

RWYOMING PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE
Teton County Advisory Committee Official Minutes

Jackson, Wyoming
October 11, 2016

A scheduled meeting of the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative, Teton County Advisory Committee, was held in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers on this date. Committee members present were Rob Shaul, Lloyd Dorsey, David Sollitt, Amanda Carey, Lisa McGee, Mike Mielke, Harry Statter, Dave Hodges, Dan Smitherman, Don Saner, Siva Sundaresan Pat Kearney, Abigail Moore, Steve Kilpatrick, Mike Brennan, Bruce Hayse. Committee members Tom Turiano and Jim Woodmency were absent from the meeting. Deb Kleinman, Steve Smutko, and Selena Gerace were present to represent the Ruckelshaus Institute. Teton County Commissioners Mark Newcomb, Paul Vogelheim, and Smokey Rhea were present to represent the Teton County Board of County Commissioners. Linda Merigliano was present to represent the US Forest Service.

County Commissioner Vice-Chair Mark Newcomb called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. He welcomed the Advisory Committee Members and presented background information about how the WPLI project began. He then explained that the Ruckelshaus Institute would facilitate the meeting and introduced Deb Kleinman.

Ms. Kleinman began by asking the Committee members introduce themselves and provide a brief background of their experience and interest in natural resource issues. After the Committee members had introduced themselves, Ms. Kleinman introduced Linda Merigliano who presented an overview of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act. After presenting, Ms. Merigliano answer questions regarding the WSAs and regarding the technical information the USFS could provide.

County Commissioner Mark Newcomb then spoke briefly regarding the role of the County Commissioners as the WPLI process continues. He expressed their desire to be mostly hands-off, but available to answer questions and responsible for the final sign-off on the recommendations generated by the Advisory Committee. He also mentioned the lack of a representative of the oil and gas industry and that the committee may want to rectify this gap. Mr. Newcomb and Ms. Kleinman then answer questions regarding the potential timeline of the WPLI project, with Ms. Kleinman stating that it is up to the committee to decide how frequently to meet.

Ms. Kleinman next provided a brief overview of the key elements and phases of a collaborative process. She offered to set up a time for a more detailed discussion or training on collaborative processes for anyone who was interested. Committee Members Mike Mielke and Abigail Moore expressed interest in doing this.

Ms. Kleinman called for a brief break. After the break, Selena Gerace presented briefly on the findings from the Situation Assessment the Ruckelshaus Instituted had conducted

in Teton County to determine collaborative potential. She reported that most stakeholders who were interviewed had positive opinions of and experiences with collaborative processes. Major concerns that some stakeholders believed could be barriers to collaboration included competing interests, unwillingness to compromise, and lack of inclusivity. However, most stakeholders believed a collaborative process could be successful if it was well organized, facilitated, and inclusive.

The next order of business was review and discussion of a charter. Ms. Kleinman led the discussion and proceeded to review the draft charter developed by the Ruckelshaus Institute. Discussion of the first chapter of the charter, entitled “Background and Project Description” centered on the language—particularly the use of the term ‘de facto’ and way the range of possible designations was described.

Discussion of the second chapter of the draft charter, entitled “Purpose” was brief and no changes were made. The advisory committee moved on to discussion of the third chapter, entitled “Products and Outcomes”. They took out language requiring consultation with the land use planning board and made slight changes to the language describing what documents the Commissioners shall provide to the WCCA during development of the recommendations.

Discussion of the fourth chapter, entitled “Geographic Area” centered on naming the two WSAs in Teton County (Shoal Creek and Palisades) while recognizing that they each are partially within other counties. The committee discussed interaction with the other counties and decided to specify that Teton County would work with the advisory committee in Sublette County in regards to recommendations for Shoal Creek, and would communicate with Lincoln County, WY, Bonneville County ID, and Teton County, ID regarding recommendations for the Palisades.

When discussing the fifth chapter of the draft charter, entitled “Advisory Committee Membership and Representation”, Ms. Kleinman recommended that, in the interest of time, they move directly to the section called “New Member Appointments”. Discussion began regarding the need for representation from the oil and gas industry and the agricultural industry. The decision was made to do outreach to these communities to try to get applications for representatives. The timeline for these applications was also discussed and it was agreed it would be best to try to get the applications within the next two weeks so there would be time to review them and decide on new members before the next meeting. It was agreed to schedule a phone call discussing applications for the week of October 31 and to schedule the next meeting for the week of November 14. The procedure laid out in the charter for new member appointments was voted on and approved by consensus.

Ms. Kleinman stated that they would continue discussion of the charter at the next meeting and it was time to wrap-up and discuss next steps. Members discussed possible days and times for fly-overs with Eco Flights and for field trips to the WSAs. Several requests were made for additional information including digital files of maps, photos, GIS maps, presentations from USFS and Game and Fish, the AUMs and lease

agreements in the WSAs, access to the situation assessment conducted by the Ruckelshaus Institute, and access to the house and senate reports.

With no further business, the October 11, 2016 Teton County WPLI Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.