

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION MARCH 9, 2015 IN THE COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE COUNTY BUILDING AT 152 EAST 100 NORTH, VERNAL, UTAH. MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:00 PM.**

**PARTICIPANTS:** COMMISSIONERS BILL STRINGER AND MICHAEL MCKEE. COMMISSIONER RAYMOND, EXCUSED.

**ATTENDANCE:** TRACY PARRISH, KAY PARRISH, DON HALL, CINDY PERRY, PATTY MCCOURT, JENNY BIGGS, LINDA WEST, BILL SIERSMA, BILL INGALLS, CHRIS SMITH, WAYNE KURTZ, JUDY KURTZ, RUSS PERRY, MICHAEL COOK, DAVID HATCH, LISA KIMPOTICH, MATT KIMPOTICH, JULIE CURRY, BRYAN MEIER, HEATHER COON, LINDA HOLMES, ALLAN HOLMES, JC BREWER, RITCHIE ANDERSON, SHANE LABRUM, ORLAN ANDERSON, BROWNIE TOMLINSON, AND JON STEARMER

COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE IS NOT A CONTROL BOARD BUT RATHER AN ADVISORY BOARD. THEY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION. THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE DOES MUCH OF THE GROUND TROUPING AND RESEARCH.

**ROAD VACATIONS:**

**SHANE LABRUM 16000 EAST NORTH OFF 5500 SOUTH SEC. 8, T75, R20E**

THIS PROPERTY IS IN THE PELICAN LAKE AREA. COMMISSIONER STRINGER ASKED IF THE PORTION OF THE ROAD IN THIS PROPERTY WOULD BE VACATED AND THE ROAD MOVED TO THE PROPERTY LINE ON THE WEST OR IF IT WAS SIMPLY TO BE VACATED. SHANE LABRUM RESPONDED THEY WANT TO VACATE THE ROAD IN THEIR PROPERTY COMPLETELY AS THE PARCELS TO THE NORTH CAN BE ACCESSED OFF 5000 SOUTH.

JC BREWER NOTED HE ALWAYS ASKS TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST, IF THE ROAD IS VACATED, WOULD IT INHIBIT PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS OR OTHER PROPERTY OWNERS. SHANE LABRUM INDICATED IT WOULD NOT. 5000 SOUTH IS A COUNTY CLASS D ROAD WITH NO RESTRICTIONS AS FAR AS HE KNOWS. JC THEN ASKED ABOUT PROPERTY OWNER ACCESS TO THE NORTH. IT IS OWNED BY DEBBIE JARMAN. SHE HAS ACCESS ON THE EAST OF HER PROPERTY AND HAS SIGNED THE PETITION APPROVING THE VACATION. SHANE LABRUM ALSO NOTED THE ROAD DOESN'T EVEN REALLY EXIST. BRYAN MEIER AGREED. IT IS A DECENT ROAD OFF THE HIGHWAY AND INTO LABRUM'S PROPERTY BUT FURTHER NORTH IT BECOMES A LITTLE TRAIL. JC BREWER ALSO AGREED. IT LOOKED QUESTIONABLE GOING UP THE HILL. JC ASKED THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE IF THEY HAD ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS AND THEY DID NOT. NO ONE FROM THE AUDIENCE SPOKE IN OPPOSITION.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER NOTED IF THE ACCESS WAS NEEDED, THEY COULD CONSIDER MOVING IT TO THE EAST ALONG THE PROPERTY LINE. THE COMMITTEE DID NOT SEE A NEED FOR THIS AND THEY AGREED TO RECOMMEND VACATION OF THE ROAD AS PRESENTED.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED THE MAP SHOWS THE ROAD AS OURAY VALLEY CANAL ROAD. SHANE LABRUM INDICATED THE CANAL ENDS AT 5000 SOUTH, BUT THE CANAL ISN'T USED ANY LONGER.

**ALLAN AND LINDA HOLMES COUNTY ROAD #2125; SEC 29, T1N, R2E**

COMMISSIONER STRINGER BEGAN THE DISCUSSION. THIS SECTION OF ROAD IS ON PRIVATE LAND. THE ROAD COMES OFF DEEP CREEK ROAD AND GOES NORTH AND EAST ACROSS TRIBAL TO THE HOLMES PROPERTY. THE MAP SHOWS THIS ROAD TO CONTINUE ON NORTH THROUGH THEIR PROPERTY AND ACROSS TRIBAL PROPERTY TO MORE PRIVATE PROPERTY TO THE NORTH AND EAST. THEY ARE SIMPLY ASKING TO REMOVE THE SECTION ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY FROM THE TRANSPORTATION MAP. COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED THERE ARE NO OTHER SIGNATURES FROM NEIGHBORING LANDOWNERS AND THERE IS ONE LETTER OF OBJECTION.

JC BREWER ASKED LINDA HOLMES TO MAKE HER PRESENTATION. THE ROAD WAS MISTAKENLY PUT ON THE TRANSPORTATION MAP. THE ROAD TO THEIR PROPERTY, COMES OFF DEEP CREEK, TRAVELS

DOWN A DUGWAY AND ENDS AT THE CREEK. THERE HAS BEEN A LOCKED GATE HERE FOR 80 YEARS. THE ROAD HAS NEVER CONTINUED THROUGH THE HOLMES' PROPERTY. THE COUNTY MAINTAINED CLASS B ROAD THAT RAN ALONG THE EAST PROPERTY LINES FROM THE SOUTH WAS ABANDONED IN 1936 AND THE DEEP CREEK ROAD WE KNOW TODAY, WAS BUILT TO REPLACE IT. IT ORIGINALLY FOLLOWED ALONG THE HILL AND WENT FURTHER NORTH TO HOMES IN THAT AREA. THOSE HOMES HAVE SINCE BEEN SOLD AND THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY THE TRIBE. WHEN THE DEEP CREEK ROAD WAS BUILT, THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS TO THE NORTH HAD ACCESS THROUGH THE ELI SMITH PROPERTY. THE COUNTY BUILT THE ROAD INTO THE HOLMES' PLACE BECAUSE THE ABANDONMENT OF THE OLD ROAD LEFT THEM LANDLOCKED. THE PROPERTY OWNERS HAD SPLIT THE COSTS OF BUILDING THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE CREEK WITH THE COUNTY. SHE PRESENTED AN AFFIDAVIT WRITTEN BY HER FATHER, DARVEL COOK, EXPLAINING THIS HISTORY. SHE ALSO SHOWED SOME PICTURES OF THE PROPERTY AS IT IS NOW. IN 2001, THE COMMISSIONERS AGREED TO MAINTAIN THE ROAD INTO THEIR PROPERTY AS IT WAS A COUNTY CLASS B ROAD. THEY AGREED THE ROAD DID NOT CONTINUE BEYOND THE BRIDGE AND WOULD NOT MAINTAIN FURTHER. THEY BROUGHT GRAVEL IN AND GRADED THE ROAD. THEY ALSO ADDED SIGNAGE THAT IT WAS A DEAD END ROAD AND DID NOT HAVE A TURNAROUND. THIS ROAD IS NOT USED BY ANYONE ELSE. WHEN SHE ASKED HOW IT CAME TO BE ON THE TRANSPORTATION MAP SHE WAS TOLD IT WAS A MISTAKE AND THAT SHE NEEDED TO DO THIS ROAD VACATION PROCESS.

JC BREWER ASKED IF THE VACATION OF THIS PORTION OF THE ROAD WOULD AFFECT OTHER LANDOWNERS. LINDA HOLMES RESPONDED. THOSE WITH PROPERTY TO THE NORTH SOLD OUT BEFORE SHE WAS BORN AND SOLD THE ACCESS THEY HAD THROUGH THE ELI SMITH PROPERTY. THEY NEVER HAD ACCESS THROUGH THE HOLMES' PROPERTY TO BEGIN WITH. COMMISSIONER MCKEE INDICATED HE DOESN'T SEE THE ROAD ACCESSING ANY BLM LANDS.

STEVE PRICE ADDRESSED THE MEETING. HIS FAMILY OWNS THE PROPERTY TO THE NORTH AND EAST WHERE THE ROAD ENDS ON THE MAP. IT WAS ACQUIRED IN 1943 AND USED FOR GRAZING BUT HAS NOT BEEN USED FOR SUCH SINCE 1970. JC BREWER ASKED HIM HOW HE ACCESSED THIS PROPERTY AND HE DID NOT KNOW. THERE IS A ROAD GOING EAST OFF 2040, WHICH IS A NORTHERN PORTION OF DEEP CREEK ROAD THAT VEERS EAST, MAY BE ACCESS BUT IT ALSO CROSSES TRIBAL LANDS.

MIKE COOK WAS ASKED IF THIS OTHER ROAD OFF 2040 EXISTS. HE RESPONDED IT DOES BUT THERE ARE SIGNS, ASSUMEDLY PUT IN BY THE TRIBE, SAYING THE ROAD IS CLOSED. STEVE PRICE DISAGREED AND SAID HE CAN'T CROSS THE CREEK. MIKE COOK NOTED YOU CAN SEE WHERE THE ROAD USED TO GO BUT THE CANAL HAS CUT INTO IT. THE DUGWAY IS USED TO RECONNECT THE PIECES. LINDA HOLMES ADDED SHE BELIEVES THE DUGWAY IS PART OF THE ORIGINAL ROAD FROM THE 30'S.

JC BREWER NOTED LANDOWNERS NEED TO BE ABLE TO ACCESS THEIR PROPERTY. THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE WILL NOT RECOMMEND A VACATION THAT COULD LAND LOCK A PROPERTY. THERE WAS A RULING BY THE SUPREME COURT THAT THE COUNTY CANNOT ABANDON A ROAD BY NON USE, IT MUST BE DONE THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ACTION. JC BREWER FEELS THIS MAY NEED FURTHER RESEARCH AND REVIEW BY LEGAL COUNSEL.

KAY PARRISH INDICATED HIS AUNT AND UNCLE BOUGHT THE ELI SMITH PLACE IN 1946 AND THEY LIVED THERE UNTIL 1955. THEY DID NOT RECALL ANY ONE TRAVELING THROUGH THE PLACE TO GAIN ACCESS TO OTHER PROPERTIES. LINDA HOLMES NOTED THAT MAY BE BECAUSE THEY WERE ALREADY SOLD OFF BY THAT POINT. SHE ALSO REMEMBERS USING THE DUGWAY TO MOVE COWS TO THE LEASE HER FAMILY HAD TO THE NORTH THOUGH SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SHAPE IT WAS IN NOW. SIMMONS' HAD SOLD THEIR PROPERTY TO THE PARRISH'S BECAUSE THE TRIBE REVOKED THEIR ACCESS.

HEATHER COON NOTED THE AFFIDAVIT FROM AN OLDER GENERATION SHOULD BE HEAVILY CONSIDERED AS THEY ARE COMMONLY USED AS PART OF THE RS2477 LAWSUIT TO PROVE

OWNERSHIP OF ROADS. THEY ARE NOT TRYING TO VACATE A ROAD SO MUCH AS SIMPLY REMOVE A ROAD FROM A MAP THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THERE TO BEGIN WITH.

WAYNE KURTZ ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ACCESS FROM THE TRIBE.

TRACY PARRISH ASKED IF THIS WOULD VACATE THE PORTION OF THE ROAD ON THE HOLMES' PROPERTY OR THE ENTIRE ROAD ON THE MAP. THIS IS JUST FOR THE PORTION ON THE PRIVATE PROPERTY. LINDA HOLMES ALSO PRESENTED A DECLARATION FROM LOREN ANDERSON FROM 2012 WHO SPOKE WITH DARVEL COOK AT THAT TIME.

JC BREWER ASKED HOW THE COMMITTEE FELT AND THEY ALL AGREED THEY NEED MORE INFORMATION INDICATING WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT A COUNTY ROAD. COMMISSIONER MCKEE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO ALL INVOLVED PARTIES FOR THEIR RESEARCH AND PATIENCE.

#### **DISCUSSION ON ASPECTS OF CONGRESSMAN BISHOP'S PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE**

COMMISSIONER STRINGER BEGAN THE DISCUSSION. THEY HAVE NOT CONTINUALLY UPDATED THE MAP AVAILABLE ON THE WEB BECAUSE IT CHANGES SO OFTEN. THEY FEEL IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE FEWER DRAFTS FLOATING AROUND CAUSING CONFUSION. THE MAP HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN CHANGED ON FRIDAY. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO COME IN AT ANY TIME TO REVIEW THE MAP AND DISCUSS THE INITIATIVE WITH THE COMMISSIONERS.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE ALSO NOTED WE WILL NOT TAKE A LOT OF TIME REVIEWING THE BACKGROUND TO THIS INITIATIVE. THIS IS A BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW CERTAIN THINGS TO BRING GREATER CERTAINTY TO THE COUNTY. THIS IS A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC.

THEY BEGAN BY DISCUSSING THE FOREST SERVICE PROPERTY IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE COUNTY. THIS WILL BE A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA WITH SOME WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. SNOWMOBILE GROUPS HAVE MET AND PROVIDED IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS. THE BOUNDARIES HAVE BEEN REDRAWN DUE TO THESE COMMENTS AND ARE REFLECTED IN TONIGHT'S MAP. THERE WILL BE WATER PROTECTION ZONES TO ENSURE THE WATER FOR THE VALLEY IS SAFE. THE COUNTY HAS DROPPED THE IDEA OF TRADING GROUNDING FEELING THE COUNTY ORDINANCE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE SPRINGS.

JON STEARMER WAS ASKED TO ADDRESS THE SNOWMOBILE REQUESTS AND CHANGES. THE LANGUAGE HAS TO ACCOMPLISH THE NEEDS OF ALL USES. JON HAS BEEN THROUGH VERY PROFESSIONAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEETINGS WITH UTAH PHOSPHATE AND SITLA. THE COUNTY'S ORDINANCE SHOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT ASHLEY SPRINGS. THE COUNTY IS GOING TO REQUEST TO PURCHASE SOME BLM PROPERTY, 720 ACRES, IN THIS AREA AS WELL AS A SMALL PIECE OF FOREST SERVICE PROPERTY, 320 ACRES. A PRIOR DRAFT PROPOSED MORE ACREAGE TO BE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS. THIS DRAFT OPENS UP PORTIONS OF DEADMAN LAKE, GABRIEL PASS, AND LIDDY. THIS WILL ALLOW MORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SNOWMOBILERS AND ACCESS FROM THE FOUR OR FIVE MAIN UNLOADING AREAS SUCH AS DRY FORK, PARADISE AND HIGHWAY 191. THERE WOULD ALSO BE ACCESS INTO WHITEROCKS AND OTHER AREAS IN DUCHESNE COUNTY. WE DO HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT COULD BE APPROVED BY THE SENATE. THOSE THAT HAVE GIVEN THEIR SUGGESTIONS WROTE THEIR RECOMMENDED BOUNDARIES ON A MAP AND JON WORKED WITH JORDAN MERRELL AND MIKE COOK OF GIS TO TURN THEM INTO BOUNDARIES THAT MAKE SENSE ON A MAP. THE BOUNDARIES NEED TO BE SOMETHING PHYSICAL THAT USERS CAN ACTUALLY SEE AND ADHERE TO. THERE WOULD BE A BUFFER ON THE ROAD TO ENSURE ACCESS FOR MAINTENANCE FOR WATER SYSTEMS. THEY ALSO WANTED TO ENSURE THE CORRIDOR WAS WIDE ENOUGH OVER PASSES TO MAKE SURE THEY COULD CROSS IN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SNOW. THE INITIATIVE ALSO REQUESTS MARSH BENCH ROAD, CURRENTLY CLOSED BY THE FOREST SERVICE, BE OPENED. IT WILL ALSO REQUEST A ROAD BE BUILT TO CONNECT WITH HORSESHOE PARK ROAD. THE WILDERNESS BOUNDARY WILL BE 300 FEET FROM THE ROAD. THIS EXTRA DETAIL WOULD NOT BE A PART OF THE INITIATIVE BUT RATHER A PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION AFTER THE BILL IS PASSED. THERE WILL BE A DONUT HOLE FOR THE RADIO TOWERS TO ENSURE THEY CAN BE ACCESSED. THE

BOUNDARY FOR THE SMALL PORTION TO THE NORTH, ABOUT 2500 ACRES, COULD BE A PROBLEM. 5000 ACRES IS USUALLY THE MAGIC NUMBER FOR APPROVAL. THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES. DAGGETT COUNTY AND OR DUCHESNE COUNTY MAY BE ABLE TO WORK WITH US AND DESIGNATE SOME OF THEIR PROPERTY ON THE BORDER AS WILDERNESS TO REACH THAT 5000 ACRES.

THE COMMISSIONERS ALSO ASKED JON TO REVIEW THE WATER PROTECTION AREAS. JON NOTED IT MAY BE BEST TO CALL THEM WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS AS THEY WILL BE ACTIVELY MANAGED NOT PASSIVELY. IF THERE IS A CATASTROPHIC FIRE THEY WANT TO BE ABLE TO GET IN THERE QUICKLY TO RESEED OR TO REDUCE FUEL BEFORE A FIRE. GRAZING LANGUAGE WILL BE INCLUDED FOR THE ENTIRE NATIONAL RECREATION GEOLOGIC AREA. CURRENT AUMS (ANIMAL UNIT MONTHLY) WOULD BE THE BASE LINE AND THE RANGE CONDITIONS WOULD ADJUST THEM AS NEEDED. SIMILAR LANGUAGE WILL BE USED FOR THE WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS. IF RIP RAP OR STREAM BED STABILIZATION PROJECTS ARE NEEDED IN PLACES, THEY CAN BE DONE. WE MUST HAVE ACCESS TO FACILITATE THE SYSTEMS IN THE AREA. GEOLOGIC FEATURES ARE SOMETIMES STABLE AND SOMETIMES NOT. WE WANT TO POSITION OURSELVES TO TAKE CARE OF ANY SCENARIO. HE HAS SPOKEN WITH ASHLEY VALLEY WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND VERNAL CITY. THEY HAVE NOT NOTICED ANY CHANGE IN THE LEVELS OF BIOLOGICALS TO THE WATER AT THE PURIFICATION PLANT. IF FOR SOME REASON THERE WAS A SPIKE, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE RESEARCHED AND FIXED.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER ADDED THE AREAS OPENED UP FOR SNOWMOBILES WILL BE FOR WINTER USE ONLY, THEY WILL NOT BE OPEN YEAR ROUND. THE ROADLESS STAYS THE SAME. THE JEEP TRAIL OFF THE TWINS AND THE HEADGATE INTO BLANCHARD PARK MUST STAY OPEN TO MAINTAIN THE WATER SYSTEMS. BILL SIERSMA INDICATED HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE DWR AND SOME OF THE ROADS ARE CLOSED FOR CALVING OF DEER AND ELK. THESE CHANGES ARE COMING ABOUT BY COMMENTS OF MANY INDIVIDUALS, PUBLIC INPUT IS THE DRIVING FACTOR.

DON HALL ALSO ADDRESSED THE MEETING. HIS FAMILY ALSO HELPED TO SETTLE THIS VALLEY. A BALANCE BETWEEN THE ROADS THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND THOSE THAT SHOULD BE OPENED IS KEY. EVERY ROAD HIS FAMILY HAS USED OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN CLOSED. HE APPLAUDS THE COMMISSIONERS FOR TRYING TO FIND A BALANCE. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE WATER SHED. HE WAS GIVEN DIFFERENT REASONS AS TO WHY SOME ROADS WERE CLOSED INCLUDING THAT ONE WAS JUST A JEEP TRAIL AND DIDN'T QUALIFY. COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED THAT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN GIS TOOK AN OLD FOREST SERVICE MAP TO COMPARE IT TO THE FINAL MAP. ABOUT 1600 MILES WERE CLOSED AND 1400 REMAINED OPEN. DON HALL ALSO EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ROAD MAINTENANCE COSTS COULD BE A FACTOR. HOWEVER, MANY USERS HELP MAINTAIN THESE ROADS. ACCESS FOR FIREFIGHTING AND REMOVAL OF FUEL IS NECESSARY.

JON STEARMER ALSO NOTED THE TOTAL ACREAGE PROPOSED AS WILDERNESS IS ABOUT THE SAME AS PREVIOUS DRAFTS MINUS AROUND 200 ACRES. THE NORTH UNIT IS A WORK IN PROGRESS AND WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE OTHER TWO COUNTIES.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED RITCHIE ANDERSON IS A NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE REPRESENTING GRAZING ASSOCIATIONS. THEY HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND HAVE CONCERNS TO BE ADDRESSED. RITCHIE ANDERSON AGREED AND NOTED THEY WILL HAVE ANOTHER MEETING TUESDAY NIGHT AND THEN WILL HAVE SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR THE COMMISSIONERS.

RUSS PERRY TOOK A MOMENT TO ADDRESS THE MEETING. HE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM COMMISSIONER RAYMOND STATING HIS CONCERNS THERE COULD BE A THREAT TO WATER PROTECTION AND THE COUNTY ORDINANCE. RUSS RECALLS THE MANY MEETINGS HELD WHILE WRITING THE ORDINANCE AND THEY WERE CAREFUL NOT TO IMPEDE THE GRAZING OPPORTUNITIES. COMMISSIONER MCKEE ASSURED HIM IT IS NOT THE COUNTY'S INTENT TO HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON GRAZING AND THE ORDINANCE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED. RITCHIE ANDERSON ADDED THEY ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS THAT ARE

ADMINISTERED BY THE FOREST SERVICE. JON STEARMER ADDED THE ASHLEY PROTECTION ZONE WAS CREATED TO ADDRESS LARGE, EARTH MOVING EVENTS. THE TWO DRAINAGES ARE PROSED AS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS. DRY FORK SUPPLIES ABOUT 90% OF THE WATER. RITCHIE AGREED BUT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEFINITIONS OF SOME DESIGNATIONS AND THE EFFECT THAT COULD HAVE ON GRAZING. THE GRAZING COMMUNITY IS STILL DOING SOME RESEARCH. COMMISSIONER STRINGER AGREED BUT WARNED THEM NOT TO OUTSMART THEMSELVES. THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE MORE BASIC. THE LANGUAGE MUST ADDRESS THE ISSUES AND ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OR WE WILL NOT ACCEPT IT. THERE IS A DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE LANGUAGE OF THE LAW AND HOW SOME ARE BEING MANAGED.

RUSS PERRY NOTED THAT HE CALLED WATER ENTITIES SEVERAL TIMES TO INVOLVE THEM IN PUBLIC MEETINGS CONCERNING THE ASHLEY SPRINGS ORDINANCE. PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE NOT SECRET AND EVERYONE IS INVITED.

DAVE HATCH, ASHLEY VALLEY WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ADDRESSED THE MEETING. THE INTENT IS TO LOG WHATEVER CONTAMINATES ARE IN THE WATER INCLUDING PESTICIDES, OIL, METALS, ETC. GRAZING IS NOT A PART OF THIS. IF THERE WAS A LARGE FEEDLOT , THAT WOULD BE A CONCERN. HE RECALLED A TIME WHEN MOSBY WASHED OUT AND THE FOREST SERVICE RESEEDED WITH FERTILIZER. THE NEXT YEAR, THE NITRATE LEVEL WENT UP 1 OR 2 PARTS PER MILLION.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER HAS NOTICED A LOT OF MISINFORMATION. THE YELLOW LINES AROUND DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT INDICATE A CONSERVATION DESIGNATION NOT WILDERNESS. THIS WILL PROTECT THE SAGE GROUSE HABITAT AND SCENERY FOR THE RIVER. THERE ARE ALSO A LOT OF PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES HERE BUT VERY LITTLE BY WAY OF MINERAL EXTRACTION. IT IS CURRENTLY BEING MANAGED THIS WAY, ABOUT TWO DEGREES SHY OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, AND HAS BEEN FOR SEVEN YEARS.

JENNY BIGGS ASKED HOW THE STRICT LANGUAGE WOULD BE MODIFIED. COMMISSIONER STRINGER NOTED IF THE INTERIOR WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED WILDERNESS IN 2008. THE BOUNDARY LINES HAVE BEEN DRAWN IN CONJUNCTION WITH DIFFERENT INTEREST GROUPS. THE GRAZING ALLOTMENTS TO THE NORTH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE CURRENT RULES. THERE WOULD BE NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY THOUGH WHAT IS THERE NOW CAN REMAIN THERE. THERE ARE CONCERNS FROM THOSE THAT USE THIS AREA RECREATIONALLY TO MAKE A LIVING. THEY HAVE USED ROADS AND GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES NOT SECTION LINES, TO CREATE THE CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY. YOU SIMPLY CANNOT SEE SECTION LINES ON THE GROUND. SITLA HAS A FEW SMALL PARCELS HERE BUT MAY BE WILLING TO TRADE THEM FOR A PARCEL MORE CENTRALLY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY. COMMISSIONER STRINGER NOTED RITCHIE ANDERSON MADE A GOOD POINT THAT IT'S NOT THE LAW THAT MAY BE THE PROBLEM BUT RATHER HOW THE LAW IS IMPLEMENTED AND MANAGED. THESE LANDS ARE MOSTLY BLM AND THEY WILL MANAGE IT.

JON STEARMER ALSO NOTED SOME OF THE ROADS INVOLVED IN THE RS2477 DISPUTE ARE IN THE MONUMENT AND THE BOOK CLIFFS. THE BLM IS NOT CONCEDED AND THIS IS A BIG ISSUE. WE WANT CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE AS MANY ROADS AS POSSIBLE IN THESE AREAS. RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS HELPED TO RAISE THE POPULATION OF THE SAGE GROUSE AND NOW THE DIAMOND MOUNTAIN POPULATION IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN THE STATE. THE LAND OWNERS SHOULD BE APPLAUDED FOR THEIR EFFORTS. THIS AREA CANNOT GO INTO WILDERNESS DESIGNATION BECAUSE WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WE NEED TO. COMMISSIONER STRINGER AGREED. DESIGNATING THIS AS A CONSERVATION AREA WOULD MAKE THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL NOT JUST ADMINISTRATIVE. NO NEW ROADS COULD BE BUILT.

JENNY BIGGS ADDRESSED HER CONCERNS. SHE MUST ENSURE THE VIEW SHED AND NOISE SHEDS REMAIN UNOBSTRUCTED BY INDUSTRY. HER LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON THE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COUNTY. IF THOSE TRAVELING THE RIVER CAN SEE OR HEAR PUMP JACKS SHE WILL LOOSE THEM AS CUSTOMERS. SHE WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE MAP TO COMPARE TO HER

RIVER CORRIDOR MAPS. COMMISSIONER STRINGER ASSURED HER THERE WOULD BE NO NEW SURFACE DISTURBANCE AND SHE WAS WELCOME TO COME IN AND COMPARE MAPS. JON STEARMER ALSO NOTED THE MAPS ARE PUBLIC AND SHE COULD OBTAIN A COPY FROM GIS.

CHRIS SMITH ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY TALK ABOUT EXPANDING DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HE WAS ASSURED THERE IS NONE. THE COUNTY DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THAT HAPPEN.

RITCHIE ANDERSON ASKED IF REMOVING PINON AND JUNIPER WAS BEING DONE FOR THE SAGE GROUSE. COMMISSIONER MCKEE REPLIED THAT IT DOES NOT SIT WELL AND IS NOT CURRENTLY BEING DONE. HE DID NOTE THAT THE RANGE PROJECTS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE GROUSE ARE ALSO BENEFICIAL TO GRAZING. PROJECTS ARE PLANNED AND WILL CONTINUE.

THE DISCUSSION THEN MOVED ON TO THE WHITERIVER AREA. THIS IS 7000 ACRES ALONG THE RIVER WITH A WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. THE BOUNDARIES ARE A HALF MILE LINE OF SIGHT ALONG THE RIVER. THE COUNTY IS TALKING TO ANADARKO ABOUT A PIECE OF PROPERTY THEY HAVE ACQUIRED IN THIS AREA FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES. IT HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION. A FIRM BOUNDARY NEEDS TO BE MADE SO IT CANNOT BE CHANGED. COMMISSIONER MCKEE INDICATED WILDERNESS IS HOW THE ACREAGE IS CURRENTLY BEING MANAGED. THERE WILL BE NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY BUT THEY COULD ACCESS MINERALS VIA DIRECTIONAL DRILLING.

JON STEARMER ADDED THAT ROADS CAN BE DEEDED TO THE COUNTY THROUGH THIS PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE PROCESS BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THE RS2477 CLAIM WILL BE DROPPED. ATCHEE AND SADDLETREE ARE TWO ROADS THAT MAY HAVE TO BE SETTLED IN COURT.

RITCHIE ANDERSON ASKED IF THE COMMISSION HAD ASKED JIM LEKAS FOR HIS OPINION. THEY ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GILSONITE VEINS. IT IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION.

JENNY BIGGS ASKED FOR THE LOCATION OF THE BONANZA BRIDGE ON THE MAP. IT IS OUTSIDE THE PROPOSED AREA AND IS NOT ON PUBLIC LANDS. THE TAKEOUT MAY ACTUALLY BE OUTSIDE THE PROPOSED AREA AS WELL. SHE IS CONCERNED ABOUT BEING ABLE TO HEAR OR SEE PUMP JACKS WHILE TRAVELING THIS RIVER CORRIDOR. SHE HAS PERMITS HERE AS WELL AS THE MONUMENT AND IS CONCERNED FOR HER BUSINESS. RIVER RUNNING IS A CULTURE ESTABLISHED HERE AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED JUST AS GRAZING SHOULD BE. JON STEARMER ALSO ADDED THE LAUNCH IGNACIO IS ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNTY.

THE DISCUSSION THEN MOVED TO THE BITTER CREEK COMPLEX OF THE BOOK CLIFFS. THIS PROPOSED AREA DESIGNATION HAS NOT CHANGED MUCH. THE COMMISSIONERS ASKED JC BREWER FOR HIS COMMENTS AS IT IS AN AREA HE HAS BEEN VERY CONCERNED WITH. JC REQUESTED THE LANGUAGE ENSURE THE AREA IS MANAGED TO ENHANCE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AND THE HABITAT WORK BEING DONE TO BENEFIT THE WILDLIFE. COMMISSIONER STRINGER DID NOTE IT WOULD BE DESIGNATED AS A WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA. JC ALSO WANTS TO ENSURE THE ACCESS IS AVAILABLE. WE CANNOT LOSE THE EXISTING ROADS; ACCESS IS KEY TO USING THE AREA FOR HUNTING.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SPECIAL LANGUAGE TO HELP PROTECT GRAZING COUNTY WIDE BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE. INDUSTRY, EXTRACTION AND EXCAVATION, WOULD NOT DO WELL IF GRAZING WAS GIVEN TOP PRIORITY IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTY. RITCHIE ANDERSON REPLIED THE GRAZING COMMUNITY IS ADDRESSING THIS AS WELL.

THE DISCUSSION THEN MOVED ON TO DESOLATION CANYON. COMMISSIONER STRINGER NOTED THE LANGUAGE IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE MUST ENSURE WHAT WE DECIDE AND PUT FORWARD IS MANAGED FOR WHAT WE INTENDED. WE CANNOT REMOVE THE BLM OR FOREST SERVICE AND MANAGE THE LAND OURSELVES BUT WE CAN PUT ON SIDE BOARDS TO HOLD THE ENTITIES TO OUR LANGUAGE. DESOLATION CANYON WOULD BE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS. HE ADDED, ONE

COULD GET ON THE RIVER AT SANDWASH AND TRAVEL SOUTH FIVE DAYS TO GREEN RIVER, UTAH. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS THAT IS A NATIONAL TREASURE. IT IS REMOTE AND THERE IS LITTLE LEASING IN THIS AREA. THERE ARE SOME PERMITS TO THE NORTH OF THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA AND ARE FEW. THERE IS A SMALL PIECE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY THAT WILL BE EXCLUDED. THERE WILL BE A HALF MILE LINE OF SIGHT CORRIDOR ON EACH SIDE OF THE RIVER. THE BOUNDARIES ARE CREATED USING TOPOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES THAT MAKE SENSE WHEN ON THE GROUND. THESE ARE ALSO BASED ON LEASE LINES. OF COURSE THERE ARE SOME ISSUES TO BE WORKED OUT BUT MANY CONSERVATION GROUPS ARE PLEASED WITH THE DESIGNATION. CARBON COUNTY WILL BE DOING THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AND MAY BE ABLE TO WORK WITH US AND DESIGNATE SOME OF THEIR ABUTTING PROPERTY AS WILDERNESS AS WELL.

CHRIS HATCH ASKED ABOUT THE HALF MILE LINE OF SIGHT. THERE IS NO CURRENT IMPACT ON ORV USE OUTSIDE OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. THERE CANNOT BE ANY THROUGH ROADS IF DESIGNATED AS A WILDERNESS. THE CURRENT ROADS AND TRAILS WILL STAY, THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE CLOSING ANY ROADS. REGARDLESS AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE, THE COUNTY WILL CONTINUE WITH THE RS2477 LITIGATION. SOME ROADS WILL STAY AND SOME WILL GO AS A RESULT OF THE LAWSUIT.

RITCHIE ANDERSON ASKED JENNY BIGGS ABOUT THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES AROUND THE MONUMENT. WHEN FLOATING THROUGH ISLAND PARK, YOU CAN SEE THE CONSERVATION AREA TO THE NORTH. SHE UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR INDUSTRY AND SUPPORTS GRAZING BUT THE RIVER SHOULD BE PROTECTED AS WELL. IT IS ALSO A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE A LIVING. HER COMPANY BRINGS IN A LOT OF TOURISM TO HELP THE ECONOMY. IF THE RIVERS ARE NOT PROTECTED, PEOPLE WILL NOT BE WILLING TO COME HERE TO SEE THEM AND THEN THE SEVEN COMPANIES IN VERNAL WILL COLLAPSE.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED THE WILDERNESS AREA PROPOSED ON THE NORTH PART OF THE FOREST SERVICE PROPERTY IS DIFFICULT FOR MANY TO ACCESS AND WOULD BE VERY ACCOMMODATING IF WE DESIGNATED IT AS WILDERNESS.

JENNY BIGGS RESPONDED TO THE USE OF THE TERM "ENVIRONMENTALISTS" BY BROWNIE TOMLINSON. IT IS NOT FAIR TO PIN USERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AGAINST EACH OTHER. MOST PEOPLE WHO DO USE OUR PUBLIC LANDS ARE A BIT OF BOTH. COMMISSIONER MCKEE AGREED. WE ALL HAVE A PASSIONATE LOVE OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

BILL INGALLS ASKED IF WINTER RIDGE WOULD BE RELEASED AS A STUDY WILDERNESS AREA. IT IS 43,000 ACRES. HE WOULD PREFER IT NOT ALL GO TO TAR SANDS PRODUCTION. COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED THERE MAY BE SOME BUT THEY DON'T ANTICIPATE MUCH. TAR SANDS PRODUCTION SHOULD BE PLANNED.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER ALSO NOTED THERE IS A MAP OF THE EXTRACTION INDUSTRY AND IT HAS BEEN LAYERED ON THIS MAP. SOME AREAS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR EXTRACTION AS IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE MANAGEMENT. SOME PLACES IN THE COUNTY THAT MAY HAVE RESOURCES AVAILABLE ARE SIMPLY TOO DIFFICULT TO GET INTO. WE HAVE SOME ROUGH COUNTRY IN PLACES.

BROWNIE TOMLINSON INDICATED HE WOULD PREFER WE DID NOT DESIGNATE THAT NORTHERN PART OF THE FOREST SERVICE AS WILDERNESS. COMMISSIONER STRINGER ASKED HIM TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN COMMENT WITH THE BENEFITS OR NEGATIVES SO THE INFORMATION CAN BE DOCUMENTED.

ORLAN ANDERSON ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE COMMENT SHEETS AT THE OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING. THERE WILL BE. IT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE LAST MEETING. HOWEVER, THOSE SHEETS WILL BE PROCESS MORE QUICKLY AS IT WILL BE NEARING THE END. COMMISSIONER MCKEE INDICATED THEY ARE HOPING FOR DRAFT LANGUAGE THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH FROM BISHOP'S OFFICE. THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES MADE AND ANOTHER MEETING FOR FINAL COMMENTS.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER INDICATED THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THEY ARE GOING TO RUSH THROUGH. TOO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT HAS BEEN PUT INTO THIS TO SUBMIT A BILL TO LEGISLATION THAT IS MAY HAVE FLAWS WE DID NOT IRON OUT. OTHER GROUPS ARE ALSO WORKING ON LANGUAGE TO SUPPLY.

**ADJOURN:** MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41 P.M.

*Michael McKee*

MICHAEL MCKEE, CHAIR

*Michael W. Wilkins*

MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK-AUDITOR

