

Working Group (WG) Meeting #4 Summary
Monday, September 21, 2009
Durango Recreation Center
4-6:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA

October 5, 2009

4:00 pm -6:30 pm (Note time extension)

Durango Recreation Center

AGENDA:

- 1. Review draft Guiding Principles revisions (30 min)**
- 2. Review and complete drafting of Sustainable Development Goals and subtopics: (30 min)**
 - Food Systems/Agricultural Preservation
 - Land and Water/Settlement Patterns
 - (Renewable) Energy and Mineral Development
 - Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation
- 3. Initiate drafting of Transportation Goals and subtopics (90 min)**
 - Roadways, nodes, and transit
 - Multi-modal corridors
 - Aviation and rail
 - Transportation issues related to the oil and gas industry

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Participants

Staff/Consultants: Jason, Charlie, Gabe, Marjo, Erick, Robbie and Bob Odland

Working Group (WG): Travis Craig, Roy Horvath, Sue Herbst, Jack Llewellyn, Wade Moore, Brian Kimmel, Peter Tregillus, Dick White, Jennifer Lopez, Dick Norton, Jack McGroder, Jeanine Justice, Dick Norton, Scott Brinton, Barbara Jefferies

Guest participant was Jim Dyer.

Review of Vision Draft, Advertisement, Outreach Strategy

Marjo informed the WG on the status of the vision draft, the completed and future community meetings, and the outreach strategy that is continuing in the visioning process.

Review of Draft Guiding Principles

Charlie introduced the draft Guiding Principles for the Comprehensive Plan that he had taken the first attempt at preparing for the Plan. The WG asked questions about the purpose and meaning of the principles. After some discussion and revisions to the Principles, the WG moved on to the goals for the Sustainable Development in order to have sufficient time to discuss the Sustainable Development goals with the two guest speakers. The Guiding Principles will be revisited at the next WG meeting; heres the current revised draft in a **redline** format of changes:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES in the development of the LPC Comprehensive Community Plan

Guiding principles serve as a basis of reasoning and action; a set of beliefs that lead, show the way and direct the decisions of the plan. They are the fundamental basis for any decision. Each principle should be defined with a rationale that explains the principle's purpose and implications. Guiding principles define the ground rules for the process and development of the plan.

La Plata County will embrace these Guiding Principles in the development of the Comprehensive Community Plan:

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- Growth and change has occurred and will occur in the future; it can either serve or not serve community interests and values.
- Growth will likely continue to alter the rural/agriculture community and landscape.
- Growth can create great places to live and work if it is based on the community's own sense of how and where it wants to grow, by crafting a vision and setting standards and codes for development which respond to community values.
- ~~Neighborhoods containing a~~ mix of land uses such as housing, shops, work places, schools, parks, and civic facilities are importantessential to the daily life of the residents and are a critical components of achieving better places to live.
- A diversity of housing types available to a wide range of income levels, ~~and~~ age groups and abilities are essential to preserving real and creating healthy communities.
- Neighborhoods should have well-defined edges, such as agricultural greenbelts or wildlife corridors, which provide a continuous system of greenbelt/wildlife corridors.
- Walkable communities are desirable places to live, using a system of connected streets, pedestrian paths, and bike routes to all destinations.
- Regional land use planning will be integrated with a larger transportation network that is based on a variety of transportation choices and modes.
- Preserving agricultural land, open space, and critical environmental areas bolsters the local economy and improves the communities' quality of life.
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy production at the local and regional levels reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide the basis for a sustainable economy.
- ~~Renewable energy production at the local and regional levels reduces greenhouse gas emissions and provides sustainable economic growth.~~
- Communities will be efficient in the use of water through natural drainages, drought tolerant landscaping, and water harvesting.
- Growth and development decisions should be predictable, fair and cost effective.

Draft Goals for Sustainable Development

Marjo overviewed some of the concerns, issues and opportunities regarding the Sustainable Development element that were expressed by the community during the visioning process. Charlie introduced Jim Dyer with Southwest Marketing Network and a local fiber producer. He also introduced Bob Odland, a land use attorney and planner who specializes in sustainable and renewable energy policies and land use codes. Jim discussed some of the food systems that are currently in place in the County and programs that are ongoing such as *Farm-to-Table* and *Farm to School*. He also discussed how the County could promote and support agriculture and local food production through:

- Recognizing its importance
- Removing impediments to the production and marketing of locally produced foods and fiber
- Direct marketing
- Proactive policies and incentives

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- county purchases policies
- use of county lands for agriculture
- change property taxing structure
- agricultural conservation easements.

- Agriculture incentives:
 - TDRs
 - easement
 - funding for easements
 - better fairgrounds

Bob Odland presented a powerpoint on Sustainable Development principles, definitions and ongoing County activities (will be included on the Plan website and in the e-mail to the WG). Charlie facilitated the discussion on generating draft goals for each of the Sustainable Development subtopics:

Sustainable Development Goals

1. LPC will support local food, fiber and forest production systems (growing, processing, marketing, consumption) through agricultural enhancements.
2. Support renewable natural resource production systems (forest products, fisheries, wildlife) through enhancements.
3. Promote access for everybody in the community that is healthy, affordable, culturally-appropriate, and sustainably produced food source as locally as possible.
4. LPC aims to promote a resource-efficient growth and settlement pattern.
5. Development will be aligned with the CEAP (Peter will wordsmith this for the next meeting).
6. LPC supports the availability of adequate water supplies in the future for social and economic purposes.

Additional goals suggested by Jim Dyer after the meeting for consideration by the WG:

7. Provide incentives and support for local food system development.
8. Regulations and policies for local food and fiber production, processing marketing and consumption will be fair, clear, predictable and consistent.

The WG will continue working on goals for the subtopics of *Renewable Energy and Minerals* and on *Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation* at the October 5 meeting.

Housekeeping/logistics

Charlie agreed to provide coffee and donuts (ok, maybe some locally grown fruit) to keep the WG fueled for the meeting duration.

Sustainability

La Plata County Comprehensive Plan

Durango, Colorado

21 September 2009



Bob Odland, AICP, JD

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Exciting Times

- Energy Supply & Demand
- Climate Change
- Resource Limitations
- Changing Demographics
- Globalization & Localization
- Science & Innovation



Sustainability & Your Comprehensive Plan

- What is Sustainability all about?
- Summary of what's happening in the county
- Incorporating Sustainability principles into plan
- Vision for La Plata County
- Sustainability goals



Definitions

- Brundtland: Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Others: “Three Legs,” etc



Objectives of Sustainability Planning

- Prevent the accumulation of natural and human-made substances that cannot be absorbed
- Ensure the diversity and productivity of natural systems
- Use non-renewable resources efficiently while developing renewable resources
- Act ethically & consistent with social values



Sustainability – Vision Statement

“La Plata County will prosper socially and economically, while preserving the ability of our natural environment to support a high quality of life for current and future generations.”

Source: From Vision Statement Outline prepared for
31 August Meeting



County Activities

- La Plata County Compass
- U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emission Profile
- County Sustainability Office
- Climate and Energy Action Plan
- Comp Plan Visioning Exercises



Compass Core Strategy: Sustainable Development

La Plata County guides sustainable development in a way that is symbiotic with local municipalities, neighborhood communities and sovereign nations.



Compass Core Strategy: Objectives

- Agricultural Interests
- Intentional Land Use Planning
- Stewardship of Water Resources
- Mixed-use Development Hubs



County Activities

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- Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emission Profile
- County Sustainability Office
- Climate and Energy Action Plan (countywide)
- Comp Plan Visioning Exercises



Climate and Energy Action Plan

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Land Use
- Waste Management
- Water
- Agriculture
- Forestry



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Other Sustainability Efforts I

- La Plata Electric Association
 - Energy Efficiency Programs
 - Solar Rebate Programs
 - Green Power
 - Smart Grid
 - In-house Efficiency Programs



Other Sustainability Efforts II

- La Plata County [Coal Bed Methane] Impact Report
- La Plata County Food Assessment
- Regional Transit and Future Land Use Plan



Terms to be Used

- Sustainability – a theme that will apply throughout the new Comprehensive Plan
- Sustainable Development – a chapter in the new Comprehensive Plan




Chapters (Elements)

- Economic Vitality
- Sustainable Development
- Transportation
- Healthy Natural Environment
- Healthy Communities and Housing
- Organizational Excellence



Sustainable Development Chapter

- Land & Water
- Settlement Patterns
- Food & Agriculture
- Energy & Mineral Development
- Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
- Materials Use & Reuse
- Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation



Sustainability Issues in Other Chapters

- Transportation
- GHG
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Habitats
- Sensitive Environmental Areas



Sustainable Development Chapter

- Land & Water
- Settlement Patterns
- Food & Agriculture
- Energy & Mineral Development
- Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
- Materials Use & Reuse
- Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation



Land & Water

- Adequate water supply
- Natural beauty
- Open spaces
- Rural character
- Recreation



Settlement Patterns

- Growth centers vs. sprawl
- “Real” & “complete” communities
- Economic, social, & cultural diversity
- Family-friendly
- Mixed uses
- Transportation linkages
- Local businesses



Food & Agriculture

- Maintain agricultural heritage
- Local food production & distribution
- Natural & organic foods
- Loss of larger operations



Energy & Mineral Development

- Plan for eventual decline
- Diversify economy
- Number & location of gas wells
- Reclamation of gas wells



Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

- Renewable energy supply
- Energy efficiency
- Energy resiliency
- Higher prices
- Economic development



Materials Use & Reuse

- Recycling & reuse
- Junk in landscape
- Visual quality of landscape
- Rebuild before building new
- Toxic building materials
- Economic development



Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation

- Agricultural & ranching
- Community events & festivals
- Unique communities
- Historic downtowns
- Mining



Formulation of Goals

Bob Odland

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