

Washakie County WPLI Advisory Committee

Working in Conjunction with Hot Springs and Big Horn Counties

DRAFT MINUTES

March 20, 2016

6:00 PM

Washakie County Emergency Operations Center

Meeting Called By	Aaron Anderson, Co-chairman	Attendees	
Type of Meeting	Regular	Advisory Committee:	Bradley Lee, Justin Smith, Bill Alldredge, Karen Fenton, Dru Bower, Dwight Mayland, Shawn Christenson, Chip Axtell, Dick Kroger, Dan Rice, Tom Ryan, Jack Baird, Bo Bowman, C.J. Grimes, Toddi Darlington, Stan Wostenberg
Note Taker	David Anderson	Public:	Jenny DeSarro, Ken Hamilton
Facilitator	Tara Kuipers	Members Absent:	Ron Harvey, Kaylea Matlock, Larry Bentley, Felix Carrizales, Mae Smith, Dave Neeves

Welcome and Background

Aaron Anderson opened the meeting at 6:00 pm and gave some background information on the history of the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI) in Washakie County (WC). He then reviewed the responsibilities of the WPLI Advisory Committee (AC) as laid out in the WPLI Principles and Guidelines document. Lastly he discussed the timeline for the AC: Charter adopted by April; Background information gathering in April – June; Site work and field trips in June – August; Specific site data gathering in June – August; Work on recommendations August – November; Draft to Commissioners for review in December; Final product in January, 2018.

Introductions

Members and public in attendance introduced themselves and gave a short explanation of their interest in the WPLI. Tara Kuipers, Facilitator, introduced herself and gave a little background on Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA).

Collaborative Process, Tara Kuipers, Facilitator

Tara Kuipers (TK) state the process will be to learn about the WSA areas, listen to perspectives from others and to determine how the land should be used. She discussed the collaborative problem solving flowchart on page 7 of the Convening a Collaborative County Advisory Committee document emphasizing that the problem we are solving is not someone else's opinion or perspective but what to do with the WSAs. She stated that we should have a draft charter

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after tonight's meeting with the final being adopted in April. She added that each individual's interest in the WPLI is more important than his or her position. The interests tell us why. The ultimate goal is to provide a recommendation to the Commissioners of the three counties. The AC is only a recommending body, not a final decision body.

Chip Axtell asked if all areas in the state are bound to the same designation in the end. TK answered that the legislation produced by the WCCA will take into account all of the various WPLI committees' recommendations. There will be no statewide recommendations and they will keep the individual committee's recommendations as long as the process is held in good faith and open to the public.

Justin Smith asked if the AC would communicate with other AC's. TK responded that she works with other facilitators. She added that the WCCA website is a hub for the process and that other AC's information is available at the WPLI clearinghouse. The address is <http://www.wyo-wcca.org/~wcca/index.php/initiatives/wpli/>.

She closed this section by discussing the documentation process. Draft minutes will be emailed to the AC after the meeting and be approved as final at the next meeting. Meeting preparation will be to send out reminders and an agenda and make sure the website is updated.

Draft Charter Discussion

Tara Kuipers (TK) moved on to going through the draft charter presented at the meeting.

Page 1:

Karen Fenton asked if our recommendation would be limited to WSAs. Aaron Anderson replied that WC would like to focus primarily on the WSAs as time is very limited and trying to add other areas may cause the project to be delayed.

Page 2 - Geographic Area:

Discussion was held regarding how best to handle three counties and three WSAs with one committee and whether or not subcommittees should be utilized.

Comments were as follows: Dick Kroeger cautioned that we may need to address whether Hot Springs County (HSC) and Big Horn County (BHC) should be voting on the WSA only in WC. TK mentioned that we may need to utilize subcommittees. Dru Bower questioned whether we were concerned with time constraints and this may motivate the need for subcommittees. Aaron Anderson was concerned with forcing or allowing HSC and BHC members to speak to other county WSAs and would like to use the alternates to help with the process if reasonable. Others mentioned that they would like to be involved in all areas at first and consider splitting into subcommittees later after they have more information. Dan Rice stated that he would like to have HSC and BHC members involved throughout so they can see the entire process. Tom Ryan

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reminded the AC that all of the recommendations would still have to go to the separate County Commissions for approval. Bill Alldredge stated that the variety of perspectives and backgrounds of the members suggests that we should not split the group in order to maintain a stronger knowledge base and better solution. TK summarized the consensus that the three WSAs would be reviewed and researched by the committee as a whole for now but this may need to be revisited later in the year.

Page 3 - Membership:

It was noted that the HSC and BHC members need to be added to the list.

Discussion was held on the role of alternates in the process. TK stated that we want alternates to be involved but we need to decide who is part of the voting process. Dru Bower felt that alternates should have full participation but not have a vote, one person per category should be allowed to vote. There was general consensus on this point and TK summarized the consensus that alternates should be part of the entire process but voting for consensus, if necessary, will be limited to one person per category.

Tom Ryan brought up the disparate representation between BHC, HSC and WC and was concerned that HSC and BHC voices is limited. TK stated that is would be very important that the agenda is detailed enough that HSC and BHC can make sure they have representation when it is important to them.

Aaron Anderson (AA) wanted the AC to decide what roles the Commissioners who are members should play. Should they vote or not? He stated that he would like to be involved in the process but does not necessarily want to vote. He asked for the opinions of the group on this. CJ Grimes stated that if AA was offering a perspective of a resident or rancher to the group, rather than a commissioner's, that would be fine. Dan Rice mentioned that the Washakie County Conservation District may at times have someone sit in for Karen. TK stated that it was crucial that the voting process remain as transparent as possible. Dru Bower thought that a AA should be allowed to vote as an alternate if necessary. TK summarized the consensus that AA should be allowed to vote if necessary since he holds a position as alternate.

Discuss moved on to the Commissioners from BHC and HSC that hold positions on the AC as main members, not alternates. Dan Rice stated that commissioners who are representing an interest are known to the committee to be doing so and should be allowed to vote. Bo Bowman felt that everyone in lead positions gets to vote on the recommendations. Members who are commissioners act in a different capacity when voting in the Commissioner meetings. TK summarized the consensus stating that Tom Ryan and Felix Carrizales will be allowed to vote as committee members according to their committee position.

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Page 4 – New Members:

Tom Ryan cautioned that a new member coming along too late in the process would not be fair to them or the rest of the committee. TK stated that new members would need to be considered very carefully. There needs to be a gap that must be filled.

Page 2 – Geographic Area:

Dick Kroeger returned to the discussion of the areas involved in the recommendation and asked if other areas besides WSAs should be allowed to be considered as stated in the draft charter. Aaron Anderson said yes, but the timeline may not allow for their inclusion. Justin Smith thought we should take it out of the charter then. Aaron Anderson replied that it should probably be left in so other areas could be used for compromise purposes if necessary. Some discussion was held on what types of areas would be taken into consideration. TK stated that the general consensus was that we should leave it in so that other land areas could be brought in for discussion and negotiation even if the likelihood is small that we would need to.

Page 4 – Chair/Co-chair:

Justin Smith nominated Aaron Anderson as chairman. Tom Ryan offered to co-chair with Aaron Anderson. Consensus was that Aaron Anderson and Tom Ryan would co-chair the committee.

Page 5 – Responsibilities of Members:

TK discussed the importance of the members keeping their constituents, those entities in their respective categories, well informed of what we are discussing and recommending. The hope is that this will minimize the potential for challenges to the future legislation.

Page 6 – Responsibilities of Facilitator and County:

As facilitator, TK is responsible for keeping things moving and making sure the process is working during the meetings.

David Anderson will be taking notes, producing minutes and disseminating information

Page 7 – Decision Process:

TK reviewed the decision process and emphasized that decisions are to be consensus based and not majority winning. She discussed the scale of concurrence and stated the goal is to draft a recommendation where everyone is a 1, 2 or 3.

Dick Krueger expressed concerns with the wording of a simple majority only be required for a consensus. He recommended a supermajority (2/3, 3/5, 3/4 majority) due to his feeling that the wilderness perspective is underrepresented. Justin Smith responded that no one here should expect to get everything they want. C.J. Grimes stated that the outcome is not yet determined. Bo Bowman felt everyone has come to be involved and to learn, not to act with preconceived notions. There was more discussion regarding apparent preconceived opinions of the group. Aaron Anderson reminded everyone that there is a lot of gray area between Wilderness designation and full release. More discussion took place regarding representing interests and

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learning, discussing and digesting the information that will be shared throughout the process. TK stated that consensus votes will be recorded and be submitted as part of the recommendation to the Commissioners. TK called for a test consensus vote on the issue of majority vs. supermajority in order to demonstrate the consensus process. Votes were cast by raised fingers indicating 1 to 5 in favor of leaving the simple majority language. Votes varied from 1 to 3 and consensus was to leave the language as is.

Pages 8 and 9 – Behavioral Rules:

TK stated that all members need to read and understand these rules and to abide by them throughout the process.

Page 10 – Public Participation:

Public time will be put on the agenda for each meeting. Discussion was held regarding how to address the media when questioned. General consensus was that co-chairs would take on questions that should be answered on “behalf of the committee”. Personal interest questions should be handled by the individual members.

Future Meetings

Tara Kuipers stated that future meetings would be held from 6 pm to 9 pm and we will attempt to determine the date as well as we can in advance. Rick Vandervoet from the BLM will be giving a presentation at the next meeting so we will have to schedule around his availability. He will be sharing information regarding WSAs. Chip Axtell would like him to address the original intent of the WSAs and Dick Kroeger asked that he address the values of WSAs to the public.

Dick Kroeger also stated that he would like to see a wilderness advocate come in as a speaker. Aaron Anderson replied that having Rick come to the April meeting was a good starting point to give everyone a chance to learn the background of WSAs, discuss alternative designations and to offer local BLM office input. He envisioned the committee members driving information flow starting in May, which would include inviting guest speakers for their respective areas of interest.

Public Comments

No comments were made by the attending public.

Aaron Anderson closed the meeting at 9:05 pm.