

Crystal River Caucus Special Meeting, April 9th, 2015.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with 42 members in attendance.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

1. An overview presentation of the proposed Bull Mountain Oil and Gas development was provided by Delia Malone (powerpoint file attached)

A motion was made by Carl Smith to send comments to the BLM recommending a "Conservation Alternative" as outlined in the presentation. John Emerick seconded the motion.

After lengthy discussion regarding the potential impacts of fracking on our quality of life and our environment the motion passed unanimously.

Because an organization by the name of Healthy Mountain Communities has been on the front lines of opposing this development Jim Lester made a motion to partner with a group. Chuck Downey seconded the motion. After brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.

2. Leslie Lamont provided updated information regarding the Fire Protection District.

The Conservation Alternative presented to the Caucus and passed for commenting to the BLM stated:

BLM failed to consider a conservation alternative within its scope of alternatives. BLM needs to consider a conservation-oriented alternative and additional mitigation measures, such as "phased development" that would control the timing, pace, and location of new development and require interim reclamation, enhanced 1,000-foot setbacks for new well locations from water bodies, increased air pollution controls (e.g. no-bleed and low-bleed pneumatic devices, green completions and closed-loop drilling systems),

BLM should require increased financial assurance (i.e. bonding) of an amount adequate to cover cleanup and remediation of a catastrophic accident and to ensure complete reclamation at the project's completion.

BLM should require mandatory baseline surface water sampling and ongoing monitoring, collection of baseline air samples prior to development, and ongoing air monitoring to test for chemicals related to drilling and fracking operations, like methane, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

BLM should require additional mitigation measures to prevent harm to big game animals—which would also harm the local hunting economy—such as timing limitation stipulations during certain seasons on operations and maintenance activities and big game monitoring throughout the life of the project.

BLM failed to consider the social cost of carbon (SCC). BLM quantified the alleged economic benefits that this project would provide, but never gave equal consideration to the costs of such development, including costs to existing industries or analysis of SCC. Full analysis of SCC is essential to informed decision-making.

Minutes Prepared by Delia Malone, Caucus Chair

Minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting of the Crystal River Caucus.

Called to order at 07:10 pm & adjourned at 9:20 pm.

In attendance a quorum of 22 members and 3 guests from Pitkin County Community Development and George Newman our County Commissioner.

The Minutes of the September meeting were approved by 8 voting for, 2 abstaining and the silent majority.

The Treasurer's report showing an unchanged balance of a bit less than \$796.88, which was similarly approved.

Cindy Houben, Director of Pitkin County Community Development briefly discussed the proposed amendments to the Special Events Land Use Code (with her were Ellen Sassano, Senior Planner and Kara Silbernagel):

- These proposed Code revisions were prompted by issues presented last summer when a large event which erected structures with over 27000 square feet for a wedding in a remote rural area of the County was destructive with significant impacts upon County resources and residents.
- The draft 70 page documents has tables on pages 15, 16 & 17 which summarize the proposed rules by three areas: urban, rural and remote rural.
- The revisions were based upon perceived impacts upon the community rather than upon land ownership. Impacts considered included: the public, parking, roads, land, sheriff, &c.
- The Caucus will consider having a special meeting on these rules, but it may not be realistic as the County would like to have a revised rule set in place for this summers events (which are being planned NOW.) Dee Malone may e-mail members to ask if they wish to have such a meeting.
- At the end of the meeting the Caucus voted formally to request additional time to respond to the *rural* rules which most affect our area of the County.

After brief discussion, the 5 members of the Caucus Board whose terms were expired were re-elected: Delia Malone, Becky Trembly, Tom Bleskan, Phil Youngman & Chuck Ogilby. 17 in favor with 3 formally abstaining.

Revisions to the Crystal River Master Plan (CRVMP) were then discussed.

Extensive discussion of the proposed revisions to Section 1 on Growth ensued and dominated the remainder of the meeting time. In general, from these discussions it seems this section needs to be cleaned up!!

- The stated goal (from the existing plan) was endorsed.
- An extensive discussion of the several "Objectives" ensued and it seems clear that these need to be revised and focused.
- The introductory sentence to 1.1 was felt to be redundant with the Goal and by vote will be eliminated.
- The proposed additions in red were endorsed, pending some clean-up of language and perhaps re-ordering.

The current County Build Out analysis was presented as an addendum to the proposed Growth discussion and it was not entirely clear if we were proposing to include any of this in the revised plan by reference, or ??

- Nearly 85% of the acreage in the Caucus area is Federal Land (125,600 acres out of 148,000 acres) and an additional 692 acres are designated Open Space.
- It was noted that since the original CRVMP – a bit more than 10 years ago -- approximately half of the potentially developable 21,433 acres have been removed by land conservation policies (Transferrable Development Rights (TDRs) and Conservation Easements.) Thus, 9833 of these 21433 acres (46%) are now not developable.
- The Build Out Analysis was then discussed by Ellen Sassano with input from Kara Silbernagel. They noted that this analysis is based upon current zoning. They also discussed some of the larger parcels with bigger potential build outs and how these might or might not change.
- Presently we have 435 houses in our area. They estimate a *maximum build out* of an additional 585 units. However, when restrictions due to hillside, hazard analysis and other building constraints are considered *the likely build out* is an additional 351 units.
- It was also noted that zoning restrictions can change in the future.

Attention then turned back to the proposed Growth Section 1.2.

- The original language on rural character (yellowed out) left and add the proposed language on ecological integrity.
- Discussion indicated that the specifics under this heading need to be revisited.
- The Highway 133 proposed additions were seen to be in the wrong place and will be moved to Transportation.
  - The hazardous materials haulage language was objected to. It was asserted that diesel fuel, propane, other fuels needed to be moved on the highway and were more hazardous than fracking fluids. It was agreed to remove these.
  - The animal, plant and migration protections were discussed and not resolved completely as it some felt apart from slowing traffic to a crawl there was little to be done.
  - Concern was expressed about an excess of signage blossoming in our rural roads and along the bike path near Carbondale.
  - The proposed wildlife crossing warning systems need to be clarified and rediscussed when we get to Transportation. There was no opposition to protecting wildlife, but the fencing restriction seemed unnecessary as one rancher noted that critters were often caught by even quite low fences.
- It was suggested that infrastructure concerns should also address fire, other road issues, cell towers, water tanks and perhaps other infrastructure.

Section 1.3 On minimizing detrimental impacts of development: Strike the word GOAL.

- Keep the original yellowed out statement of the objective here. This was the 2d, “keep the original” and this will be considered by the drafting group for other sections as these goal statements (with or without modification) reflect the existing CRVMP and likely should keep kept unless, as happens, badly worded or too redundant.
- The water protection issues are unclear and presently exist in two places in the draft, which needs resolution – likely by mentioning here and referencing a more complete water section (or vice versa).
- The use of the word sustainable was criticized as vague. While important, it is likely to need definition for each context in which used, or paraphrased.

- Protecting air and water quality remains an important objective
- It was noted that any development will affect water.
- It was urged that landscaping plans should be required to use minimum water (xeriscaping was endorsed) and it was recommended that this be a specific part of any water sustainability plan.
- It was not clear how to incorporate the note which indicated that a 100 foot setback from streams had been established, likely should be endorsed and variance needs and updating (e.g. flood concerns) should be addressed.
- It was suggested that the repetitive use of “Implementing Measure,” “Objectives” and other such phrases might actually impeded the clarity and flow of the document unnecessarily.
- In addition to the comments in red on water (wherever they land) it was suggested that porous paving materials should be endorsed for use on roads and driveways to further protect stream flows.

It did seem that the proposed revisions needed to acknowledge or incorporate progress made to date as noted in the many (blue) notes which Suzanne Wolff of Community Development had provided us as updates and achievements from the original CRVMP.

At about this point Dee noted that we had run up against the 9 pm meeting end.

Adjournment was delayed for two issues:

- A brief presentation of the rough draft of the merged Agriculture sections was presented so that the farm and ranch folks present could have an early look at this. There was very limited discussion.
  - Laws protecting *the right to farm* is seen as important and should be restored.
  - Flexibility from the County is important in achieving economic sustainability. Examples included farm markets (which should be allowed to sell stuff from nearby farms.)
  - Flexibility in building restrictions to permit proper equipment usage. The example given was building height which may not permit some larger hay loaders to be used.
- The time line for developing the Special Events section and making a recommendation to the BOCC, especially as it applies to our rural areas is too tight. It was voted to make a formal request from the Caucus to Community Development and the BOCC for more time to review these requirements.

Prepared January 9, 2015 by  
Mark Hilberman, Caucus Secretary

Crystal River Caucus  
General Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2015

Informal discussions began at 7:15pm. The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm when a quorum of 18 was present. Also in attendance were Dale Wills, head of Pitkin County Open Space and Trails and George Newman, our County Commissioner.

Meeting was adjourned ~8:50 pm.

Delia Malone began by discussing *the goals used in revising the Master Plan*. The County had requested that the Caucuses address the issue of Climate Change in the present revision. A "no regrets" strategy is being used in developing the revised Crystal River Valley Master Plan, which retains the main goals of the existing plan. The Sustainability goal was developed to ensure that the County our Valley would be more resilient to weather variability and its potential future impact. This goal is independent of one's view on climate change: whether the future has weather extremes as in recent centuries; or experiences an future rains and floods, or droughts, or as predicted warming with an increase in weather variability and extremes.

Stephanie Askew then discussed her goal of *developing a Community Garden and restoring the Redstone greenhouse* as an added resource and center for Redstone residents and visitors. In particular, she has tracked down the greenhouse originally built and used on the Castle grounds. This classical turn of the last century greenhouse was moved to Glenwood Springs many years ago for use as a nursery, is not presently in use and could be brought back to Redstone. She and a band of willing helpers recently explored the site of the tear down on the Castle grounds and found some potentially useful materials in addition to the building in Glenwood, which can be moved & restored. She is looking for funds for this project & is working with Dale Wills of Open Space and Trails to secure a site for the returned building, hopefully behind the Coke Ovens.

With a quorum present the minutes of the May meeting were approved without opposition.

New stuff: Bill Jochems asked to speak on *the risks of entering highway 133* and turning left from either the North or South entrance. Attendees agreed and after discussion it was agreed that the Caucus Board should meet with CDOT to discuss this. Fixes suggested included clearing trees and brush which blocked vision of the highway, reducing speed to 40 miles approaching town, better signage generally and possible use of European style mirrors opposite the North entrance. George Newman volunteered to attend -- it was suggested also we ask Bryan Pettet, the County's Public Works director to attend.

Chuck Ogilby then discussed the proposal to obtain *Wild & Scenic designation for the Crystal River*. Chuck, Bill Jochems and Dorothea Farris have been working on this since the adjacent Counties abandoned the claim to build two dams on the Crystal a year or so ago. The primary purpose of their draft Act, which is intended to go to our representatives in Congress for action, is to preclude dam future building on this section of the Crystal River. The Act has been carefully crafted to protect the interests of landowners along this stretch of river (water rights, existing land uses, further evolution of these matters in conjunction with federal, state and regional governments) while safeguarding the river. The Wild areas are in the Wilderness area and are protected, the Scenic portion then extends to Beaver Lake on the East side of Mable and the Recreational designation 20 miles downstream from there to a point North of Avalanche Creek. The Forest Service has been treating the river as having this designation since it determined ~25 years ago that the Crystal was *eligible* for such status. Chuck, Bill and Dorothea and collaborators are now seeking Forest Service determination that the Crystal is *suitable* for such status. Their hope is that Congress will adopt the proposed Act. After suitable discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed that the Caucus supports the Act, their efforts and

authorizes our Chairperson to sign and endorse the Act on behalf of the Caucus. 16 supported this motion and 2 abstained.

Dale Will, Pitkin County's Open Space & Trails Director discussed the planned *Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail*. He began with a historical review of trails in the Valley going back to 1876! The first six miles of the anticipated bike and pedestrian trail which goes South from Carbondale toward Redstone has been completed, with financial support from multiple sources. The goal is for the trail which to continue over McClure Pass and go on to Crested Butte via Kebler Pass. A number of conflicting demands continue to delay development of the next section to McClure Pass where our section will meet with that underway from Crested Butte. At present Pitkin County proposes to resume studies in 2017 which would delay construction into 2018. This prompted one of our members to mutter: "I'll be dead before this is done." Dale noted that the RCA has suggested they just get on with the task of surfacing the old McClure Pass Road and as much of the connection to the town of Redstone as they could as this involves simpler connection of the needed bits and pieces of land. The 2017 start is another two-year delay in the project -- the resource constraints were mentioned but not detailed.

Several members commented that a *bicycle and pedestrian trail* alongside the highway would not be safe for pedestrians or bicyclists given that cars and trucks travel at 50 mph on Hwy 133 and often speed at or over 60 mph. Dale shares the *safety concerns* and favors a separate trail in part because several years ago he was biking and hit by a motorcycle in a severe accident. He also believes, as another member suggested that a soft surface would be desirable and likely blend better with the environment -- full engineering assessment pending! Existing West Elk Loop Maps show the possible options reasonably well and he will try to get copies up on the County website or to individuals as seems most reasonable (the full set is big for e-mailing.) Finally, another member noted that we needed to consider the possible negative *impact upon wildlife* of such a trail -- in a subsequent conversation it was suggested that we should ask Colorado's Department of Parks and Wildlife to help us assess this complex issue.

Finally a brief discussion of the needs of Senior Citizens was held including the suggestion that a free jitney service be initiated. This has been tried in the past. Therefore, it was suggested that a better beginning on this topic would be to determine past such efforts with Pitkin Senior Services.

Mark Hilberman, MD  
Caucus Secretary

Crystal River Caucus  
General Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm with a quorum of more than 19 present and was adjourned 8:58 pm.

Also in attendance were Tracy Trulove and Tim Holbrook from CDOT and George Newman, our County Commissioner.

Delia Malone could not attend so Becky Trembley and Mark Hilberman ran the meeting.

Becky began by introducing our CDOT guests who discussed the recent re-paving of Hwy 133 and the safety concerns expressed by Caucus members. Tim, a Marble resident is part of the highway maintenance crew and was involved in the recent resurfacing and discussed the budget limitations (~\$4.1 million) and the process involved in re-using the existing asphalt and then finishing with the chip and seal topping. He acknowledged that there were no funds for widening the shoulders to improve them for bicyclist safety. Tracy is the local communication director and a long time Carbondale resident who will not bicycle on Hwy 133 as it is unsafe to do so.

The following issues were raised and the discussion moved between them:

- Speed limits as Redstone Blvd is approached from Hwy 133 by north- or south-bound traffic appears excessive to many residents. However, speed limits are set by highway folks out of Denver who, come out and drive the highways and set the limits for what ~86% of drivers actually drive. Thus, a new traffic study could result in raising the speed limit on Hwy 133.
- Can signage be improved or reduced limits be set in congested areas?
- A pedestrian crosswalk with temporary flashing lights may actually increase risk as pedestrians are prone to hit the button and just walk across the road without looking carefully.
- Lisa Wagner presented a detailed list of proposals to improve safety on Hwy 133 at the North and South entrances to Redstone Blvd which had been agreed to by CDOT and Redstonians working on this issue back in 2007 -- none of these have been implemented.

Tim and Tracy will bring the list of concerns and the gist of this discussion to their traffic engineers for further consideration. The caucus then voted to establish a highway safety committee to work with various CDOT personnel on these issues -- Stephanie Askew and Lisa Wagner will put that group together.

At the end of the discussion Tim asserted that many of the visibility issues at the North and South exits from Redstone Blvd, which also affect the increase in pedestrian traffic from Elk Park to the Coke Ovens could be markedly improved in the very near future.

With a quorum present the minutes of the May meeting were approved without opposition.

After distributing the minutes from past July 2015 meeting, Becky motioned to approve the minutes and John Emerick seconds then all approved.

No new business discussed.

Mark Hilberman presented the most recent versions of the the last 3 sections of the Master Plan Revision for Caucus approval after redrafting by the drafting committee & the Board covering:

V. Commercial/Retail - Bill Argeros moved to approve as presented, Becky Trembley seconds, 19 approved.

VI. Recreation and Open Space was then discussed.

Bob Mc Cormick requested the removal of the word "shall" under as in "Planning *shall* use existing right of ways." It was suggested the entire sentence be removed and as the discussion proceeded it was agreed to modify this section and to represent it at the November meeting.

B.J. made two points:

- She considered the elimination of the subsection from the original which stated that the right of way for the Bike trail be adjacent to the highway an error. Mark apologized pointing out that the subsection on transportation had been moved mostly to Infrastructure and that section had apparently been moved there. However, the specification that the trail should be in the highway corridor was deleted after several members of the bicycle using community had protested that was unsafe at the last meeting. What is specified in this drafting is that trail design should consider as primary criteria both human and wildlife safety.
- She also felt that private property issues should be considered. Mark pointed out that the trail would not go on private property. Moreover, it was very unlikely that eminent domain would be used to acquire "by fore" private property for trail use. It was decided to see whether it would be reasonable to draft something about this issue for presentation in November.

VII. Social Services was then presented as a new section in draft form.

The section on development of a public transit bus/jitney service was discussed and felt to be worthwhile as the population of the valley has grown and will continue to grow. Such a service should be available to residents generally. However, it was suggested that the service for seniors should be subsidized or free.

It was generally agreed that Mental Health Services were inadequate. However, the phrase was "in our valley" needed better definition, perhaps "locally" or ?? Mark will re-draft for input.

The 4<sup>th</sup> item discussing lower cost housing we discussed moving to the housing section -- no decision was made as it fits in here.

Both sections VI and VII (Recreation & Open, Social Services) will be re-drafted and these revised sections will be placed in the draft Master Plan Revision. These sections and the entire revision will undergo review and *if possible* condensed without changing the meaning of the sections already presented and approved by the Caucus. This complete version will be reviewed by the drafting committee/Caucus Board for approval for presentation to the Caucus for discussion and if possible final approval at the November meeting.

Mark stated that it is the goal he and Dee have set to complete both the condensing and the review by the drafting committee during October so that the entire revised CRVMP can be sent to the members a week or two before the November 12th meeting.

It is acknowledged that two more meetings could be required for completion. However, the goal would be to finish so soon as a satisfactory draft is agreed to and move on to other issues.

Carl Smith, board member from the Carbondale Rural Fire Dept. brought up the Nov 3 election voting for the 2015 mill levy 1.75 increase.

prepared by:

Mark Hilberman and Becky Trembley

## Crystal River Caucus -- November 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. Adjourned at 8:48 pm  
A quorum was verified with 19 members present.

The September 10, 2015 Minutes were approved -- none opposed or abstained.

Becky Trembley gave the Treasurer's report noting a balance of \$1236.94 with a penny a month of interest being earned! The report was approved -- none opposed or abstained.

Bill Argeros discussed a meeting held recently with CDOT about Hwy 133 safety issues, especially at the North and South entrances to Redstone Blvd as discussed previously. The issue of an overall traffic survey was again discussed. However, this might result in an overall speed limit increase without addressing the primary safety concerns. He noted re-paving of the rest of Hwy 133 was planned in two years, it was suggested that some funds from that effort could be diverted to solve the safety problems at the entrances to Redstone Blvd.

There was a discussion and slide presentation of the July 2015 BOCC resolution in support of the Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislative Proposal of the Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL). The BOCC calls for Congress to legislate a revenue neutral carbon tax. After discussion Caucus action was deferred for clarification and further discussion. MH is to distribute the BOCC and CCL documents to the members prior to the January meeting.

### **BOARD ELECTIONS:**

After a brief discussion there were four candidates for the available four positions on the Board. They were nominated and their election approved by acclamation: Ronald Phaneuf is the new member. Bill Argeros, BJ Blocker and Mark Hilberman were re-elected.

Significant Time was devoted to editing three sections for the revised Crystal River Valley Master Plan (CRVMP). The edited Core Values, Recreation and Open Space and the Social Services sections follow:

### **Core Values:**

Our Valley is first and foremost a place where preservation of the natural environment and the protection of our rural character are valued. As the rest of our state becomes increasingly urbanized, the Crystal River Valley is a place where the rural character should remain substantially unchanged. We value the preservation of open space, wildlife habitat, the Highway 133 view plane, and water quality in the Crystal River valley. The Caucus supports Climate Change mitigation and protection to prevent environmental deterioration. We enjoy the out of doors and believe recreational opportunities should be expanded -- including walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, bicycle and horseback riding. The Caucus supports development of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Path as part of the West Elk Loop path within the existing highway right-of-way and/or on a separate grade where appropriate. The safety of users and wildlife protection should be paramount in planning such a path.

We support limiting growth in our valley, consistent with the core values outlined above, and believe that future development should not occur at the expense of endangering wildlife or habitat. Housing designs should be compatible with the environment and rural character of the Valley. Social Services need attention and require improvement.

Commercial development shall be limited to small scale home-based businesses and small scale commercial activities. Any other commercial development should be confined to the area defined by the Redstone Master Plan. Historical, cultural and archaeological sites are valued and incentives that encourage their preservation should be developed.

We support safety improvements on Highway 133 and the need to reduce highway noise. Due to the potential for damage to the environment and the Crystal River the Caucus is strongly opposed to the routine transportation of hazardous chemicals used in the drilling, fracking and extraction of fossil fuels on the highway. The Caucus recommends that the County work with the State to reduce or eliminate this hazard.

Agriculture is recognized as an irreplaceable treasure in our valley and we support using a range of tools and/or steps to ensure its continued presence and viability.

### **RECREATION and Open Space:**

The Caucus supports expanding non-motorized recreational activities, which maintain the integrity of the Valley's ecosystems (refer to the Environment Section.) Access for residents and visitors to these varied recreational activities should be maintained and improved. Trails should be designed to protect human safety and utility while minimizing impact upon wildlife, habitat, and stream health and integrity. To achieve these goals the Caucus supports:

1. A bicycle and pedestrian (or multi-use) path in the Crystal River Valley to be part of the West Elk Loop and Scenic Byway. The trail shall be designed for user safety, wildlife and habitat protection and the route(s) should consider best science, other available information and input from landowners along proposed routes.
2. Existing campgrounds. The Caucus is opposed to significant expansion of these or development of new campgrounds.
3. The efforts of the Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Board and/or other conservation groups as they continue to acquire conservation easements or real property for the mutual benefit of the landowners and the public.
4. The acquisition and designation of Open Spaces should be balanced between wildlife habitat and recreational use.
5. Sustainable wildlife management on Open Space lands, in co-ordination with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
6. Encourage cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and other non-motorized uses on public lands, which are consistent with sustainable conservation practices.

Members are enthusiastic about the initial ~6 mile bicycle and pedestrian trail from Carbondale South to the Campground for its design, separation from the highway and functionality. It is not clear that space is available to continue the trail within the Hwy 133 right of way to McClure Pass, or whether as originally stated it will also be necessary or desirable to pursue an off highway option.

### **SECTION 8: SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Caucus supports the ongoing County efforts to expand Social Services, which at present are sparsely provided. Specifically:

1. The Crystal River Caucus supports the provision of access to services such as education, public safety, affordable quality health care, and access to

recreation, arts and culture as a means of strengthening the quality of life and wellbeing for seniors and other residents.

2. The County should work with RFTA to provide daily shuttle bus service for residents to and from Redstone to the Carbondale RFTA lot. There should be additional stops along the route. Service for Seniors should be subsidized or free.
3. Mental Health Services including inpatient and outpatient services are inadequate. At present, there are neither crisis intervention services nor any acute care inpatient psychiatric beds in Pitkin or Garfield Counties. Such services and facilities are urgently needed.
4. Encourage the development of lower cost housing options. Housing designs should be compatible with the environment and rural character of the Valley. Refer to the section on housing for several options to create incentives to meet this goal.

As a follow up to the meeting Delia Malone and Mark Hilberman propose the following outline for the revised CRVMP.

**Outline:**

- Core Values
- Executive Summary
- Environment
- Recreation and Open Space
- Growth
- Housing
- Social Services
- Commercial and Retail
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture

by Mark Hilberman, MD Caucus Secretary  
with Delia Malone, Caucus Chair  
November 25, 2015

Minutes of the February 5, 2015 special meeting of the Crystal River Caucus, held to discuss the proposed new Special Events regulations.

Called to order at 07:11 pm & adjourned at 8:05 pm.

In attendance 14 members and George Newman our County Commissioner.

A quorum was not present, but the members present were very interested in the potential impact of these regulations on our community. Therefore, it was decided to proceed with a discussion of these issues and to present the results to the appropriate County officials.

Mr. Newman began the meeting by presenting the impetus for the Board of County Commissioners decision to declare a moratorium on events in the Rural and Remote areas of the County. Specifically, last summer an application to hold a large wedding in the Rural and Remote section of the County was denied. Nevertheless, the applicants went ahead, found a private site willing to host their large wedding party in the Rural and Remote section. The event included a 27,000 square foot tent was quite destructive to the landscape at ~11,000 feet and took days to set up and take down.

The BOCC requested County planners to prepare and revise the Land Use Plan which draft is focused on three zones: the Aspen and Basalt Urban Growth Boundary, the Rural Area which includes our Caucus area and the extensive Rural and Remote Areas of the County which are the only area affected by the moratorium. The BOCC will deal first with the proposed new Rural and Remote rules.

In addition, he later noted that rule enforcement focused on complaints. As an example, while parking on County road is illegal, that is seldom enforced.

The Caucus voted, without opposition to focus discussion on the proposed Rural Area rules.

A number of important issues were raised, which I shall condense, hopefully fairly:

- One event should not encumber the whole county. If you want to have a big party self-contained on your 1,000 acres, you should be able to do that with a minimum of application requirements. Importantly, the environmental impact at our elevations is likely much less than that at 11,000 feet. Different ecosystems may require different considerations.
- Any rules should focus on impacts, not arbitrary issues like the hard to monitor and anticipate number of attendees. Specific impacts mentioned included parking, noise and fire hazard. It was noted that restricting fireworks as a noise problem while not including summer fire hazard potential seemed a bit strange. On the other hand, noisy fireworks can scare dogs, spook horses and frighten wild animals.
- It was felt that the rules might be neither relevant nor important for our area as large and small events had been held without causing significant complaints or problems.
  - Specific mention was made of several large celebrations of life/funerals which in view of limited parking had sometimes interfered with secondary road traffic without complaints.
  - The absence of property size definitions was felt to be a serious omission as several large agricultural land parcels had major events contained within their boundaries without impacting neighbors.
  - Time of day is important. The specific example was the impact of the noise from late wedding parties held at Avalanche Ranch. Since the present owner/managers implemented a policy to curtail these at 9 pm, the complaints from nearby Swiss Village have stopped.
  - In addition, noise impact is more relevant than the use of amplifier criteria for permits. Several amplified solo guitar performances in recent years were cited where noise levels were minimal and no impact on neighbors occurred.
- In general, non-commercial events should have different criteria and requirements than commercial events. One time events are different from repetitive events, especially those of a

commercial nature.

- The Caucus members present agreed that private weddings and funerals are different from commercial events, while recognizing that the events of last summer did pose a problem which merits attention.
- Tent sizes of 400 square feet seemed too small for most events. However, the 27,000 square foot tent last summer suggests that the size of proposed construction is an impact criterion.

A general concern shared by members of the Crystal River Valley Caucus present was that “We” do not have a problem.

- It was noted by a Redstone Community Association officer that the applications were overly long and complex. More specifically, an event held on Pitkin Open Space and Trails property requires a 2 page application with no fees, while on County property the form is 10 times as long and often has a significant fee attached. This is counter productive.
- Moreover, established events in Redstone do not appear to have caused significant complaints. Numbers of people attending are difficult to predict and parking is chronically limited and often overflows. However, parking control and noise ordinances may merit more enforcement for the safety/consideration of the public. It was feared that a number of the draft proposed Rural Zone regulations would be cumbersome and could negatively impact important events enjoyed by our community:
  - The Labor Day Weekend Art Show,
  - Concerts in the Park,
  - the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and parade,
  - Winter Fest,
  - Weddings at the Redstone Inn, and
  - Tuesday night jazz concerts in front of the Art Center were added last summer & enjoyed.

Finally, it would be important to examine any proposed rules with members of the RCA and the Planning Staff present to discuss how new rules would be responsive to the concerns expressed and how they might impact these ongoing and future community events.

I personally had difficulty understanding:

- On page 3 of Appendix C there is a list of about 18 zones on which a Special Events Venue would be prohibited – it may be clear to County planners what ties these zones together in this fashion, but not to the average citizen.
- Similarly Attachment E (Chapter 2 Review and Approval Procedures) begins with a Land Use Code Section table which is complicated. Moreover, the meaning of the letter codes is a bit buried & was only partially revealed to myself on my 3<sup>d</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> pass at these tables. Can be made clearer for us outlanders.
- I think Farm stands = Agricultural stands (?) and am mystified why a farmer, who wants a stand on his or her own land should not be able to cooperate with 3 or 4 nearby farmers – the size of the permitted stands seems more relevant.

Prepared February 6, 2015  
by Mark Hilberman,  
Caucus Secretary

Crystal River Caucus  
General Meeting Minutes - DRAFT  
May 5, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:23 pm, and Adjourned at 9:10 pm  
After a quorum was verified with 19 - 20 members present at ~7:20.

Pending a quorum, a preliminary discussion began at 7:10

Dee Malone noted that at last month's special meeting to discuss the Bull Mountain Draft EIS it was voted to:

- Support a Conservation Alternative which would include ongoing air and water quality monitoring, and
- Participate with Healthy Mountain Communities in their efforts to address the issues associated with development of the Bull Mountain oil & gas field.

Chuck Ogilby asked & was given permission to bring to our July meeting a draft resolution from the committee seeking to see a law enacted which would grant Wild and Scenic River status to the Crystal River.

BJ Blocker noted the nice and responsive job which had been done on new railings on the North Bridge into Redstone.

John Emerick discussed the efforts of a committee he is on which is working with Pitkin County to upgrade the translators which bring over the air TV and FM radio signals into our valley. In addition, he discussed the efforts to bring cell telephone service to the Valley. The latter is up to the commercial carriers and there are efforts to partially support cell service improvements.

The formal meeting began at 7:23 with the presentation and approval of the Treasurer's Report by Becky Trembly which showed a balance of \$1,236.00 after receipt of this years funding from the County.

The minutes of the Bull Mountain meeting as posted on our website were approved.

A significant number of suggestions came from the farm and ranch members of the Caucus which focused primarily upon improving the economic viability of agricultural endeavors. Specifically, by developing flexible and responsive zoning and planning requirements and the avoiding (and reducing) of numerous fees which are burdensome upon the agricultural community so important to the rural character of our Valley. These were incorporated by revising the specific wording in the slides presented by Dee Malone.

Another significant change proposed was to move Transportation into a section on Infrastructure the notes on this section have been included in the Outline. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail will be moved into the section on Recreation and Open Space, which like Commercial and Retail is pending redrafting.

The Caucus voted in favor of expanding broad band coverage:  
15 for, 3 opposed, 1 abstention.

The Caucus voted in favor of expanding cell phone coverage:  
11 for, 7 opposed, 1 abstention.

Crystal River Caucus  
General Meeting Minutes - APPROVED  
March 13,2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm  
A quorum was verified with 32 members present

Meeting minutes from September, 2013 were unanimously approved: motion to approve Linda Cerf-Graham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Martin.  
Treasurers report: delayed until next meeting.

Informal announcements:

Mark Lacy: Presented information on fire mitigation and habitat enhancement work done by the White River National Forest in the fall of 2013. Remaining work to be accomplished in 2014 includes chipping brush piles and additional clearing of decadent shrubs. Prescribed burns planned for 2014 will be postponed due to funding constraints.

Sharon Clarke: A Community Forum to discuss the Colorado plan and will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Third Street Center in Carbondale from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Carl Smith: A fire task force meeting will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact Carl Smith.

Delia Malone: The Pro challenge bike tour will hold the second stage of the event in the Crystal Valley on August 19<sup>th</sup>; Several Caucus members have asked about proxy voting – this will be discussed at the annual meeting; the County has begun the process of updating the Caucus Master plan – we will include this as an agenda item at the next meeting – a questionnaire regarding master plan priorities will be emailed to members in preparation for the upcoming discussion.

Meeting Agenda:

Old Business:

1. Voting of new Caucus Board Members. Outgoing Board members – Michael Ferguson, Bill Hanks, Mark Lacy and Clark Heckert. Four nominees for Board members: BJ Blocker, Bill Argeros, Mark Hilberman, and Judy Leake. Peter Martin made a motion to suspend the rules and declare nominees by elected by acclamation Motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Caucus membership.

2. Retail sales of recreational Marijuana and Commercial Grow Sites in the Crystal River Valley. Michael Askew made a motion to “recommend that the County prohibit the sale of retail recreational marijuana in the Town of Redstone, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clark Heckert. A lengthy discussion followed in which numerous concerns were brought forth including: negative impacts to Town Character; Safety concerns due to reduced law enforcement in remote areas such as Redstone; and demonstrated lack of compliance in nearby communities where marijuana sales occur. Discussion also included the potential medical benefits of marijuana. Motion was voted on and passed with 20 supporting and 12 opposing the motion.

3. Commercial marijuana grow sites. A motion was made by Michael Askew to “recommend that the County prohibit commercial marijuana grow sites in the Crystal River Valley”, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Chromy. A lengthy discussion followed in which several concerns were identified including: potential negative environmental impacts; security and safety issues; and because this is a very new issue with the potential for “unknown” impacts. Motion was voted on and passed with 21 supporting and 11 opposing the motion.

Other:

A motion was made by Linda Cerf-Graham to include a vote on Marijuana test and manufacture facilities and the next Caucus meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phil Gaylord.

Carl Smith presented a letter that he received from the USFS in response to his letter regarding the condition and cleanup of the White Bank Alabaster Mine site.

New Business. None.

Non-voting Agenda Item.

Mark Fuller presented a slide show regarding his journey down the river in Peru.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:10 pm.

Crystal River Caucus  
General Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

A quorum was verified with ~~18~~21 members present

Meeting minutes from March, 2014 were unanimously approved: motion to approve Peter Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Cerf-Graham

Treasures report: The caucus primary bank account presently has a balance of \$1,013.84. Motion to approve, Nancy Chromy 2<sup>nd</sup>. unanimously approved.

Announcements:

Jordan Lewis introduced himself to the caucus. Jordan is the owner of Silverpeak Apothecary and owns and operates the grow facility located on Highway 133. Jordan wanted to discuss the moratorium and answer any questions the caucus has for him.

Carl Smith, newly elected to the Board of Directors Fire District would like to email the map of the Thompson Creek Divide area to caucus members. Carl stated that the Garfield County Commissioners denied access to Gas Companies, via the Sunlight road, and suggests that Pitkin County Commissioners do the same with the Coal Basin Road.

As an Elder in The Church at Redstone, Carl pointed out the remodel going on on the main level and suggested that the caucus make a donation to ease the financial burden.

Dee Malone announced that she had information on the Pro Challenge Bike Tour coming up this August, as well as a comment sheet from the White River National Forest regarding mandatory bear proof garbage containers.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Mary Wiener, Energy Efficiency Program Administrator from Holy Cross Energy provided information on how to save on your energy bill. An average household uses 20 to 40 kilowatts a day. Holy Cross charges 9.5 cents a kilowatt, except during the peak time, which is 1pm -9pm when the cost goes up to 18 cents a kilowatt. Switching to LED light bulbs will lower your electric bill significantly with 25,000 hours of light compared to 1,000 with a standard 60 watt bulb. Just make sure the LED you install is compatible with your dimmer. Holy Cross offers complimentary energy assessments with rebates available for up to 50% of your project costs. Holy Cross is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary June 7<sup>th</sup>; stop by for even more LED handouts and ideas on energy savings.
2. Voting on Marijuana licenses, Manufacture and Testing  
County Commissioner, George Newman explained that the BOCC would now like a public vote on the previously administered process to receive a license for growing medical marijuana. The Crystal River Caucus voted “no” to retail sales of medical marijuana and “yes” to a grow area in the Crystal Valley in 2012.

The CRVC voted “no” on the sale of recreational marijuana, March 2014. The CRVC voted “no” on commercial grow sites in the Crystal River Valley, March 2014.

The BOCC has also put a 1yr moratorium on all Marijuana licensing since Feb.2014.

Jordan Lewis who has a license to grow, a license for retail (in Aspen) and a manufacturer license (which expires in Jan 2015), would like to see this moratorium lifted as it is hindering his business. Finally after some discussion, Jordan made a motion to approve both manufacture and test licenses in the Crystal River Caucus area excluding the commercial area (located within Redstone Boulevard). Jordan has a current manufacture license which enables him to process the marijuana, extracting the essential oils. Jordan, who has a doctor of veterinary medicine ~~medical~~ degree, is interested in making a lozenge that is not packaged as candy. Jordan does not have a testing license, which test the compound levels of THC using a spectrometer.

It is unclear how medical licensing and recreational licensing will evolve, Jordan suggested they are merging, George Newman said they want to “dove-tail” them.

Tom B made a motion to table the vote until next meeting. Linda Cerf –Graham 2<sup>nd</sup>. Peter Martin asked for more clarification to be sent to each caucus member before the next meeting stating the pros & cons with terms to be defined. The vote was passed by all with 1 abstain~~ing~~.

3. Cindy Houben and ~~Elly?~~ Ellen Sassano from Pitkin County Planning and Zoning discussed the updating of the 10 year old Master Plan as new scenarios, such as the licensing for marijuana, climate change, and oil and gas, have come up. The goal is to finish the plan in 2014. After the BOCC reviews it goes to Planning and Zoning for approval. Cindy will get us a red line report (August), showing the history of past plan and how it was implemented, or changed. Meanwhile they have put together sheets which will allow us as a group to focus on any areas that need to be amended or added. Not enough time at the meeting to do together, so Chuck Downey requested these get emailed to members and reinstated at the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:15pm

Crystal River Caucus Meeting July 10, 2014 at the Church in Redstone The meeting came to Order at 7:03 pm, adjourned at 9:05 pm Attending: A quorum of 41 caucus members attended

A brief introduction of new members was followed by formal approval of the minutes for the May 8, 2014 meeting by a show of hands, with no opposition.

Becky Trembly, our treasurer reported a bank balance of \$1013.81 which also received formal approval by a show of hands, with no opposition.

Bill Argeros announced this Friday's remembrance for Linda Cerf-Graham in the Redstone Park at 6:30 pm. Do bring garden flowers and consider a donation in her name to the Carbondale & Rural Fire District.

Delia Malone announced that 3 great blue heron nests were visible in Placita — as a consequence of the dam cancellation! Also that the September caucus meeting would be devoted to the Crystal River Valley Master Plan revision. She laid out the plan for a panel discussion and last vote for this year on recreational marijuana issues in Redstone, apart from the settled no vote on retail sales on the Boulevard.

The Pitkin County engineer, Gerald Fielding was introduced and he presented 5 options for a new railing on the North bridge into Redstone. The bridge needed repair and a new rail as a consequence of winter weather damage. The crash considerations in railing design and the limitations to a formal pedestrian walkway due to light traffic and limited bridge width were reviewed. Option 5 received 31 votes, no opposition: a wooden rail with adequate low barrier for child and pet safety — with the provision that the height be increased by a hand rail. This also gave the widest roadway.

Delia then introduced the panel she had arranged to discuss the marijuana issues: Sheriff Joe DiSalvo, and Commissioners Rob Ittner, Steve Child and George Newman. Their brief presentations were followed by questions and further discussion.

Sheriff DiSalvo noted the 75% favorable vote for legalization, the start of retail recreational sales in March with most outlets in the City of Aspen and 2 in unincorporated Pitkin County. There has been no change in crime statistics, with one break-in at a retail site with neither cash nor pot stolen and one stoned driver. He later commented that on average there were 200 - 300 alcohol DUI arrests each year in the County. He also commented that the cash only business model due to lack of bank access was silly (and presumably created an incentive for break-ins.)

He has made it a project to assure responsible introduction of recreational pot as the vote was to regulate it like alcohol. However, it is much more regulated and unlike liquor much more trackable due to package labeling. A check list is asked of each purchaser. Later he expanded his comments on security, noting that the cameras at each commercial recreational marijuana site were accessible remotely at all times by the State regulators. Early on there was confusion about the legal licensing of caregivers to medical marijuana clients, with false alarms of individuals growing and

selling to minors, etc. Licensed caregivers are permitted to grow 6 plants at home.

Rob Ittner discussed our current medical grow site and Jordan Lewis's desire to extend that license to recreational. The BOCC values caucus input and considers it in their decisions. However, they are the elected officials and may reach different conclusions. This February they decided to proceed slowly with licensing and to take licensing out of the administrative decision process and into the public approval process of the BOCC. Their one year moratorium expires February 15, 2015.

He noted the problems which have occurred with edibles and that the large greenhouse under construction along highway 82 south of Basalt was approved as agricultural but that approval as a marijuana grow site had been applied for and is pending. The July 23 BOCC meeting will address pending marijuana issues.

He noted that the BOCC was almost certain to require training of all personnel involved in

recreational marijuana just as at present he must train his restaurant's employees as part of his license to sell alcohol — TIPS training.

Later he noted that the State recently reported a tax income of \$84 million in the first 6 months of recreational pot sales and that the County received its normal sales tax on these sales. Finally, he later commented on both the water and land use issues associated with grow sites.

Steve Child noted both the 75% County wide approval of recreational marijuana and that all caucuses had to date taken a NIMBY approach to this activity whether this is due to fixed opposition or fear or uncertainty about the outcome of the Colorado experiment is not clear but appears to be in opposition to the vote.

The BOCC turned down the Woody Creek grow site application due to neighbors opposition, poor location and lack of land ownership by the applicant. There are 2 applications pending, one for the Crystal River grow site. Because of "changing targets" the BOCC will listen and take caucus votes seriously at least until the February 15, 2015 end to their self imposed moratorium. However, as elected representatives they may vote differently thereafter.

George Newman stated that he had opposed moving forward with recreational marijuana activities as the vast majority of counties and cities in Colorado had voted no on this ballot initiative. He felt that the vote may have been simply to de-criminalize marijuana rather than to promote retail sales and related activities. As a result of his concerns he did convince the BOCC to make review and approval of applications a public process and to have a one year moratorium on new recreational marijuana activities other than conversion of existing medical facilities. The moratorium ends this coming February.

He sees grow sites as a land use issues with potentially large greenhouses being involved. The current applications for conversion from medical to recreational do not involve expansion of existing facilities. Manufacturing facilities (edibles) are commercial activities and not appropriate for residential areas. However, testing facilities are small and could be housed in a residential area. One member expressed some concern about fires from extraction processes, but Sheriff DeSalvo indicated that this was not a problem for the well regulated manufacturing facilities. Once licenses

are approved by the BOCC their renewal will be an administrative process dependent upon review and absence of significant problems with the license.

Tom Bleskan described the visit he, Judi Leake and I made with Jordan Lewis to his grow site on the Crystal River. We had to change shoes, don jackets and access to the rooms was actually slow due to security provisions. He described a very professional operation with security cameras everywhere. The neighbors were very supportive of Jordan Lewis as a neighbor and grower and had not experienced problems with this grow site. One neighbor described medical marijuana usage of in her family positively.

I later described the grow site with its hydroponic arrangement, very frugal water usage, no seepage that we observed out of the plastic ~3 gallon buckets which contained each plant and the monitoring of soil water and electrical conductivity to control water and electrolyte feeding of the plants. In the event of water leakage, the dry tables on which the plants rest are drained into a containment vessel, not the river.

Two motions regarding recreational marijuana activities were considered: The formal motion to approve recreational grow sites in the Crystal River Valley was defeated by written secret ballot 23 to 16. The formal motion to approve recreational manufacturing or test sites in the Crystal River Valley was defeated by written secret ballot 24 to 17.

Nancy Chromy expressed several concerns, beginning with the one DUI stop. Sheriff DiSalvo commented on the weak science behind marijuana DUI concerns. Moreover, he noted that THC was cleared within 24 hrs, but that other components of pot could linger for days without effecting functional state.

I later commented on the difficulties in getting permission to study marijuana due to its Category 1 Controlled Substance classification. In addition, when study permission was granted, only a federal grow site product could be studied which excluded the numerous newer and more potent strains in use today. Moreover, marijuana is clearly less dangerous than many of the controlled substances which have been a useful part of my many years of practice in surgery and anesthesia and which are much easier to study and obtain good scientific data about.

Nancy also asked about the public hearings and further discussion included the anti-seizure and anti-inflammatory properties of marijuana which have not been fully defined but appear quite real. I noted that the CB1 receptors caused the high and that it was unclear how the many components of marijuana interacted. The CB2 receptors appear to be the primary anti-inflammatory and possibly anti-seizure receptors. However, their potential therapeutic potential has not been well defined.

Just prior to adjournment, Rob Ittner requested a few minutes to address the caucus about his fall candidacy for re-election to the BOCC in the fall. He discussed his long commitment to Aspen both as a successful restaurateur, a business person, and an outdoorsman. He was well received and his contribution to our meeting was valued.

Prepared July 11, 2014 by

Mark Hilberman, MD, Secretary

Crystal River Caucus  
General Meeting Minutes: approved 7/10/2014  
May 8, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm  
A quorum was verified with 21 members present

Meeting minutes from March, 2014 were unanimously approved: motion to approve Peter Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Cerf-Graham  
Treasurer report: The caucus primary bank account presently has a balance of \$1,013.84.  
Motion to approve, Nancy Chromy 2<sup>nd</sup>.unanimously approved.

**Announcements:**

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This first draft prepared July 11, 2014  
by Mark Hilberman, MD, Secretary

The September 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 meeting of the Crystal River Caucus was called to order at 07:06 pm adjourned at 9:05 pm. In attendance a quorum of 18 members and 2 guests.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved without opposition

The treasurer reported a bank balance of \$258.88 which was believed adequate for anticipated needs, and the report accepted.

Janice vos Caudill, the Pitkin County Clerk and Recorder was introduced and reported on the planning and procedures for the upcoming elections:

- The election website for detailed information is at [www.pitkinvotes.org](http://www.pitkinvotes.org).
- Registration may be done on-line at this site. On election day voters may register at any Voter Service or Polling Center.
- Personal records on registration status can be tracked on the website which includes a variety of Office and School District Information.
- The switch has been made to all mail-in ballots as 75% of voters have previously voted this way in recent elections.
- Extended early voting will last from October 20<sup>th</sup> to November 3, 2014, including the Saturday before the elction. There will be 3 polling centers: at the Aspen Clerk and Recorder's Office, at the Snowmass Village Town Hall and at Grace Church in Emma plus a drop off at the Church in Redstone on election day. The latter contingent on volunteer staffing.

Suzanne Wolff has forwarded a BOCC proposed amendment on barn heights to the caucus and requested input.

Cindy Houben and Ellen Sassano from the Pitkin Community Development Department were in attendance and contributed to the first discussion of the Crystal River Valley Master Plan (CRVMP) updates.

Delia Malone presented a draft update to the previous Environmental section which several Board members had collaborated on. It was also agreed that it would be good to have a more representative committee of Board and Caucus members interested in the process to continue the revision process. Those interested were asked to contact Dee by e-mail.

The suggested changes were generally voted upon and all received 17 or 18 positive votes with no opposition. The section numbers mentioned below are used in the draft revision document and will be revised when the changes approved at this meeting and any additional changes are made.

- Recreation and Open space issues will be consolidated into one section to be developed later.
- The rewording and creation of a separate section on the Air Quality was approved.
- The consolidation of 4 prior sections on Water Resources into a separate section was approved as was the draft language for that section. There was discussion of the property rights implicit in water rights allocation as well as the likely need to revise these rights which were allocated during a period of high Colorado River Flow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Water flow in the River is currently down significantly, demands have increased and the prediction of increased drought secondary to climate change may require such changes.
- There was discussion of the need to update the section numbered 5.6 on water quality to reflect changes since the 2003 CRVMP was created. No specific changes were made.
- There was discussion of the need to address and revise the sections on Growth and Housing. In particular it was noted that material supplied from the County suggested that the number of houses permitted by present zoning could approximately double the number of houses in our valley. It was felt that this should be the next CRVMP revision task as it is important to re-examine growth rate limits (presently 2%/year in the CRVMP) and present zoning in detail.

- Section number 5.7 on stream health was left unchanged. It was noted that the Pitkin Country Healthy Streams Initiative existed and that tax dollars were available for suitable tasks. This section needs an update.
- Sections 5.8 and 5.9 similarly need updating to reflect current local organizations active in protecting stream flows and strong support for pursuing Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River exists.
- The proposed section on Mining and Drilling was discussed and the proposed new draft language approved. It was noted that this section needs further modification to include more specific language on monitoring of water and air quality.
- The inclusion of a section on Weed Management was approved. Again there may be a desire to make this more detailed.
- A new section on Climate Change: Response and Preparedness was also approved. Several questions emerged about strengthening this section:
  - In the notes on Wildfire: It was suggested that the section on forest management should be separated and strengthened. Concern was expressed that significant die off of Aspen trees and conifer beetle kill are both underway with drought and temperature change clearly contributing.
  - A section on building codes and standards was suggested to make new housing and remodels more resistant to wildfire. It was noted that both roofing and siding contribute to fire resistance. Class A fireproof roofing is one step below a non-flammable roofing standard. These issues should be addressed in some detail.
- Several significant comments were made on the new section on Renewable Energy which needs revision.
  - Energy efficiency is the inexpensive way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that should be noted and likely expanded.
  - Renewable energy “use” is to be encouraged rather than “development”.
  - Wind farms are not suitable for the Crystal River Valley. Maintenance of scenic views remains an important objective of the Caucus. However, smaller wind energy installations may be acceptable and worthwhile.
  - Similarly, the Valley is not an optimal location for either major wind or solar installations, but the purchase/use of such energy from more suitable locations to the West or on the plains to the East is at present possible and to be encouraged. Despite the high Valley walls some home installations may be cost effective.
  - The potential for geothermal and mini-hydro development should be considered and probably incorporated into a revised section.
- Finally, just prior to adjournment one member asked that the caucus revise its position on marijuana grow sites in view of the evidence that marijuana derivatives which target the anti-inflammatory cannabis receptor CB2 provides important seizure control. The CB1 receptor is the one responsible for the “high” sought by most current users of the drug. While the data are to date are largely anecdotal, CB2 receptor agonists may provide a unique therapeutic modality for treating those brain illnesses in which inflammation is important (seizures, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimers disease, Parkinson's disease and others.) In addition, he argued that agriculture in the Valley is economically challenged and a marijuana crop could provide significant economic benefit locally

Prepared on September 13<sup>th</sup>  
 by Mark Hilberman, MD, Caucus Secretary

Crystal Caucus Meeting  
July 11, 2013  
Secretary: Clark W Heckert

Board Members Present: Delia Malone, Clark Heckert, Tom Bleskan?, Becky Trembley, William Hanks.

Also present: George Newman, Pitkin County Commissioner

Call to order 19:07. With 21 people present a presumed quorum  
William Hanks moved the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Seconded by Mark Oberman, approval was unanimous.

Becky Trembley presented the treasurer's report a balance of \$1300.75 and the caucus did get \$600 from the BOCC. Mark Oberman resolution to approve, Mark Lacy second, pass unanimous.

There were no committee reports.

Announcements: George Newman announced the happy news that in the recently acquired settlement concerning the West Divide Water Project there are no potential dam or diversion proposals remaining for the Crystal River Valley. Also CO House bill 780 Water Trust established Pitkin County's right to use existing water rights by the airport to keep additional water in our rivers. Additionally the BOCC has written a letter of appeal of the Forest Service's decision to allow year round mining operation at the Alabaster Mine. The BOCC's primary concern is the impact upon area mountain sheep populations. Also of concern to the Crystal Caucus are up coming decisions on recreational marijuana i.e. do we want such a business in Redstone?

Bill Jochems commented from the floor his appreciation for the effort and courage the BOCC exhibited in pursuing the West Divide settlement.

Mike Mechau proposed a resolution of the Caucus's appreciation for the BOCC's successful opposition to the three dam projects in the Crystal River Valley quite possibly the first time it has ever been done. Alyce Meredith second, passed unanimously. Pamela Heckert asked George Newman if there were any new plans for the bike path and he replied no because the Rio Grande trail was taking up all of the BOCC's attention and it will be at least till 2014 before the BOCC can focus again on the bike path. Chuck Downey praised the continuing effort to designate the Crystal River Wild and Scenic.

Agenda Items:

Guest speaker Zane Kessler from the Thompson Divide Coalition commented on the recent decision by S G Interests to allow their lease for drilling rights in the Coal Basin to expire and continued a discussion on TDC's efforts to negotiate buy outs of other oil and gas companies' leases in Coal Basin surrounding area and Porcupine Creek. He also

announced a TDC sponsored event and visit of the CO Governor in Glenwood Springs July 13.

Guest speaker, David Francomb, deputy District manager from the U S Forest Service gave a lengthy discussion of the facts and events which occurred prior to his decision to reverse the decision of his predecessor, Scott Snelson, based on the merits of the appeals to the no year around mining policy for the Alabaster Mine. Eleven appeals have been received to his decision. It will take approximately 45 days to summarize the appeal points and send them to the Denver Regional Office to make a final decision.

Mark Lacy presented a detailed discussion on the restoration efforts for the Coal Basin covering such topics as the 2012 Experts Workshop, why the water there so corrosive and full of sediment, Crystal River Funding, current conditions, area instability and what can and what cannot be controlled in the basin. This discussion was followed by a comment from Dorothea Farris on the “cow stomp” project for which she acquired \$23K funding to support a joint effort of the cattlemen and environmentalists to combine the right seeding (hay etc.) and mechanical agitation (cow stomp) to restore high country pastures. This effort is in its third year of operation and seems to be working.

Becky Trembley introduced Ian Moritz of Colorado Energy Systems who presented a talk on wind energy efforts in the Crystal River Valley by his company. There is at present only one installation which is in private use in the Marble area. It is used to augment solar power for off grid domestic use. He was pleased and enthusiastic about the project but was skeptical about the financial returns gained from such small installations in an area not ideal for wind energy.

Becky Trembley motion to adjourn, second Mark Oberman, pass unanimously. Meeting Adjourned 21:09 pm.

Crystal Caucus Meeting  
March 14, 2013  
Secretary: Clark W Heckert

Board Members Present: Delia Malone, Clark Heckert, Tom Bleskan, Chuck Ogilby  
Becky Trembly, William Hanks.

Also present: George Newman, Pitkin County Commissioner

Call to order 19:10. With 19 members present, a quorum.

Heckert moved the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Seconded by Hanks,  
approval was unanimous.

There were no committee reports.

Announcements: Bruce Gledhill announced the church has installed a new system for the  
hearing impaired which works through the PA system and can be heard by users of the  
newer hearing aids wirelessly.

Bill Jochems provided an update on the West Divide Water project in a recent meeting  
Dorothea Farris and Chuck Downey from the Crystal Valley EPA joined with Healthy  
Rivers and Pitkin County in opposition to the reformed plans for a reduced size off  
channel reservoir on the basis the water rights based on a 1950s era grant is no longer  
relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Dorothea Farris reported on plans to further restore and reclaim the Coal Basin. Groups  
wishing to volunteer their help in the effort should contact Chuck Downey.

Delia Malone reported on Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River. The website  
is almost up. Volunteers are welcome and she is seeking community input.

Malone introduced Bill Gavette from Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District who  
was invited to comment on the transport of hazardous material on Highway 133 as a  
result of last meeting's motion and comments by Carl Smith in reference to the transport  
of benzene within 300 feet of the Crystal River. Carl was also present to further extend  
his comments from last meeting. A comment of note was that fracking fluid is 97% water  
and the additional ingredients are so dilute the transport trucks are not required to carry  
placards and their routes are therefore largely unrestricted. Used fluid in transport is  
probably a different story. Bill Hanks suggested that he and Heckert lead in keeping the  
information coming to the caucus.

Malone then introduced Amelia Potvin from the Community Office for Resource  
Efficiency (CORE) which is funded by a grant from the Department of Energy. She  
mentioned that homeowners can get a home energy assessment for \$100 – a pretty  
worthwhile investment and encouraged residents to do so soon. She then provided a list  
of contractors and funding partners to accomplish home and business energy  
improvements.

Steven G. Hains from Sunsense Solar and Electric & Renewable Energy explained how  
an audit would cover boiler safety and efficiency, windows and doors, lighting fixtures  
and appliance efficiency. He explained how infiltration can be identified by creating a

small house vacuum and with the use of a thermal imaging camera leaks could be identified. He showed photos of examples.

Ken Oleson and Steve Haines from Sol Energy and Clean Energy Collective presented a comprehensive list of solar options to reduce homeowner electric bills and ways to provide green energy backups for house power.

Malone mentioned the Elk Park Committee was applying for final funding and was requesting a letter of support from the caucus. Carl Smith made motion that the Caucus board write a strong letter of support seconded by Dorothea Farris which passed by 18 approve, 0 disapprove and 1 abstain.

At 20:48 Bill Hanks made a motion to adjourn, Heckert seconded and with unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned.

Sept 12, 2013, CRC meeting minutes - APPROVED

Announcements Bruce Gledhill– travel topics this winter. Not sure of roll out or dates?

Dee - Oct 6 garden party; bring clippers shovel; will be at Redstone park,

Dee - Caucus Board elections in November

Janice Vos Caudill: voting changes

Big picture 71 live in big cities/counties 81 percent prefer 30 p om county like voting since 1993 30 day registration, now in co 22 days anywhere. Register to election day. Mail ballots all election, state and co ballot. Track ballot [pitkinvot.org](http://pitkinvot.org) to see your ballot. Mail 22 to 18 days prior to. Mail oct 15. Can have early voting in clerk office 2 weeks prior to office. 10k and need 1 service center, we have 3. 7 to 7 service center. Pitco, snowmass, emma church

Drop box in Redstone need 4 people to help with voting; Voters can go to any service center from Pitkin County; Spoiled ballot have to go to sc. Janice von caudill

Approve minutes – unanimous

George Newman provided marijuana info.

Local approval for approval of retail sales of marijuana. Clerk and recorder can accept app and fees. Half of the county says no, or temp ban; Pitco – 3 caucus voted no snow, mms, frypan retail/cultivation.

Will have a guest speaker in November to better inform the Caucus on details.

Wild and Scenic – Dorothea, Bill Jochems, and Ken Neubecker American rivers 5 co 1

Seeking public input on Wild and Scenic

Flexible and adaptive, does not prohibit development, does not dictate land use, still under local control. No lands takings, does not limit or restrict access. Preserve values of river in free flowing, does not affect water rights. Still goes thru state water law. West divide over, but others waiting in the wings. Storage, augmentation, owner protects outstanding remarkable values, water quality, eliminates dams, trans mtn diversions.

Scrutiny on TDC. Prioritizes funding for Wild and Scenic and to top of list. Draw for tourism, recreation and fishing and reflects community values.

How to outreach this.

Motion to lower quorum to 9 from where it is now at 19.

Mark Lacy second. Tabled until Nov annual meeting!!!!

Motion to adjourn – all in favor.

# Crystal River Caucus Regular Meeting

January 12, 2012  
The Church at Redstone

## Agenda

US Forest Service update (District Ranger Scott Snelson)

- Coal Creek Restoration and Bridge
- Avalanche Creek Campground
- Emergency Access to Redstone Campground

Crystal River Trail

Discussion with invited representatives from BOCC, Open Space and Trails, Community Development, and Healthy Rivers Board, on establishing a stakeholder group similar to Redstone Parks Planning Committee for the planning and design of the Crystal River Trail.

## **DRAFT Minutes**

### **Crystal River Caucus Meeting**

**July 12, 2012 Thursday**

Notes – Mark Lacy

Board Members present: Delia Malone, Sharon Clarke, Nancy Chromy, Mike Ferguson, Clark Heckert, Mark Lacy.

Absent: Chuck Ogilby, Tom McBrayer, Bill Hanks

We had an Ice Cream Social from 5:45 pm until 7 pm. Three flavors - Black Cherry, Vanilla, and Chocolate

No Quorum was met. 17 members, 8 non members

#### **Informal Announcements:**

1. Pitkin County Updates

GR Fielding, Pitkin County Road Manager. Two big projects in the Crystal River Caucus Area of the Crystal.

- Chip seal Redstone Blvd will begin when sewer plant is completed. Before Labor Day.
- Coal Creek Culvert Replacement at Forest Boundary. Mobilize July 16. Road will be closed up to 8 days when they are ready to pull and replace. County has notified all interested parties including landowners, FS, and FS permittees.

#### **Old Business**

**Elk Park Update** – Lindsay Utter Pitkin County Open Space and Trails

Began in 2010 and finished in 2011 with Conceptual Plan for Redstone Park, Boulders, and Elk Park. Received a 150 K Scenic Byway grant in 2012 to plan Elk Park and construct some infrastructure in 2013. They have hired Bluegreen Consulting to facilitate the project. Other consultants are ESSE Design and Muse Architects. They began meeting with members of the community in late May, 2012. This is open to anyone interested and they meet on every other Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Redstone Community Church.

Meetings have been an initial Kickoff meeting, Depot discussion; Site Design, and Interpretation and Design with Themes on Wed July 11.

Future meetings scheduled are July 25 – Depot and Site Design; Aug 22 – Schematic Design; Sept 5 Schematic Interpretation and present to the OSF Board on Sept 6 or 18.

Topics that have been discussed:

VIC visitor information center, interpretation panels, open space, bank stabilization and riparian restoration, floodplain improvements by reducing bank heights and opportunities for flooding, trees, and a skating rink.

They are applying for an additional grant from GOCO that is due the end of August.

#### **New Business**

1. **High Country 4 Wheelers Club Presentation** – Jennifer and Eric Isenhart  
website - [Hicountry4wheelers.com](http://Hicountry4wheelers.com)

Jennifer gave a general presentation about the club. They were started in June 1974 in GWS and are a social, recreational, and community based club. They are based in GWS and meet the first Wednesday of every month. Please refer to the website for more information. They currently work with the White River NF on the Lead King Loop and Hubbard Cave on the Aspen and Sopris RD and Battlements on the

Rifle RD. They do education, outreach and promote “stay the trail” and have an ambassador program for this effort interacting with the public. They are in the OHV Association and they encourage the “tread lightly” philosophy. They have been involved in search and rescue and have assisted many stranded recreationalists.

**2. American Rivers Presentation on the “Endangered Rivers Program”.** The Crystal River was nominated by American Rivers in May 2012. Matt Rice, Denver CO

The organization was formed in 1973 to work on protecting rivers in the US. It began by working on the creation of the “Wild and Scenic Rivers Act” that was authorized by the US Congress. Colorado currently has only 1 Wild and Scenic Designated River – Poudre River. New Jersey has 5.

The Crystal River was found to be eligible for Wild and Scenic status as identified by the National Park Service and the USFS 2002 Forest Plan. Work began on this in the mid to late 1990’s and included many local groups with CVEPA as the most active. There have been several dams proposed on the Crystal River since the 1950’s. Currently the Colorado River Water Conservation District and West Divide Water Conservancy District have conditional water rights and are proposing to give up some of their claims, but continue to pursue a dam on the Crystal at Placita and several other projects. As a result the American Rivers identified the Crystal River at risk from dam building and thus identified it in May 2012. American Rivers is interested in protecting free flowing rivers and the outstanding values of the river corridor.

Matt gave a general presentation and showed a 3 minute video of the Crystal River to end the meeting. It was produced by Pete McBride and supported by Pitkin County and the Roaring Fork Conservancy. More information is available at the American Rivers website – [americanrivers.org](http://americanrivers.org)

Bill Jochems is representing the Caucus in Water Court in August 2013 to discuss the validity of the conditional water rights.

## **Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Meeting 05/10/12**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. 17 members were present including 5 directors: Malone, Ferguson, McBrayer, Clarke, and Lacy. A quorum was present.

### **MINUTES**

Motion, Emerick. 2<sup>nd</sup> Martin. To accept the minutes of the 03/08/12 meeting. Passed. Unanimous.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Clarke reported the following: Current balance \$1,354.61. The caucus earned \$0.01 in interest!! The caucus received \$600.00 from Pitkin County. Motion, Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> N. Chromy. Passed. Unanimous.

### **INFORMAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Malone informed the group that a Special Event Permit has been requested and the Pitkin County Community Development Department will be holding a special meeting **May 23, 2012, 11:00 am at Aspen City Hall** regarding the application for the Redstone Rally. This proposal is for a third annual motorcycle rally, June 29 to July 1 in Redstone for the benefit of veterans' families with 100% of the proceeds going to Project Sanctuary. Anyone who would like to have input should either: attend the meeting, or send a letter, email, or telephone Pitkin County regarding the application.

Pitkin County Commissioner George Newman informed the group that the BOCC passed the first reading for the OST purchase of the "McCormick" property just to the Northeast of the south Redstone Bridge. The second reading will take place on May 23, 2012.

Bruce Gledhill informed the group that Habitat for Humanity is working with local organizations to assist a "long-time" family in the valley. Any and all support on this project by the community is welcome.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports.

### **PRESENTATION(S)**

Jim Elwood, Pitkin County Airport Director presented the on-going planning process for the airport. He explained that by state law, the airport is funded through an "Enterprise Fund" and that no property or sales tax revenue fund the airport. This planning is for 20 years "out" and is intended to protect options for future generations. Anyone who has input may contact Jim at 970-429-2851. Tours of the airport are available, and take about 1 1/2 hours.

Sharon Clarke of the Roaring Fork Conservancy presented the “State of the Watershed” and recently completed Roaring Fork Watershed Management Plan.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

An election took place to fill the vacated board position, which will then be up for the term elections in November 2012.

The Nominating Committee was contacted by and therefore nominated: Bob Dupre (who was out of town for this meeting) and Nancy Chromy (who gave an excellent yet short and succinct speech on her willingness to serve) for the position. There were no nominations from the floor.

Nancy Chromy – 15 votes  
Bob Dupre – 4 votes

Nancy Chromy will fill the board position.

Motion to adjourn Emerick 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Chromy. Chairperson Malone adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 12, 2012

## **Crystal River Caucus Meeting Minutes** **Thursday November 9, 2012**

Notes taken by Mark Lacy for Tom McBrayer

**Treasures' s report** given by Delia Malone for Sharon Clarke

The Caucus has a balance of 1,296.67. Interest of 0.58 cents earned. Outstanding bills – newspaper ad for November meeting in The CR Echo.

### **General Notes**

- Coal Basin soil amendment pilot project was completed in October 2012 by the USFS.
- Information forum on Wild and Scenic River status for the Crystal River in Redstone on Nov 14 and Carbondale on Nov 15, 2012.
- West Divide court hearing scheduled for Aug 2013. Mr Bill Jochem will represent the Caucus.

### **Scheduled Agenda Items**

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails presented the results from the **Elk Park Planning Process** that occurred in the spring and summer of 2012. Lindsay Utter presented the topic and Bluegreen Consulting (Ryan) and Muse Architects (Dan) presented their results to the membership. The project will be phased in 2 phases. Phase 1 implementation will occur in the summer of 2013 which will be constructing the Depot (info center) and some interpretation. Phase 2 will complete all the landscaping, parking lot, etc as money becomes available in the future. The County will pursue additional grant opportunities.

Ryan- Park Design has 3 themes cultural, river ecology, and accessibility. Schematics are available on line. Eventually in phase 2 there are 7 key areas – depot, amphitheater, open space, tree park memorial, play field and two riparian corridors (Crystal River and Coal Creek).

Dan- Depot will be located where the cabin currently is and is also the location of the historic depot from the turn of the century. The building is a stone and wood structure with the long axis being N/S orientation. It is elevated approximately 3 feet. The design fits in with the historic aspects of architecture in Redstone and will include a cupola. It will be patterned after the original depot. Carbondale still has the same structure that is now home to the American Legion.

OST will present the design to the BOCC on Nov 15, 2012. OST is also looking for support from the Caucus for this collaborative effort.. The caucus endorsed the project for both Phase 1 and 2 with 19 yes votes, 2 abstain, and 0 no votes. Many members of the public from the Caucus area have worked collaboratively with OST and various consultants bring this project to fruition beginning over a year and a half ago and culminating with the Elk Park portion in the spring and summer of 2012.

**USFS Oil and Gas EIS Public Comment Period has been extended until November 30, 2012.** Delia Malone gave a brief overview of the 3 alternatives.

The Caucus supported the Thompson Divide Coalition to exclude 221,000 acres from oil and gas exploration in 2012. We voted to support this effort. These areas are still available to lease in the EIS.

Jim Lester made a motion “For the CR caucus to support a prohibition against the hauling of fracking fluids within 300 feet of all waterways within the CR caucus area in Pitkin County because of the potential catastrophic health effects of even a small spill into our waters.” The motion passed with 17 yes, 2 abstain, and 1 no votes. This will be forwarded to the BOCC. George Newman from the BOCC was present.

Another motion was made to forward a letter to both our State and Federal delegations. The motion was made by Chuck Downey and generally states the following: ” The board is authorized to write this letter and forward it on to our representatives and post in on the web site for membership. The caucus does not support Alternative A, C or D are unacceptable. Alternative C (USFS preferred alternative. Alternative B is the alternative that the caucus supports.

Specific comments to Alternative B

**Reduce Allowed Leasing Area.** The 260,308 acres that alternate C designates as eligible for oil and gas exploration plus all currently leased Forest Service land, comprises 16.7 % of the total acreage of the White River National Forest. This is not acceptable. Much of the lease-eligible acreage contains forested land environmentally sensitive lands that should be preserved, not offered for development. Therefore we ask that the total acreage eligible for oil and gas exploration in the final EIS be reduced to less than 100,000 acres. Our National Forest lands need to be protected, not pillaged!

**Protect Roadless and Wilderness Areas.** No oil and gas exploration or development should be allowed in areas that have special designations such as Wilderness or Roadless, or any area that is presently being proposed or considered for future wilderness or roadless designation.

**Limit Leasing to Disturbed Areas.** Oil and gas exploration and leasing should only be allowed in areas for which access is already available and on which drilling operations would have minimal and remediable impacts on plant and animal life, water quality and scenic resources.

**Exclude Thompson Divide Area.** New leases should be prohibited in the 220,000 acre Thompson Divide area. This vast wild and unfragmented area west of Carbondale is an environmental treasure that would be severely impacted by oil or gas exploration, development and production. In its current state it is a sanctuary for wildlife and provides both summer and winter recreation for thousands of forest users each year. Also, opening this area to oil and gas production would have a major adverse impact on

the agriculture, recreation and tourism industries of neighboring communities like Glenwood Springs and Carbondale.

**Air and Water Contamination.** Alternative C does not include any provisions for emission controls to prevent air and water contamination. The processes used for oil and gas exploration and development are chemically intensive, and it would be naive to assume that none of this contamination will find its way into our air and water. Accordingly, we recommend that tight air and water monitoring programs be in place, both before and during any exploration and/or development activities. Similarly, emission controls must be in place during exploration, development and production phases.

**No Leasing in Placita area.** Approximately 3-miles south of Redstone and on the east side of State Highway 133 and the Crystal River, an environmentally sensitive area is designated in the DEIS as “Lands Administratively Eligible for Leasing” for oil and gas. This area, commonly referred to as Placita, is the only land on the east side of the Crystal River that is designated as eligible for leasing. This area is not geographically connected to the bulk of the main designated leasing area, is oriented in a north- south direction, and has an area of about 1,000 acres.

Placita is a major wintering area for elk and contains pristine wetlands that are unique to the Crystal River valley. Most, if not all of this area is included as wilderness in the current Hidden Gems wilderness proposal. The south part of this proposed leasing area backs onto a residential subdivision, as well as numerous private residences. Most of the residences are located in Gunnison County, and the wetlands are located in Pitkin County. The CVEPA Board or Directors recommend that this entire area east of the Crystal River be removed from consideration for leasing, and “Closed For Leasing Through Management Direction.

**Prohibit Leasing near Residential Areas.** Several areas in Alternate C are adjacent to existing subdivisions, personal residences and residential properties. The Rifle and Parachute area has experienced numerous conflicts and problems that could have been prevented with a buffer area. Accordingly, we recommend a buffer area of at least ½ mile between personal residences, subdivisions and cities, and any Forest Service lands that are eligible for leasing. A no-leasing buffer should be implemented for the two residential subdivisions and numerous private residences that are located southwest of Redstone that are immediately adjacent to lands designated as being eligible for leasing in Alternate C.

**Prohibit Leasing in Coal Creek Drainage.** All of the USFS land in the water drainage of Coal Creek (i.e. Coal Basin) is designated in Alternative C as “Land Administratively Eligible for Leasing”. We ask that the entire water drainage of Coal Creek be designated as “Closed for Leasing Through Management Direction” in the final EIS. Although past coal mining operations did extensive damage to Coal Basin and polluted its streams, extensive reclamation of the mined lands and haul roads has been carried out by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, and recently by the US

Forest Service. It would be a travesty to let drilling operations cut into the reclaimed land. Most of this drainage contains vast pristine forests and is highly used for both summer and winter recreation. In addition, opening this area to oil and gas exploration would have a major negative impact on the economy of Redstone.

**Reclaim Damaged and Disturbed Lands.** The DEIS does not address the issue of reclaiming lands that have been disturbed by oil and gas development and production. It must be the responsibility of the lease holder to return all disturbed lands such as roads, well heads, buried pipe lines, power lines, and equipment storage areas to their natural state. A deposit in the amount necessary to perform this work must be deposited up-front in order to assure that all reclamation and restoration work is completed in a timely and satisfactory manner.

**Summary.** In analyzing Alternative C, the overall balance of considerations for oil and gas exploration and extraction clearly favors the oil and gas industry. This is not right. Our public lands must be preserved for future generations, and their protection and preservation must stand above all other considerations.

Motion passed yes 18, 2 abstain, 0 no votes. The board will work with Chuck and directors on final letter.

#### **Additional Topics**

1. Review bylaws for directors to comment,
2. Bylaws committee needs to reconvene.

Motion passed 17 yes 3 abstain, 0 no.

As per Peter Martin bylaws cannot be changed till next November at the annual meeting.

#### **Board Elections**

The meeting was recessed and Board elections postponed due to lateness of meeting, Adjourned at 9:15 pm. Several positions are available as 5 members terms are up: Delia Malone, Chair; Sharon Clarke, treasurer; Nancy Chromy, Tom McBrayer, secretary; and Chuck Ogilby. A 6<sup>th</sup> member: Mark Lacy vice-chair is resigning in mid-term due to time constraints. There are currently no caucus members interested in any of the open positions. This will be discussed in January 2013.

## Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Regular Meeting 7/14/11

Directors Present: Malone, Emerick, Pojman and Wadsworth

Absent: Clarke, Lacy, Ferguson, McBrayer and Ogilby

Members present: 25

Guests: Commissioner George Newman

After community interest announcements, the July 2011 meeting was convened on July 14, 2011 at 7:09 p.m. by Chair Malone. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the March 10, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously. The quorum requirement was not met for the May 12, 2011 caucus meeting and there were no minutes from that meeting to be approved.

The treasurer was not present, but Chair Malone reported that the Crystal River Caucus accounts hold \$1,363.57 at present.

Chair Malone delivered a brief summary of the May 12, 2011 meeting discussions regarding the River District's opposition to re-authorization of the water rights for the Osgood Reservoir and reduction in water rights for the Placita Reservoir as part of the West Divide Project put before the Colorado water court. A quorum was not present at the May meeting so no official caucus position could be made.

Caucus members shared various thoughts and questions:

- What happens to abandoned water rights? (They simply cease to exist.)
- Pitkin County is willing to share their position statement with the Crystal River Caucus.
- Consensus to support the proposal to abandon Osgood Reservoir rights, but is opposed to any Placita Reservoir water rights.
- Brief discussion on possible effects on the possibility of Wild and Scenic designation to be sought for the Crystal River.
- Concern over the possibility for a relocated Placita Reservoir to Bogan Flats that would be filled in spring from snow melt to be depleted in the fall that would interfere with prime riparian/habitat areas.
- No actual details provided on the downsized Placita Reservoir.
- Brief discussion on the chances of actual development of a Placita Reservoir over the next 40 years.

Motion (Emerick) and 2<sup>nd</sup> with a "friendly amendment" (Jochems) that the Crystal River Caucus file a statement of opposition to the Colorado Water Court regarding the West Divide Project opposing the revised 4,000 acre feet Placita Reservoir and endorsing the complete abandonment of the Osgood Reservoir. Vote: Yes/25      Opposed/0      Abstain/2

By consensus the CRC members offered statements to back-up the caucus position:

- Summary statement opposing any dams on the Crystal River
- Support for Pitkin County's position
- Maintain free-flowing Crystal River
- Maintain what is left of riparian areas

- Keeping of a parallel relationship between the Scenic Byway and Wild and Scenic River
- Be true to stated core values of Master Plan
- Lack of “due diligence” (steady application of effort towards project), and
- Concern as to whether geology and soils engineering support the project.

Motion (M. Dorais) and 2<sup>nd</sup> that Bill Jochems, John Emerick and Chairman Dee Malone take the ideas presented by the Caucus and fine-tune a letter to the Colorado Water Court to be signed on behalf of the quorum present, and to be reviewed first by the Caucus Board of Directors. Vote: Yes/25    Opposed/0    Abstain/0

Motion (R. Wadsworth) and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Wadsworth

## **Draft Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Meeting 11/10/11**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. Approximately 27 individuals were present including 5 directors: Malone, Emerick, McBrayer, Pojman, Clarke and Ferguson. A quorum was present.

### **MINUTES**

Motion, Ferguson. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emerick. To accept the minutes of the 07/14/11 meeting. Passed. Unanimous. A quorum was not present at the last meeting so no action was taken regarding the minutes at that time.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Clarke reported the following: Current balance \$904.60. July expenses were \$459.00. Ice Cream Social, Water court filing, PO box, ad for July meeting. Motion. Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Heckert. To accept the financial report. Passed. Unanimous.

### **INFORMAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Malone reviewed the September 8, 2011 presentation on Coal Creek water quality.

Cathy Montgomery from RCA brought up the USFS bridge up Coal Creek Basin Road. There was a brief discussion. It was agreed that their letter would be put on the caucus website and that this issue would be on the next agenda.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Trails Task Force. Chair Ray Pojman reported that the trails task force had not met, but because of several issues regarding the trail and the county, Pojman moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ferguson: that "the trail" be recommended to the board (after a friendly amendment) as the main topic for the next meeting. 19- in favor, 0 – opposed, 0 – abstain. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee. Bob Dupre reported that several persons were contacted regarding being nominated to the board. One declined, one did not respond and Clark Heckert accepted the nomination.

Bylaws Committee. No report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

West Divide Project

Malone reviewed the history with the West Divide Water Project and the previous motions and actions taken by the caucus. One of those actions was the filing of a statement of opposition with the District Water Court. A very short telephone conference

with the court occurred on October 14, 2011. It was learned that the caucus as a filer must have legal representation. Bill Jochems volunteered to represent the caucus pro-bono which the board approved. He will also be representing CVEPA. There was a brief discussion regarding this subject.

#### Thompson Divide Coalition

There was a presentation by Marg Perry of the coalition and there was a lengthy discussion regarding political activities of the coalition and SG Interests (who was represented by Eric Sanford) request for unitization, the leases, number of wells roads, etc. A coalition water study is on-going.

Motion Fales, 2<sup>nd</sup> Beck , That the caucus send a letter of thanks to Senators Udall and Bennett for requesting a delay of the Lake Ridge unitization decision which will allow for further public input to be collected. 22 – in favor, 2 – opposed, 2 – abstain. Motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Board elections

Mark Lacy was elected as Vice-chair with 21 votes.

The following board members were elected;

Mike Ferguson – 18 votes

Bill Hanks – 14 votes

Clark Heckert – 19 votes.

Motion to adjourn Cerf-Gram 2<sup>nd</sup> Emerick. Chairperson Malone adjourned the meeting at 8: 50 pm.

## **Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Meeting 01/13/10**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Approximately 40 members were present including 7 directors: Malone, Emerick, McBrayer, Pojman, Lacy, Clarke, and Ogilby. A quorum was present.

### **MINUTES**

Motion, Martin. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lacy. To accept the minutes of the 11/11/10 meeting. Passed. Unanimous.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Clarke reported the following: Current balance \$763.56. Spent \$421.00 to Aspen Times and \$220.00 to the Aspen Daily News to announce the annual meeting. Motion. Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ives. To accept the financial report. Passed. Unanimous.

### **INFORMAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Information will be available regarding trail Wetland Mitigation on the Fayles Ranch. Rock mitigation will be taking place on McClure Pass. The operating plan for the Avalanche Creek mine was completed in October 2010. Scoping will take place between now and February. The USFS is planning a tour open to the public. The mine planner will be asked to attend the next meeting and this issue will be on the agenda. Check the caucus website for more information

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nominating Committee. No report.

Bylaws Committee. No report.

Trails Task Force. Malone reviewed the March 11, 2010 creation of the taskforce and the wording of the taskforce's mandate. Task Force chairperson Ray Pojman, reported that the task force members had met and walked the 133 highway from 7 Oaks to Nettle Creek. The task force had a discussion about which trail alignments they were authorized to review. Discussion took place. Motion. Ives 2<sup>nd</sup>. Clarke "To allow the trails taskforce to examine all options for the Crystal River trail and to provide the membership with information and recommendations regarding those options. Passed. In favor – 25. Against – 0. Abstain – 3. The membership was reminded that this is an ad hoc committee. The task force is open to all members.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The membership had tabled a motion regarding marijuana dispensaries and discussion about grow facilities. The motion stated: "That (marijuana) dispensaries in the Redstone Village Commercial (are) not appropriate."

Sheriff Joe DeSalvo reviewed Colorado's current medical marijuana laws and the fact the marijuana is illegal by federal law.

Peter Martin reported that the Redstone Community Association had met to discuss the issue. They're vote regarding dispensaries in Redstone was 22 – No. 1 – Yes.

After discussion, the members voted on the tabled motion. In favor – 28. Against – 7. Abstained – 3. Motion passed.

Vern Holems from the fire department discussed that marijuana growing is currently an agricultural issue for the fire department. There are currently on codes regarding the heating, plumbing, wiring etc. of these facilities.

The following issues were brought forward: Water use/ quality; Anti-drug programs for kids; Stealing of electricity; Driving under the influence; Zoning; Security, Crimes; Civics (federal law vs. state law), Code enforcement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Crystal River Dams & Diversions

Bill Yokum reported that the "West Divide" project was approved by congress in the 1960's (with a priority date of 1957) and must be reauthorized every six years by the Colorado water Court. This reauthorization will take place in 2011. Discussion took place.

Issues such as agricultural use, oil shale use, and other water use were brought forward. Motion. Mechau. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Downey. With a friendly amendment by Tom Kinney and accepted by Mechau.

"Crystal River Caucus hereby requests and advises the Board of County Commissions of Pitkin County to file a statement(s) of opposition in the Water Court case(s) concerning the diligence application(s) to be filed in the District Court, Water Division No. 5 ("Water Court") during May, 2011, by the West Divide Water Conservancy District ("WDWCD") and the Colorado River Water Conservation District ("CRWCD") regarding the 128,729 acre-foot, conditional, West Divide Project Osgood Reservoir; water right and also regarding the 62,009 acre-foot, conditional, West Divide Project Placita Reservoir water right on the basis that: (1) The WDWCD and CRWCD cannot satisfy the "can and will" doctrine as required under Colorado water law to complete the appropriation of these conditional water rights with reasonable diligence and in a reasonable time; (2) WDWCD and CRWCD cannot condemn the 1903 senior-priority water rights owned and beneficially used by the Redstone Water & Sanitation District, and (3) the WDWCD and CRWCD cannot condemn land owned by, and the associated water rights used by, Pitkin County and also cannot condemn land owned by the United States and managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, White River National Forest, within the areas proposed to be inundated by the Osgood and Placita Reservoirs."

In favor – 34  
Against – 0  
Abatin – 0

Motion passed

## **PRESENTATION**

Malone stated that this presentation was informational only and that the issue will most likely be on a future agenda.

Kay Hopkins with the USFS presented maps and information regarding the basis and process for “Wild and Scenic” designation by the federal government as well as information from the 2002 eligibility study. The Crystal River is eligible. Hand outs were provided for the members. Discussion took place.

Motion Heckert 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lacy. Adjourn. Unanimous  
9:16 pm.

## **Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Meeting 03/10/11**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Approximately 35 individuals were present including 6 directors: Malone, Emerick, McBrayer, Pojman, Lacy, Clarke. A quorum was present.

### **MINUTES**

Motion, Clarke. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lacy. To accept the minutes of the 01/13/11 meeting. Passed. Unanimous.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Clarke reported the following: Current balance \$763.56. (Same as last meeting.) Motion. Ives, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dupre. To accept the financial report. Passed. Unanimous.

### **INFORMAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Jochems reported that the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Board will meeting in Redstone on May 19, 2011 at 4:00pm. Bill will email the location to the caucus chair, who will disseminate to members. At this meeting the county attorney will report on the West Divide Project.

Chairperson Malone reported that a letter was sent to the BOCC regarding the last meeting motion regarding the West Divide Project. And that some caucus board members meet with project personal to introduce themselves and to relay concerns.

Chairperson Malone reported on the previous motion regarding the Wexner land swap. Pitkin County and Wexner did not come to an agreement. The Wexners have now gone directly to the BLM. There will be a NEPA process and there are issues such as county approved house locations which might now be developed. The Wexner's representative will come back to the caucus with an update presentation if requested by the caucus.

Tom Mc Brayer handed out copies of the preliminary caucus/county survey results of May 1, 2001.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nominating Committee. No report.

Bylaws Committee. No report.

Trails Task Force. No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Kay Hopkins from the USFS returned to continue her informational presentation on “Wild & Scenic” river designation. There was a question and answer period which followed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

White Banks Alabaster Mine – Avalanche Creek

Skye Sieber from the USFS explained that the submitted operations plan (which is available on the USFS website) scoping process has begun. Letters were sent to residents etc., and additional letters were available at the meeting. A question and answer period followed.

Motion. Bill Brunworth. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jochems. That in response to the White Banks Alabaster mine operating plan submission request for scoping comments: a letter be sent to both the USFS and the BOCC, stating that the Caucus recommends that year-round mining operations NOT be allowed; that the term of mining be May 1<sup>st</sup> to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>; and that NO camp sites be allowed and NO overnight stays be allowed.

Approve – 22

Against – 1

Abstain – 5

Motion passed.

Chairperson Malone adjourned the meeting at 9:06.

## **Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Meeting 11/11/10**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. John Emerick reported there was a quorum present. Present were directors: Malone, Emerick, Pojman, Clarke, Ferguson and Heckert.

Minutes Motion, Ferguson. 2<sup>nd</sup> Martin. To accept the minutes of the 09/09/10 meeting as posted on the website. Passed. Unanimous.

### **Financial Report**

Treasurer Clarke reported the current balance was \$1562.62. \$0.03 earned in interest. Motion to accept the financial report. Passed. Unanimous.

### **INFORMAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bruce Gledhill mentioned the passing of Mary Wofford. Any one wishing to be on his e-mail list should request so by e-mailing him (gledhill@sopris.net). The Church at Redstone received the donation for Caucus use of the Church approved in the September caucus meeting.

Lance Clarke commented on the public hearing 11/17/2010 on commercial snow dumping. There are no commercial dumps in the Crystal Valley region although some property owners may allow dumping. There is a need for standards to protect the water supply.

### **ELECTION OF CAUCUS BOARD MEMBERS**

Nominated Malone – Chair; Clarke, Heckert, McBrayer, Ogilby – Director.  
Elected: Malone – Chair; Clarke, McBrayer, Ogilby - director.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bylaws Committee. No report.

Trails Task Force. Chair Ray Pojman commented the task Force met on October 30<sup>th</sup> and decided to move forward on a trail report recommending a route within the right of way of Highway 133 as proposed in the Crystal Valley Master Plan. Additionally the Task Force would propose wording to either revise or extend the wording referring to deviations from the right of way. Work on the proposed route would begin by Task Force members in January.

### **PRESENTATION**

Gary Tennenbaum from Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Staff continued the discussion of the proposed conceptual plan for Redstone Park, Elk Park and Redstone Boulders and presented charts for each park. The charts will remain at the church for another week and he gave thanks to the twelve committee members who helped in this effort. Gary also mentioned that Pitkin County has approved a \$1500 payment to defray

the cost of increased bathroom use due to the expected popularity of the redesigned parks. Greg Meredith expressed his family's thanks for the Pitkin County's efforts to improve the parks that the Meredith family had sold to the county for that purpose.

Lance Clarke, Assistant Director for Community Development, Pitkin County gave a presentation on marijuana dispensaries within the county. The county has until 07/01/2011 to adopt regulations regarding dispensaries. There are two locations where they are currently permitted, the Aspen Area Business Center and the Redstone Business District. Redstone does have the option to restrict such business. The growing of marijuana could be permitted in any agriculture area which is most of Pitkin County. While state regulations are forming, localities have three options: they can prohibit grow areas, default to state regulations or levy special license fees. Regulations might require minimum lot size, order reduction, increased traffic abatement and no fertilizer contamination to ground water and run off. By state law, licensed grow areas are kept secret. There could potentially be a conflict if a currently state licensed grow site is prohibited by a new local regulation. Reference: HB101284 online 50 pages.

Motion, Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Heckert Dispensaries in Redstone Village Commercial not appropriate. After some discussion Linda Cerf-Graham 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Chromy Motion to table previous motion. Approve 14 against 6. The motion was tabled.

Motion Ferguson 2<sup>nd</sup> Martin Adjourn. Unanimous  
8:43 pm.

## **Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Meeting 09/09/10**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Approximately 20 members were present including 8 directors: Malone, Emerick, McBrayer, Pojman, Lacy, Clarke, and Wadsworth. A quorum was present.

### **MINUTES**

Motion, Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emerick. To accept the minutes of the 07/08/10 meeting as posted on the website. Passed. Unanimous.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Clarke reported the following: Current balance \$1,606.56. \$0.02 earned in interest. Motion, Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wadsworth To accept the financial report. Passed. Unanimous.

### **INFORMAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bruce Gledhill requested that each member help stack chairs after the meeting as the carpeting will be cleaned tomorrow.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nominating Committee. Chair Peter Martin reported that the committee had contacted several people, with the effort to have representation of the entire caucus area, as well as the incumbent directors. The committee nominates: Dee Malone, Chair; and directors Sharon Clarke, Tom Mc Brayer, and Chuck Ogilby for the positions with terms ending.

Bylaws Committee. No report

Trails Task Force. Chairperson Ray Pojman, disseminated a handout of information and reported that a group from the committee had met with Pitkin county staff. The Task force will proceed with preparing ideas for the next phase of the trail which won't be on the county's agenda until at least 2011 and probably 2012. Ellen form the county offered to work with the caucus on updating the master plan section regarding the trail. Motion Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Emerick. "To accept the Trail Task Force report". Unanimous Any caucus member interested in being involved, please contact Ray Pojman.

### **PRESENTATION**

Gary Tennenbaum from Pitkin County and Ryan from Bluegreen Landscape Architects presented the draft of the conceptual plan for the Coke Oven park, Elk park, Redstone park and the Redstone Boulders Open Space (Just north of Redstone). Gary praised the attendance, participation and interaction by the community in creating the draft. The next step will be to gather input from other entities, such as USFS, CDAT, Fire Dept. etc., and the public.

The OST board will meet in Redstone September 17, 2010 at 9:30am, the public may attend. There will be a planning meeting on September 22, 2010, and then a full county review, with eventual adoption, by the county. Public input is requested during this process.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The old business agenda item of “at large” voting was briefly discussed and presented as a beginning question to the candidate forum assembled.

The candidates attending the meeting were:

Rachel Richards (unopposed for BOCC), Rob Ittner and Jack Johnson – BOCC.

Luke Korkowski and Roger Wilson – State House District 61. and

Patrick “Rick” Leonard – Pitkin County Shreiff.

Other candidates were invited, but were unable to attend.

A question and answer discussion with the candidates and the caucus members took place.

Motion Ferguson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cerf-Graham Adjourn. Unanimous  
9:13 pm.

## **Minutes for the Crystal River Caucus Meeting 05/13/10**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. Approximately 65 members were present including 5 directors: Malone, Emerick, McBrayer, Pojman, and Ferguson.

### **MINUTES**

Ferguson moved, Martin 2<sup>nd</sup>. To accept the minutes of the 03/11/10 meeting as posted on the website. Passed. Unanimous.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The treasurer was on vacation. No financial report was given. Malone stated that there were no expenditures since the last report.

### **INFORMAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Malone reported that Pitkin County is in the process of updating the 10 year master plan. The meeting schedule by the county has already taken place. At that meeting Malone asked if other meetings could be scheduled for other groups. The county agreed. If your group (HOA's etc.) would like to schedule a meeting, contact Malone.

Malone reported that Quest will continue bringing DSL into the area in stages. It's coming the end of June or July. Do not call Quest they will call you.

There was a question about the "Gaud offal" trail. Malone asked to defer discussion to committee reports.

Mike Schilling stated that the county is unilaterally changing road and address names. He suggested that residents check with their mail carrier before initiating any requested change of address form with the USPS.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Emerick reported that as vice-chair he chairs the first meetings of any new committee.

Nominating Committee. The committee met (Emerick, Lacy, Dupre, and Martin) and elected Peter Martin as chair. The committee requests and any nominations be routed to them. They would like to present those nominated at the September meeting. Board of director positions with ending terms are: Chair, and three board members. The committee would like to see the positions filled with people from various and representative locations in the valley.

Bylaws Committee. The bylaws committee (Emerick, McBrayer, Pojman and Wadsworth ) met March 15, 2010. The committee elected Wadsworth as chair. At this time there are no pending recommended changes to the bylaws. Please route any input to the committee.

Trails Task Force. Emerick reported that the trails task force met (Lacy, Chromy, Pojman, Hanks, McMullen, Heckert, Cerf-Graham, and Ferguson) and elected Pojman chair. A Draft report on the section of the trail being constructed and an executive summary is available on the web site. Pojman presented a draft mission statement of the committee with a list of “Bike Path & Recreational Issues”. He asked that members check the information on the web site. The trail will be an agenda item at the next caucus meeting.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

John Groves of the Colorado Division of Wildlife was scheduled to present a caucus area wildlife update but had to cancel. The presentation will be rescheduled.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Thompson Divide Coalition. Chuck Ogilby provided a brief presentation including a handout of the goals for legislation to withdrawal federal leases and to protect the Thompson divide areas from energy exploration and development. Discussion followed including: 81 leases in 5 counties; process; funding; value of leases; water quality base-line study.

Motion. Fails 2<sup>nd</sup>. Beck. “That the Crystal River Caucus support the Thompson Divide Coalition to seek permanent federal withdrawal of leasing in the Thompson Divide area.”

In favor – 53

Against – 6

Abstain – 5

Motion passed. The resolution is to be sent to: Pitkin County, Congressman Salazar, and Senators Bennett and Udall.

Hidden Gems. The presentation for Hidden Gems was divided into four parts, all in the caucus area only. Each was discussed separately.

Assignment Ridge. Motion Emerick 2<sup>nd</sup>. Downey. “That the Crystal River Caucus support the proposed Assignment Ridge Hidden Gem.”

In favor – 48

Against – 12

Abstain – 3

Motion passed.

Hay Park. Motion Beck. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dupre. “That the Crystal River Caucus approve the Hay Park Hidden Gem as presented and that no additional bike trails be allowed”.

In favor – 45

Against – 17

Abstain – 1

Motion passed

Hayes Creek. Motion Cerf-Graham. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Failes. “That the Crystal River Caucus support the Hayes Creek portion of the Hidden Gems, but include the ‘Old Stagecoach Road’ as wilderness.”

In favor – 41

Against – 15

Abstain – 7

Motion passed

Crystal River. Motion Pojman. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chromy. That the Crystal River Caucus support the Crystal River portion as part of the Hidden Gems.”

In favor – 45

Against – 14

Abstain – 4

Motion passed

Malone declared that the remainder of the agenda will be tabled to the next meeting.

Motion Malone 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ferguson. Adjourn. Unanimous  
9:16 pm.