

# **DRAFT LANGUAGE BY TOPIC AREA FOR MASTER PLAN UPDATES**

*July 11, 2014*

At the March 6<sup>th</sup> Caucus Roundtable Meeting, Pitkin County Staff received direction from meeting participants to develop topic areas and draft language for review and consideration by Caucuses in review of their respective Master Plan updates. The following proposed topics and draft language are provided as a guide for updating area master plans. Caucuses may or may not choose to incorporate and/or modify the language below. As the heading implies, those topics identified as *General Language for All Plans* may be appropriate to add to all of the plan areas, while *Specific Language for Individual Plans* identifies topics where specific recommendations may vary widely between caucus areas. Topics under the latter heading will no doubt require more work to accurately reflect individual caucus direction. Additionally, staff encourages each caucus to review the Pitkin County Land Use Policy Guidelines in order to ensure that the overall County goals and individual Caucus goals are not in conflict.

## **General Language for All Plans**

- Climate Change & Preparedness
- Food Security
- Needs of Senior Population
- Economic Resilience
- Renewable Energy
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Wildfire
- Telecommunications
- Public Lands
- Weeds
- Agriculture

## **Specific Language for Individual Plans**

- Roads/Bike Routes
- Marijuana
- Special Events
- Mineral Development
- Housing
- Mosquito Abatement

## **General Language for All Plans**

### **RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND PREPAREDNESS:**

Inaction with respect to climate change is potentially catastrophic for the natural environment and current and future generations in communities. The \_\_\_\_ Caucus endeavors to address energy consumption at the local level and resiliency relating to local land use and natural

resource management. We support coordinated and collaborative efforts between local, state and federal agencies to design and implement strategies to address the following issues:

- 1) Wildfire: Land use and forest management strategies to address the potential for wildfire, particularly at the wildland/urban interface, and to respond to a wildfire event.
- 2) Flood: Land use and natural resource management strategies to address flood hazard and to respond to a flood event.
- 3) Water Availability: Land use and natural resource management strategies to maintain healthy streams, reduce potential for drought, and to develop strategies in the event of drought to address potable water supply, wildfire potential, forest health, the local/regional recreation/tourist economy, fisheries and agriculture.
- 4) Biodiversity: Forest management strategies to maintain biodiversity as a means to limit impacts of changing climate.
- 5) Resilient Infrastructure: Design and location of buildings and structures to withstand adverse conditions related to changing climate.
- 6) Economic Resilience: Strategies to encourage a diverse economy to respond to changing snow pack and other climate related factors as they may impact tourism.

#### **FOOD SECURITY:**

Definition of Food Security: Developing a prosperous local food economy that supports local growers and markets where feasible, in order to rely less on outside sources and have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

**Goal:** Encourage local growers and distribution of local foods within the ----- caucus in order to provide a local and reliable source of food.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Support local and regional food growing and distribution efforts;
2. Develop a local community garden;
3. Encourage neighborhood food stands.
4. Consider leasing appropriate lands for agricultural uses.

#### **NEEDS OF SENIOR POPULATION:**

\_\_\_\_Caucus supports the provision of access to services such as education, public safety, affordable and quality health care, and access to recreation, arts and culture as a means of strengthening the quality of life and well-being for all people in our community, including seniors.

#### **ECONOMIC RESILIENCE:**

Develop a sustainable, vibrant, stable and diversified local economy.

- Support a diverse economy that is not dependent upon growth or development of natural resources;
- Recognize healthy ecosystems as an important economic asset
- (individual caucuses may have specific economy related issues to address...)

#### **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Encourage development of community renewable energy sources within the Caucus area on appropriate sites and individual use of renewable energy for private use.

- Support and promote resource efficiency in existing and new structures to support community resiliency, economic vibrancy, and environmental protection.
- Support the County goal of reducing energy from non-renewable sources by 20% across the county by 2020.

**WATER RESOURCES AND AQUATIC/RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS:**

- \_\_\_Caucus supports the County policy to preserve and protect its present water resources, recognizing the County's semi-arid character, and that significant transmountain and transbasin diversions and the vested rights of senior appropriators have materially curtailed the availability of water resources. Furthermore, wetlands and riparian ecosystems, which are important to maintaining the overall balance of ecological systems; and are important plant communities, wildlife habitat and movement corridors, should be conserved, protected and restored.
- The \_\_\_Caucus seeks to protect citizens' rights to permanently protected minimum stream flows in rivers and creeks, and to the preservation of remaining natural riparian areas and wetlands.
- Land uses within the \_\_\_Caucus and region should be designed to preserve and protect present water resources and to avoid significant adverse effects on the quantity, quality, or dependability of water resources in the County; To that end, land uses should protect against significant increased salinization of water, loss of minimum instream flows, and the need for future major public expenditures to reacquire or redistribute water resources.
- In addition to surface water protection, land use and development review should consider implications for aquifer depletion, subsurface water quality and impacts to domestic water wells.
- Regional watershed planning and collaboration is fundamental to maintaining vibrant, healthy rivers and outstanding water quality in the Colorado River Basin.
- Where necessary to protect water resources and/or riparian habitat, development in areas adjacent to water bodies, functional irrigation ditches and natural watercourse areas should maintain adequate setbacks.
- Development should not disturb the integrity of existing and natural drainage patterns. Land use and development activities that subject areas to increased potential for damage by flood, erosion or sedimentation, or increase the potential for water pollution are discouraged.
- Development should not contribute to the erosion of soil and rock, and natural vegetative cover should be maintained, and areas disturbed by land use or development activities should be revegetated.
- Preservation and utilization of water rights for agricultural production within the Caucus and County is vital.
- (Crystal River Caucus would like to include language regarding Wild & Scenic Designation and may have specific Crystal River health issues to address. Other Caucuses may wish to address water issues specific to waterways within their planning area, including water storage pros and cons, etc.)

## **AIR QUALITY GOAL**

Preserve the current air quality within the Caucus area.

## **WILDFIRE:**

Wildfire Goal: Cooperate with Pitkin County Community Development, the appropriate Fire Protection District, and other appropriate government agencies to establish and administer wildfire policies and programs to minimize the danger and destruction associated with wildfires within the Caucus Area.

### Implementation Measures

1. Develop a strategy with Pitkin County, the Fire Protection District, the CSFS, and the USFS, to determine the best solution for resolving conflicting mitigation requirements when there are wildfire as well as other environmental constraints on a proposed development or remodel site.
2. Encourage all existing properties, Homeowners Associations, and sub-divisions to seek wildfire risk assessments from the responsible and qualified agencies, and to implement and maintain home ignition zone landscaping and structure/site maintenance recommendations.
3. Work with Pitkin County, the Fire Protection District and the CSFS to develop a community evacuation plan to prepare for a wildfire event or other natural or man-made disaster that may occur.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The \_\_\_Caucus supports County research and facilitation of the extension of wireless communication and internet services if and when, the technology is available and affordable, to address the needs of governments, businesses, and citizens of Pitkin County. Provision of service should be developed with a comprehensive approach to location of facilities and avoidance or minimization of any negative impacts associated with such development.

## **PUBLIC LANDS**

The \_\_\_Caucus supports collaborative efforts between local, state and federal agencies in the development and updating of Resource Management Plans for public lands.

## **WEEDS**

Improve coordination between Pitkin County and Caucuses to effectively address weed management.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Encourage environmentally-sound agricultural practices that address implications of water diversion and pollutant run-off on the larger watershed and ecosystems.

## **Specific Language for Individual Plans**

## **ROADS**

(Individual caucuses may wish to address or update their specific goals regarding issues such as road ownership and maintenance responsibilities, surface improvements, plowing, speeding and bicycle/auto conflicts, coordination between Counties where roads fall within multiple jurisdictions. In addition, aspects of the following County Land Use Policy guidelines regarding roads may be appropriate for inclusion in Plans:)

- New and upgraded roadways should be designed, engineered and constructed to minimize environmental and aesthetic damage and future maintenance costs, consistent with public safety needs.
- Development that causes significant road service level reductions should be discouraged.
- Appropriate buffer strips should be preserved along federal, state and local roadways to protect public views, minimize safety concerns and environmental impacts, and to preserve corridors for future transportation facilities.
- Roadway capacity improvements should integrate alternative modes of transportation, such as bicycles and transit, and pedestrian ways so as to add "people carrying" capacity to the roadway, not just vehicular capacity, whenever feasible.
- As a means of connecting communities in the region and diminishing reliance upon the automobile, the \_\_\_Caucus supports affordable, efficient mass transit and multi-modal transportation connectivity to pedestrian and bicycle trail systems.

**MARIJUANA** Caucuses may wish to address the topic of marijuana, including direction regarding appropriate location, size and standards for, or recommended prohibition of cultivation, dispensaries, manufacturing of edibles, and testing of product (for consistency potency, cleanliness, etc.)

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Caucuses may wish to address the use of residential properties for commercial and private special events, including topics such as appropriate #, size and duration of events, structures, noise, lights, fireworks, parking, access, impacts to residents, roads and traffic, trails, rural character, wildlife, livestock, etc.

#### **MINERAL DEVELOPMENT**

Explore means of reduction in energy consumption for both government organizations and the community at large, while advocating for the development of clean, environmentally sound renewable energy resources and technology. Mineral development should be limited to that which provides energy that will be developed and utilized without degradation to air and water quality or quantity; and without detriment to public lands, wildlife, agriculture, and rural character that sustain the local and regional tourist based economy.

#### **HOUSING**

Caucuses may or may not wish to update plans with respect to the issue of affordable housing.

#### **MOSQUITO ABATEMENT**

This is an issue that a few caucuses have expressed an interest in addressing as a topic.