

Working Group (WG) Mtg. #21 Summary

June 21, 2010

DRO Recreation Center 4-6:30pm

NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

July 12 at 4 pm to 6:30 pm @ Durango Rec Center

Agenda:

Review the final WG revisions to the strategies.

Review final draft strategies with revisions by staff and consultants.

Review first draft of LPC Comprehensive Plan (Comments needed by July 19th).

Discuss next steps:

- Joint WG/BoCC 7/19 meeting agenda
- August 5 Community Meeting at Smiley Bldg, 6 pm to prioritize County-responsible strategies
- WG additional members for FLUP

FUTURE WG MEETING DATES

July 19- Joint WG/BoCC meeting on Implementation Strategies and Responsibility Matrix

August 2 – Sector Planning Areas, Opportunities and Constraints Mapping

August 16

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Participants:

Staff/Consultants: Marjo Curgus, Jason Meininger

Meeting Participants: Brian Kimmel, Peter Treguilles, Wade Moore, Jeanine Justice, Barbara Jefferies, Sally Bellerue, Dick White, Roy Horvath

Discussion:

Marjo led the group through the thought process and rationale of the ag-subcommittee's recommended changes to the strategies. The group generally understood the intent and rationale. The only strategy which caused significant consternation was the discussion of Strategy 7b #7 *Policy incentive for production exemption from eminent domain*.

Group discussion: use caution, review existing infrastructure plan and identify conflicts.

After discussion and debate, the group decided to adopt the five strategies, Also requested to include some language about the importance of conservation as a strategy linked to natural environment.

The group generally accepted all recommended changes proposed by CEAP; with minor changes to the education strategy.

WG REVISIONS TO STRATEGIES

(rev 6/21/10)

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.
 - ~~d~~e) [Encourage development of new renewable resources.](#)

- 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.
 - ~~b~~c) [Encourage sustainable use of locally generated materials and energy.](#)

- 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) a) 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.~~

~~b) Support processing and distribution for locally grown food and remove regulatory barriers to value-added production of agricultural products.~~

~~c) Allow land uses on agricultural lands that support an agricultural operation as the primary use.~~

~~d) Exempt county sales tax on locally grown food.~~

~~e) 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 agricultural organizations and programs available in county.

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 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.

d) Determine through analyses the projected development build-out for the county and allocate growth 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.~~
- d) Provide education, incentives and/or regulations to enhance energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy in new construction and major renovations.
- e) Encourage energy efficiency in all buildings.
- f) Encourage development of renewable infrastructure.
- e)g) Educate the community, particularly youth, about the benefits of using energy and material efficiently and of using local and regional resources.

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.~~
- ~~— Guide development to non-productive agricultural land and retain productive agricultural or critical resource lands utilizing land conservation incentives that are commensurate with agricultural production and the owners of the land involved.~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~— 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.~~
- ~~— Encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products.~~
- ~~— Reduce the loss of agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed to be incompatible.~~
- ~~— Outreach to the agricultural community for input before changing land use regulations.~~
- ~~— La Plata County adopts the state of Colorado's Revised Statute 35-3.5—101; Nuisance Liability of Agriculture Operations.~~
- ~~c) Exempt 35-acre parcels from county review.~~

7: Promote and encourage retention of agricultural lands.

- a) Create an Agricultural Advisory Group to work with the La Plata County Commissioners on local, state, and federal policy reforms that benefit local producers.
- b) Develop land subdivision, zoning, and conservation incentives for agricultural land owners that maintain the integrity of productive agricultural lands while allowing for other forms of development.
- c) Amend the development code to incentivize agricultural production remaining viable by providing clear and simple regulatory processes.
- d) Utilize County tax policy to support and enhance agricultural production viability (e.g. property tax formula, agricultural inputs, acquisition fund, etc.)
- e) Adopt a Right to Farm/Ranch ordinance including content of the State of Colorado's revised statute 35-3.5-101: Nuisance Liability of Agriculture Operations.

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.
- d)e) Create a Multi-Modal coordinator, through reassigning an existing position or with a new position, to integrate with community and state transportation efforts to effect multi-modal planning and improvements.

2. Prioritize a road and transportation network that connects new and existing developments and promotes multi-modal transportation options.

- a) Update street standards and interconnectivity requirements, and provide incentives and road maintenance agreements, ~~to provide flexibility~~ so that the County can accept ~~currently existing~~ sub-standard private roads and pathways that will interconnect neighborhoods.
- b) Ensure adequate and safe emergency access through all new developments and promote/~~require~~ interconnectivity with existing developments.
- a)c) Design and plan an interconnected multimodal network of streets, paths and trails.

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.~~

~~**6.5. 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.
- b)c) Encourage low-emission transportation options.

~~**7.6. 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.

~~**8.7. 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) Identify and locate activity nodes that support transit and multimodal transportation choices.

~~**9.8. 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.
- b)c) Develop conservation, zoning, and subdivision tools that provide incentives for protecting critical resource lands including habitat, wetlands, and riparian areas while allowing for other forms of development.

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.

- a) Advocate to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) to adopt legislation requiring the ~~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.
- 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 sources.

- a) Identify best management practices for light and noise control.
- b) Adopt noise and light regulations based on uses such as agriculture.

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

- a) Adopt renewable energy dividends (LPEA).
- b) Implement renewable energy tax districts.
- c) Incentivize the use of renewable energy for buildings and energy efficient building designs through the building code.
- d) Encourage hydropower generation from water projects.

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

- a) Require reclamation plans to be in conformance with long term land use plans for the area to be reclaimed.
- b) Provide incentives and/or remove obstacles for establishing renewable energy infrastructure on impacted lands.

8. Restrict development in the floodplain and significant geologic hazard areas

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

- a) Require notifications be sent to landowners when public right of way or well pad is sprayed with herbicide.
- b) Require a 50 ft or greater setback from watercourses for on-site wastewater systems.
- c) Revise the land use code so that erosion and sedimentation control standards are effective in minimizing runoff and disturbance of adjacent properties.
- d) 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.
- e) Enforce the La Plata County Weed Code and implement the La Plata County Weed Management Plan.
- f) Work in partnership with federal land management agencies and Sovereign Nations to prevent further proliferation of invasive plant species in La Plata County.
- g) Work in concert with other agencies to enforce air quality standards in and near La Plata County.

10. Reduce, reuse, and recycle material resources.

- 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.

- b) Create a composting program that would allow for the city/county to compost waste and promote composting by individuals.
- c) Provide tax incentives to businesses and individuals who recycle and re-use material resources.
- d) Collaborate locally and regionally on a "zero waste" effort.

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

- a) 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.
- d) Offer technical assistance and incentives to encourage 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) Support a locally funded county-wide housing investment fund.

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 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 buildings 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 buildingshousing.
- 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) Support access to care for Medicare, Medicaid and underinsured and uninsured residents.
- 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) Explore the adoption of an “Inclusive home design ordinance” to provide reasonable access in all new home construction.
 - 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, higher density development nodes and promotes multi-modal transportation options.
 - 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 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.

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

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

- 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.

- 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
- 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.

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

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.
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 - 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.**
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 - b) Establish an expedited county permitting process for development in designated rural centers and business parks.
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2. **Promote access to healthy, affordable, culturally-influenced, and sustainably produced food, sourced as locally as possible.**
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 - 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 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 can provide neighborhood and agricultural-related retail services.
 - c) Identify future commercial and employment centers~~uses~~ in urban growth areas with sufficient existing or proposed infrastructure and traffic capacities.
 - d) Determine through analyses the projected development build-out for the county and allocate growth to minimize future sprawl.

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 - a) Encourage the locations of solar and wind farms and private co-generation.
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 - d) Provide education, incentives, and/or regulations to enhance energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy in new construction and major renovations.
 - e) Encourage energy efficiency in all buildings.
 - f) Encourage development of renewable infrastructure.
 - g) Educate the community, particularly youth, about the benefits of using energy and material efficiently and on

using local and regional resources.

- 5. Support investment in adequate and sustainable water resources for social, environmental, and economic purposes.**
 - a) Educate the community about [practicing 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.
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Transportation Element

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 - b) Prepare a comprehensive "multimodal development planning checklist" for use by developers [when preparing applications and for staff during the review process](#) to encourage inclusion of multimodal elements. ~~and by staff during the review process.~~
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- 2. Prioritize a road and transportation network that connects new and existing developments and promotes multi-modal transportation options.**

- a) Update street standards and interconnectivity requirements, and provide incentives and road maintenance agreements, so that under certain conditions the County can accept existing sub-standard private roads and pathways that will interconnect neighborhoods.
 - b) Ensure adequate and safe emergency access through all new developments and promote interconnectivity with existing developments.
 - c) Design and plan an interconnected multimodal network of streets, paths, and trails.
- 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 [Metropolitan Planning Organization](#)^{PO}, and Northwest New Mexico [Regional Planning Organization](#)^{PO}.
 - c) Evaluate intercity transit as a means for transporting goods as well as people to minimize [vehicle miles traveled \(VMT\)](#).
- 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 the use of the most efficient, safe and environmentally healthy transportation designs and technologies.**
- a) Adopt and implement a “Complete [Streets](#)” policy and [Safe Routes to School \(SR2S\)](#) plan that addresses the cumulative effects of traffic.
 - b) Formalize collaboration and partnerships with CDOT and municipalities.
 - c) Encourage low-emission transportation options.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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) Identify and locate activity nodes that support transit and multimodal transportation choices.
- 8. 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, wetlands, 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.
- c) Develop conservation, zoning, and subdivision tools that provide incentives for protecting critical resource lands including habitat, wetlands, and riparian areas while allowing for other forms of development.

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 controls new development regarding density, building location and 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.

- a) Advocate to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) to adopt legislation requiring the 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.
- b) Incorporate in the development standards best management practices for protecting natural drainage systems, and aquifer recharge and planting of appropriate plant species.
- c) Create development regulations or policies that encourage community-scale renewable energy systems and waste water systems that allow for small rural "village" centers 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 sources.

- a) Identify best management practices for light and noise control.
- b) Adopt noise and light regulations that consider specific land uses based on uses such as agriculture.

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

- a) Adopt renewable energy dividends (LPEA).
- b) Implement renewable energy tax districts.
- c) Incentivize the use of renewable energy for buildings and energy efficient building designs through the building code.

d) Encourage hydropower generation from water projects.

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

- a) Require reclamation plans to be in conformance with long term land use plans for the area to be reclaimed.
- b) Provide incentives and/or remove obstacles for establishing renewable energy infrastructure on impacted lands.

8. Restrict development in the floodplain and significant geologic hazard areas.

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

- a) Require notifications be sent to landowners when public right of way or well pad is sprayed with herbicide.
- b) Require a 50 ft or greater setback from watercourses for on-site wastewater systems.
- c) Revise the land use code so that erosion and sedimentation control standards are effective in minimizing runoff and disturbance of adjacent properties.
- d) 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.
- e) Enforce the La Plata County Weed Code and implement the La Plata County Weed Management Plan.
- f) Work in partnership with [state and](#) federal land management agencies and Sovereign Nations to prevent further proliferation of invasive plant species in La Plata County.
- g) Work in concert with other agencies to enforce air quality standards in and near La Plata County.

10. Reduce, reuse, and recycle material resources.

- a) Develop a County wide comprehensive recycling program that results [within](#) an increase in the types of materials (including appliances) that can be recycled and identifies convenient locations for drop-off and collection.
- b) Create a composting program that would allow for the city/county to compost waste and promote composting by individuals.
- c) Provide tax incentives to businesses and individuals who recycle and re-use material resources.
- d) Collaborate locally and regionally on a "zero waste" effort.

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

- a) Promote forestry operations 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) [Prepare and implement 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.
 - d) Offer technical assistance and incentives to encourage 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) Support a locally funded county-wide housing investment fund.
- 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 and commercial/residential mixed use projects in appropriate locations.
 - b) Create policies and incentives for development of higher density housing [near in proximity](#) to employment centers where multi-modal transportation routes exist or are planned.
- 3. Encourage the design, construction, and renovation of buildings 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 buildings.
 - c) Provide incentives to attract local housing production for modular/~~manufactured~~ [housing](#), 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) Support access to care for Medicare, Medicaid, ~~and~~ underinsured, and uninsured residents.
- 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) Explore the adoption of an “Inclusive home design ordinance” to provide reasonable access in all new home construction.
 - c) Re-evaluate accessory home [standards that regulate](#) ~~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 ~~that 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 ~~to~~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, ~~includes~~ higher density development nodes, and promotes multi-modal transportation options.
 - c) Regulate ~~mineral extraction~~ commercial and industrial uses 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 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 ~~and~~ ; revise ~~or create~~ policies and regulations relating to child and elder care facilities ~~, such as zoning, parking and land use regulations, relating to child and elder care facilities~~ to encourage availability of services county-wide.
- 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 creating a County Parks Department, and identify funding strategies.
 - d) Develop public trails and recreation areas with adequate ~~and maintain~~ access, parking, restrooms, and wayfinding, ~~to public trails and recreation areas, and meet 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, and services to recruit volunteers and market their programs ~~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 healthcare services.

Organizational Excellence Element

Organizational Excellence Goals and Strategies

- 1. Provide citizens with user-friendly, consistent and efficient services.**
 - a) Utilize best management practices for customer service, such as providing that include checklists with submittal requirements for permits, instructions for permit applications, -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, state and local government agencies, parks & recreation department and, private ~~recreation facilities~~ & other non-profits to eliminate duplication of efforts and to fill ~~agency~~ gaps in service.
 - ~~b) Support training, cooperation and asset mapping to eliminate duplication of services and to fill gaps in service.~~
 - ~~e)b) 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.**
 - a) Develop an interactive website that allows citizens to participate and provide input.
 - 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.**
 - 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.**
 - 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.
 - c) Provide an online forum for the public to communicate withand public officials and& County staff. ~~to communicate with each other.~~

- 6. Align municipal and county goals, visions, and actions.**
 - a) Conduct joint public meetings between the municipalities and county on a scheduled basis and inform the public of the results of the meetings.