/WG | June/July     |
|    | • Suitability Analysis with weighting scheme                                                 | PT/WG | July          |
|    | • Fiscal Impact Analysis model                                                               | PT/WG | July          |
| 2. | District Planning Groups meeting on draft Sector Plan boundaries (recruit WG additions)      | PT    | July          |
| 3. | Draft 2030 Build-Out Scenarios developed by WG and TAC                                       | PT/WG | Aug/Sept      |
| 4. | FLUP Education Forum- explains mapping analyses/process and resource assumptions             |       | September     |
| 5. | Community Workshops (3) on reviewing draft BO Scenarios and developing hybrid/preferred FLUP |       | Sept/Oct      |
| 6. | Draft Preferred Future Land Use Plan (FLUP)                                                  | PT/WG | October       |
| 7. | Sectors' workshops (4 to 6) on draft Sector FLUP                                             |       | Nov/Dec       |
| 8. | Community workshop on final draft of Community Comp Plan/FLUP                                |       | January       |
| 9. | PC and BoCC Public meetings on LPC Comprehensive Community Plan adoption                     | PT/WG | beginning Feb |

**RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO STRATEGIES**  
**with dot tally in boxes (G=Green; R= Red) (rev 5/24/10)**

**Economic Vitality Element**

**Economic Vitality Goals and Strategies**

**1. Develop incentives for economic activities that promote business sustainability and diversity.**

- a) Expand Buy-local programs in partnership with local governments agencies and non-government organizations and increase the local preference percentage in county procurement policies
- b) Reduce the time and steps required in the permitting processes (planning, building, road and bridge).
- c) Support a business incubator and commercial kitchen in partnership with local governments, agencies and non-government organizations that also serves as a one-stop shop that focuses on business recruitment and retention activities.
- d) Establish incentives for business to utilize sustainable practices based on a score-card of sustainability indicators.

**2. Actively collaborate with the municipalities, Sovereign Nations, State and Federal agencies, private sector and non-profit entities to promote economic diversity and sustainability.**

- a) Initiate a referendum to make La Plata County a home rule county.
- b) Develop community and region-wide support for higher education advanced degree programs.

**3. Support the development and management of infrastructure necessary for a sustainable local economy: water, energy, waste, communications, housing and transportation.**

- a) Provide assistance to property owners to create improvement districts in designated rural centers.
- b) Determine the feasibility of creating a water and sewer authority or other similar entity.

**4. Preserve and enhance our cultural landscape, scenic resources, recreational opportunities, and county-owned assets for residents, tourists and businesses.**

- a) Build and operate recreational facilities that stimulate the local economy, funded through voter approved financing and implement user fees that help cover the operating costs.
- b) Develop incentives to encourage the dedication of unique open space and public trails in future subdivisions and other development projects.

**5. Stimulate economic vitality by maintaining an adequate supply of land for businesses and industries and attracting and expanding businesses and industries that strengthen our community and provide livable wages.**

- a) Designate rural centers in existing rural communities where future non-residential and residential development will be encouraged.
- b) Establish an expedited county permitting process for development in designated rural centers and business parks.

6. **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.**
  - a) Adopt a "right to farm" ordinance that promotes agriculture.
  - b) Provide development fee discounts or waivers for activities directly associated with agricultural operations, such as application fees, building fees, plumbing and mechanical fees, planning permit fees, impact fees and road and bridge inspection fees.
  - c) Support processing and distribution for locally grown food and remove regulatory barriers to value-added production of agricultural products.
  - d) Allow land uses on agricultural lands that support an agricultural operation as the primary use.
  - e) Exempt county sales tax on locally grown food.
  - e)f) Support the development of agricultural infrastructure which supports and increases the capacity of local agriculture and food supply (e.g., distribution center, commercial kitchens, etc).

### Sustainable Development Element

#### Sustainable Development Goals and Strategies

1. **Support the enhancement of local food, fiber and forest production systems (growing, processing, marketing, consumption).**
  - a) Support development of a resource guide which summarizes existing agricultural organizations and programs available in county.~~education programs that emphasize benefits of local agriculture.~~
  - b) Explore the feasibility of financing tools to support farm and agricultural organizations and land acquisitions projects.
  
2. **Promote access to healthy, affordable, culturally-influenced, and sustainably produced food, sourced as locally as possible.**
  - a) Investigate the use of agricultural cooperatives and value added agricultural products and provide related education and information.
  - b) Promote local food production and agriculture uses during the development review process.
  - c) Encourage community gardens.
  - d) Encourage greenhouses to extend the local growing season.
  
3. **Promote resource-efficient growth and settlement patterns.**
  - a) Adopt a future land use plan and county wide zoning that ~~D~~designates future growth areas supported by the provision of new or enhanced infrastructure or utilization of existing infrastructure.
  - b) Identify rural centers throughout the county that provide neighborhood and agricultural-related retail services.
  - c) Identify commercial and employment uses in urban growth areas with sufficient existing or proposed infrastructure and traffic capacities.
  - ~~b)~~ Allow agricultural uses with and limited retail development in designated rural centers throughout county and along highway corridors, ~~but not large scale commercial development outside urban growth areas.~~ cbd to rework as two.
  - e)

d) Determine through analyses the projected [development](#) build-out for the county and allocate growth ~~accordingly~~ to minimize future sprawl.

**4. Meet local energy and materials needs as much as possible through efficiency and with locally or regionally renewable resources.**

- a) Encourage the locations of solar and wind farms and private co-generation.
- b) Support local harvesting and processing of wood products in appropriate locations.
- c) Maintain access to gravel that reduces transportation distance.
- d) Encourage development of renewable fuel infrastructure.
- e) Provide education, incentives and/or regulations to enhance energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy in new construction and major renovations.

**5. Support investment in adequate and sustainable water resources for social, environmental and economic purposes.**

- a) Educate the community about the use of efficient water distribution and irrigation techniques without compromising water rights.
- b) Advocate for legislation to create agricultural water-banking to protect water rights and promote conservation.
- c) Promote the use of water harvesting and gray water systems and reclaimed water to the degree permitted under State statutes, and increase the use of permeable surfaces.

**6. Protect historic and prehistoric sites and promote cultural preservation to enhance heritage tourism and increase restoration of these sites.**

- a) Provide education about state and federal incentives to developers and property owners to voluntarily retain historic structures, trails, and ditches.
- b) Support a property tax incentive for preservation of cultural resources.

**7. Promote and encourage retention of agricultural lands, while allowing for other forms of development.**

- a) Create an agricultural advisory group to maintain clarity and emphasis on pertinent concerns in land use processes.
- b) Guide development to non-productive agricultural lands and retain productive agricultural or critical resource lands through mechanisms such as Transfer of Development Rights, Purchase of Development Rights, conservation easements, etc.
- c) Amend the development code for agriculture production by simplifying the building permit process for agricultural buildings, allowing agricultural businesses, exempting family/heir home sites from 35 acre minimum, and increasing height limits for agricultural structures such as barns and sheds.

↪ [The May 5 Ag Subcommittee memo identifies 4 new goals with 21 new strategies to be added to this Element.](#)

## Transportation Element

### Transportation Goals and Strategies

**1. Promote development that is accessed with multiple modes of transportation.**

- a) Adopt and implement zoning that promotes higher density development nodes.
- b) Prepare a comprehensive “multimodal development planning checklist” for use by developers to encourage inclusion of multimodal elements and by staff during the review process.
- c) Implement a range of process-based and financial incentives for developers to meet multimodal goals, such as additional staff support, faster review turn around, lower review fees, and possible tax incentives.
- d) Prepare a community-based transportation plan concurrently with the future land use plan and develop metrics and use them to review policy effectiveness.

**2. Prioritize a road and transportation network that connects existing developments.**

- a) Update street standards to provide flexibility so that County can accept currently sub-standard private roads that will interconnect neighborhoods.
- ~~b) Prepare a feasibility study for establishing practicable locations for multimodal connectivity/easements and establish priorities.~~  
[Take to Jim Davis and add something about trails and paths as a connection.](#)

**3. Promote a regional public transportation system that includes communities beyond the state and county boundaries.**

- a) Assess support of a La Plata/Durango Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and possible funding source(s) for transportation services and improvements.
- b) Formalize and enhance coordination and communication between La Plata Co, Southwest Council of Governments, Farmington MPO and Northwest New Mexico RPO.
- c) Evaluate intercity transit as a means for transporting goods as well as people to minimize VMT.

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

- a) Adopt a Best Management Practices plan for wildlife control and crossings.
- b) Recognize historic rights of livestock passage on and across county and state roads.

**5. Encourage an interconnected network of streets and paths that promote multi-modal transportation options.**

- a) Design and plan an interconnected multimodal network of streets, paths and trails.
- ~~b) Define interconnectivity requirements in development standards. ALSO LEFT IN AND REVISED.~~  
[Jim Davis with 2 above](#)

**6. Encourage the use of the most efficient, safe and environmentally healthy transportation designs and technologies.**

- a) Adopt and implement a “Complete streets” policy and plan that addresses the cumulative effects of traffic.
- b) Formalize collaboration and partnerships with CDOT and municipalities.

**7. Support the use of telecommunications infrastructure as an alternative to daily commuting and travel.**

- a) Conduct an analysis to determine areas with poor internet service levels, and foster private provision of internet services in those areas.
- b) Support Internet service in areas where fully-private service is not attainable.

**8. Encourage land use and work patterns that reduce per-capita average daily trips, congestion and vehicle miles traveled.**

- a) Implement a park-and-ride infrastructure plan.
- b) Collaborate with oil and gas industry to minimize service traffic.
- c) Encourage flexible work hours.
- d) ~~Adopt county wide zoning and a future land use plan that identifies and locate activity nodes that support transit and multimodal transportation choices, including defining locations for activity nodes.~~ [Identifies and locate activity nodes that support transit and multimodal transportation choices.](#)

**9. Promote the expansion of aviation services (number of flights, frequency, destinations) and support viable rail connectivity.**

- a) Explore the feasibility of railroad connectivity.
- b) Retain and expand air service at La Plata County/Durango Regional Airport with all willing partners.
- c) Support improvements at the Animas Airpark facilities.

**Natural Environment Element**

**Natural Environment Goals and Strategies**

**1. Protect and enhance healthy ecosystems.**

- a) Develop a resource management plan for keystone species and programs to monitor health of various ecosystems throughout the county.
- b) Support educational and interpretive programs to connect residents from urban and suburban communities to the natural environment.

**2. Encourage preservation and restoration of wildlife corridors, wetlands and riparian habitats.**

- a) Map wildlife corridors, wet lands and riparian habitats in collaboration with federal, state and tribal agencies.
- b) Provide incentives to land owners who implement restoration and preservation guidelines on the portions of their property that are identified as wildlife corridors, wetlands and riparian habitats.

**3. Reduce wildfire hazards.**

- a) Educate the public about insurance incentives available for reducing wildfire hazards around structures, and ways to reduce fire hazard through defensible space and thinning operations.
- b) Develop guidelines for property owners on fire-wise house design, location and fuelwood management of the site.

- c) Develop wildfire management overlay zones for high risk areas that control new development regarding building location, design and fuel management on the site.

**4. Address risks to our natural environment and long-term water resources by appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures.**

15 G  
10 R  
5 G  
4 G

- a) Require oil and gas industry to inform county of any chemicals used in the extraction or production processes, and test for chemicals in ground and surface waters. [county staff to check](#)
- b) Incorporate in the development standards best management practices for protecting natural drainage systems and aquifer recharge.
- c) Create development regulations or policies that encourage community-scale renewable energy systems and waste water systems that allow for small "village" developments.
- d) Identify contingency measures for prolonged drought.

**5. Minimize noise and light pollution, light trespass, and glare from future development and encourage retrofit of existing nuisances.**

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23 R

- a) Create [county-wide](#) noise and light regulations [with possible modifications](#) for agricultural operations [appropriate to support production.](#)

11 R

- ~~b) Define noise standards and adopt measurement and mitigation strategies.~~

6 G  
6 R

- ~~c) b) Adopt best management practices for revisions to light and noise control regulations, such as a dark sky ordinance.~~

1 G

- ~~d) Establish appropriate security lighting requirements in urban/suburban residential areas.~~

**6. Develop energy infrastructure to generate sufficient energy locally to meet future needs.**

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- a) Adopt renewable energy dividends (LPEA).

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- b) Implement renewable energy tax districts.

13 G

c) Incentivize the use of renewable energy for buildings and energy efficient building designs through the building code.

d) [Promote hydropower generation from Animas-La Plata water releases.](#)

**7. Encourage the restoration or reuse of lands impacted by resource development.**

3 G

3 R

a) Require reclamation plans to be in conformance with long term land use plans for the area to be reclaimed.

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b) Provide incentives and/or remove obstacles for establishing renewable energy infrastructure on impacted lands.

3 G

**Restrict development in the floodplain and significant geologic hazard areas**

a) Complete and update county mapping of geologic hazards and the 100 year floodplain.

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b) Develop a ranking system that identifies geologic hazards that pose a tangible risk to public health and safety and focus county regulation on those significant hazards.

4 G

3 R

c) Require development to be located outside of the floodplain and significant geologic hazards except on properties where there are no feasible development sites outside of the floodplain or outside of significant geologic hazards; where floodplain or significant geologic hazards cannot be avoided, mitigation standards will be implemented to minimize risk to public health and safety.

**9. Protect and improve air and water quality and manage noxious weeds through collaboration with federal, state, Sovereign Nations, and local agencies.**

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a) The County should implement noxious weed controls in county right-of-ways.

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**b)** Require notifications be sent to landowners when public right of way or well pad is sprayed with herbicide.
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~~**c)** Engage with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs (such as Conservation Reserve Program) to allow for native vegetation and to reduce noxious weeds in the county.~~
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**d)** Expand the 50 ft. stream bank setback on enclosed structures to require a 50 ft or greater setback for on-site wastewater systems as defined by the San Juan Basin Health Department.
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| 5 R |

**e)** Revise the land use code so that erosion and sedimentation control standards are effective in minimizing runoff and disturbance of surrounding lands. ~~specifically mitigate the following: disturbance of natural soil cover and vegetation; exposed soil and unstable soil conditions; protection of receiving water bodies; wetlands; construction and work in and adjacent to water bodies and wetlands; slope stability; cuts and fills; and disturbance to the surrounding soils, root systems and trunks of trees adjacent to site activity.~~
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| 7 G |
| 1 R |

**f)e)** Work in partnership with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to continue monitoring water quality as part of the oil and gas permitting process.
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**g)f)** Enforce the La Plata County Weed Code and implement the La Plata County Weed Management Plan.
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**h)g)** Work in partnership with federal land management agencies and Sovereign Nations to prevent further proliferation of invasive plant species in La Plata County.
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**i)h)** ~~Support efforts of the San Juan Public Lands Center and Mesa Verde National Park to enforce Class 1 Area air quality standards in and near La Plata County.~~ Work in concert with other agencies to enforce air quality standards in and near La Plata County.

**10. Reduce, reuse, and recycle material resources.**

11 G

a) Develop a County wide comprehensive recycling program that results with an increase in the types of materials (including appliances) that can be recycled and identifies convenient locations for drop-off and collection.

2 G

b) Create a composting program that would allow for the city/county to compost waste and promote composting by individuals.

2 G

c) Provide tax incentives to businesses and individuals who recycle and re-use material resources.

~~e)~~ d) Collaborate locally and regionally on a "zero waste" initiative.

**11. Support the enhancement of renewable natural resource systems (forest and range products, fisheries, wildlife).**

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5 R

~~a) Request the CO Dept of Wildlife to purchase development rights on lands valuable for wildlife habitat. —SUGGESTION TO LEAVE IN)~~

4 G

b) Promote Forestry operations on private land that are economically and environmentally sustainable.

**Healthy Communities and Housing Element**

**Healthy Communities and Housing Goals and Strategies**

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

- a) Support a countywide housing plan aimed at increasing the efficient use of resources for housing development and related supportive services.
- b) Analyze ways that land could be made more affordable for development through public sector policies and programs.
- c) Provide financial support for subsidized housing developments that serve populations in need. (tier b)
- d) Offer technical assistance and incentives to encourage ~~for-profit~~ affordable/attainable housing development near jobs and services.
- e) Explore the potential of using manufactured housing to provide affordable housing opportunities.
- f) Require properties that receive subsidy through the County to remain affordable over the long term.
- g) Create financial mechanisms or study the feasibility of a housing impact fee on new development that is graduated based on distance to infrastructure and level of housing affordability. (subcommittee to address)

2. **Integrate a mix of housing types near employment and services.**
  - a) Provide incentives for residential and commercial land uses, such as [accessory dwelling units](#)~~mother-in-law units~~ and commercial/residential mixed use projects in appropriate locations.
  - b) Create policies and incentives for development of higher density housing in proximity to employment centers where multi-modal transportation routes exist or are planned.
  
3. **Encourage the design, construction and renovation of homes to be safe, healthy and energy efficient.**
  - a) Facilitate/develop guidelines to lower the life-cycle costs of housing.
  - b) Provide incentives for rehabilitation of rental and owner-occupied housing.
  - c) Provide incentives to attract local housing production for modular, manufactured and/or housing components.
  - d) Implement in partnership with LPEA special districts for financing renewable energy.
  - e) Provide incentives for resource-efficient design and buildings.
  
4. **Encourage life skills and lifelong learning opportunities.**
  - a) Identify joint or multiple use facilities for educational, cultural, community and recreational services.
  - b) Connect educational institutions and the private sector to achieve an integrated system of basic and career education, training and retraining for the community work force.
  - c) Improve and increase life skill resources and financial literacy through support of local programs.
  
5. **Support access to affordable healthcare and to a variety of providers.**
  - a) Adopt programs that encourage enrollment in healthcare educational programs.
  - b) Provide resources and support for a 2-1-1 Program (a social service information phone number) and Bridge to Success website.
  - c) **Maintain/support the rural designation for Medicare so that more Medicare patients can have a primary care physician and actively recruit healthcare providers of all modalities through programs such as loan forgiveness and tax incentives. (subcommittee to review)**
  
6. **Support a continuum of choices that helps seniors and disabled persons to thrive.**
  - a) Support the list of resources to connect people in need with each other.
  - b) [Adopt an "Inclusive home design ordinance" to provide reasonable access in all new home construction.](#)~~Provide incentives to builders to include universal design in buildings and residences.~~
  - c) Re-evaluate accessory home regulations in regard to smaller lots.
  - d) Support transit options for all, including seniors and disabled, connecting residents to critical destinations throughout the County.
  - e) [Support the ongoing development of a dynamic, comprehensive and coordinated system of uses/supports for seniors and disabled persons which enable them to live as healthy and independently as possible.](#)

- 7. Promote healthy communities through neighborhood design, transportation networks, and public education.**
  - a) All new subdivisions and commercial developments will include pedestrian and bicycle facilities and connections with public transportation.
  - b) Adopt a future land use plan and zoning code that allows by right skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities, group homes, ~~that includes~~ higher density development nodes and promotes multi-modal transportation options and uses.
  - c) Regulate mineral extraction regarding noise, ground water pollution and light pollution levels on adjacent private and public property.
  
- 8. Support quality care for children, elders and individuals with special needs in a manner ~~childcare and elder care~~ that is widely available and affordable.**
  - a) Provide training and support, including tax credits, for individuals to provide child and elder care in their homes.
  - b) Evaluate, revise or create regulations, such as zoning, parking and land use regulations, relating to child and elder care facilities to encourage county-wide service.
  
- 9. Encourage dedicated access to public open space, recreation and trails.**
  - a) Provide developers options for dedicating access to public open space, recreation and trails.
  - b) Develop a plan for dedicated access to public lands in areas that are expected to experience significant new development.
  - c) Develop, adopt and implement a county recreation plan, assess the feasibility of a County Parks Department and identify funding strategies.
  - d) Develop and maintain access, parking, restrooms and wayfinding to public trails and recreation areas, with consideration for the needs of the elderly and disabled.
  
- 10. Support and encourage partnerships with local agencies and jurisdictions in the provision of recreational and community services.**
  - a) Team with schools, religious institutions and grange halls to share facilities for recreational, educational, and community activities.
  - b) Create "kid trails" within the county and encourage local schools to offer incentives to children for their use.
  - c) Participate in efforts to provide residents of the County such basic human needs as food, clothing and shelter
  
- 11. Encourage intergenerational involvement within the community.**
  - a) Partner with organizations to hold an annual arts collaboration of youth and seniors.
  - b) Encourage community non-profits, cultural organizations, facilities and services in marketing their programs and in volunteer recruitment.
  - c) Formalize an agreement with the school districts to use schools as neighborhood centers for community social and recreational activities and services.

## Organizational Excellence Element

## Organizational Excellence Goals and Strategies

### 1. Provide citizens with user-friendly, consistent and efficient services.

7 G

a) Utilize best management practices that include checklists, interactive user friendly website, and extended hours.

### 2. Collaborate with local governments, state and federal agencies, the Sovereign Nations, businesses and other organizations, to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

a) Establish a recurring forum for networking among social service agencies, parks & recreation department, private recreation facilities & other non-profits to eliminate duplication of efforts and to fill agency gaps in service.

3 G

b) Support training, cooperation and asset mapping to eliminate duplication of services and to fill gaps in service.

2 R

~~c) Dedicate staff to research and pursue grants.~~

3 G

2 R

d)c) Formalize relations between the County government and Federal and State Public Land Agencies (NFS, NPS, BLM,) by designating a County planner as a Public Lands Liaison, who will provide monthly reports and/or updates to County Commissioner on regional public land activities and notify residents of possible impacts to private property.

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

6 G

a) Develop an interactive website that allows citizens to participate and provide input.

9 G

b) Conduct County Commissioner regularly-scheduled meetings at different locations around the county on a rotation basis.

**4. Work towards excellence in all county practices.**

1 G

a) Annually review the outcomes of development decisions and submit report of findings to BOCC.  
b) At least biannually (every two years) review the outcome of development decisions and submit report of findings to BOCC.

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

7 G  
3 G

a) Create county website for two-way communication between individuals & service providers.  
b) Implement a policy of "kids day" at the county to expose La Plata County students to daily operations

6 G

c) Provide an online forum for the public and public officials & County staff to communicate with each other.

**6. Align municipal and county goals, visions, and actions.**

5 G  
4 R

a) Conduct joint meetings between the municipalities and county on a scheduled basis and inform the public of the results of the meetings.

8 R

b) ~~Hire a Public Information Officer to provide periodic reports on collaborative efforts.~~