

**Beaver County
Planning & Zoning Commission
February 23, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

Minutes

Attendance: Darrel Davis- Chairman, Rowland Yardley, Steve Kinross, Mike Riley, Walter Schofield, Drew Coombs, Kolby Blackner, Jared Gillins representing the Building Department, Von Christiansen as Attorney and Kyle Blackner as Zoning Administrator.

Visitors: Scott Albrecht

Called to Order at 6:34p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes from the January 19, 2016 meeting were read. Drew Coombs made a motion to approve the minutes. Rowland Yardley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS:

Beaver County Natural Resource Specialist, Keven Whicker, came before the commission. He explained that House Bill 323 requires all counties to prepare a Resource Management Plan, (RMP) as part of their General Plan. The RMP consists of 28 specific areas that must be addressed. The purpose of the Resource Management Plan is to give planning and policy direction to elected officials and staff for future resource use and development. Drafts of the RMP will be presented in increments, as they are developed, over the upcoming year.

Wild Horses, which are a part of the Wildlife section of the plan, were specifically addressed. Because of the ongoing issues with over-population of wild horses in the county, they were selected as an early priority in the formulation of this plan. The plan requests that the BLM hold their horse populations to their Appropriate Management Level (AML) guidelines. Board members suggested some editing changes to include; changing the language “Federally Managed Lands” instead of “Public Lands”, and stating that Beaver County should have the same authority as the private landowner, to request removal. It was also recommended to include that Beaver County have the option, if need be, to request a count of Wild Horses, using an independent, third-party source. Drew Coombs made a motion to recommend, with the modified changes, listed above, that the County Commission amend the General Plan to include the Wild Horse section. Rowland Yardley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Predator Control was the next part of the RMP that was addressed. The County’s plan to control predators includes language pertaining to wolves. We support the Utah state plan that requests the removal of wolves from protected status within the state, and that Utah does not intend to manage for any breeding wolf packs. The State of Utah, and specifically Beaver County, were never a part of the historic range of the Mexican gray wolf, nor the Canadian Gray Wolf that is now currently in the Yellowstone Region. It was suggested adding language to the document that states, “as this is not historic habitat for these wolves”. Beaver County maintains a policy of “No Wolves”.

Rowland Yardley made a motion to recommend the County Commission amend the General Plan to include Predator Control section, with the modified change. Walter Schofield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Riley joined the meeting.

Prairie Dogs are a part of the Threatened and Endangered Species portion of the RMP. Beaver County is the target of translocation efforts by the US Fish & Wildlife Service because our county was identified as historic prairie dog habitat. Extensive county research has revealed that a site in Pine Valley is the only recorded historic location of prairie dogs in the county. All prairie dogs on Federal Lands remain under US Fish & Wildlife jurisdiction, however, it is important that the agencies coordinate with Beaver County on any proposed prairie dog releases. It was suggested that a habitat map be attached to the document to specify and limit the area where prairie dogs currently exist in Pine Valley. With that modification, Walter Schofield made a motion to recommend the County Commission amend the General Plan to include the Prairie Dog section. Drew Coombs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kolby Blackner Joined the meeting.

ACECs are a part of the Public Land Access section of the RMP. Current Federal Regulations allow the BLM to create Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) to protect special locations or circumstances. The federal direction on ACEC creation is very vague and ambiguous. Beaver County has developed a set of criteria defining when ACECs are appropriate. It constrains their size and necessity and requires proof that existing Federal Protections are insufficient. Any ACEC proposals must be approved by the County Commission. Drew Coombs made a motion to recommend the County Commission amend the General Plan to include the ACEC section. Rowland Yardley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDIINANCE NO 2016-02 PROHIBITED USES WITHIN DISTRICTS

At our attorney's suggestion, Mr. Blackner proposed new wording for the board's consideration of Prohibited Uses Within Districts. After much discussion, Steve Kinross made a motion to recommend the County Commission approve Ordinance No. 2016-02 Paragraph A. No Second was made. The motioned died. Drew Coombs made the motion to approve the paragraph they had approved at the last meeting, but under the Prohibited Uses. Walter Schofield seconded the Motion. Drew Coombs, Walter Schofield, and Kolby Blackner voted for. Rowland Yardley, Steve Kinross, and Mike Riley voted against. Darrel Davis broke the tie with his vote in favor of the Motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Schofield mentioned that a citizen had called him with a concern about trash from the solar projects blowing outside of the construction area, onto adjoining land. Mr. Blackner assured him he would bring it to the attention of the contractor.

Rowland Yardley made a motion to adjourn, Kolby Blackner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was concluded at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes approved on _____.

Darrel Davis - Chairman