



Memo

To: Joy Hill, Park County Planning and Zoning Director
Dossie Overfield and Joe Tilden, Park County Commissioners
Steffen Cornell, Meeteetse Conservation District
Brian Beauvais, Sue Consolo-Murphy, Timothy Crews, Richard Jones, Jerry Longobardi,
John McGee, Linda Reynolds, Emily Reed, Dustin Rosencranse, Eugene Spiering, and
Breanne Thiel; NRMP Steering Committee

From: Dessa Dale, DJ&A

Date: May 12, 2020

Re: May 12, 2020, Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Attendance:

- Dessa Dale, Facilitator
- Brian Beauvais, Sue Consolo-Murphy, Timothy Crews, Richard Jones, John McGee, Linda Reynolds, Emily Reed, Eugene Spiering, Steering Committee Members
- Joy Hill, Dossie Overfield, Joe Tilden, Park County
- Steffen Cornell, Meeteetse Conservation District

What makes Park County Unique: Summary of Comments

The Park County landscape exhibits little development (“one of the last regions to be developed”) which gives us the ability to do good natural resource and land planning moving forward. Park County’s juxtaposition is the preservation of the “old west” culture, while keeping up with cutting edge technology and businesses that attract and support a younger demographic. There is a balance with supporting natural resource industries and open space: when poverty increases because of lack of economic opportunities, the outdoor resources are damaged. The vast public lands with remote services and access create challenges of encouraging and supporting public land use and industries, but the cost and difficulties of responding when emergencies or issues arise. There are several resources, land uses, or industries that make this area unique:

- Ranching and agricultural traditions;
- Mineral exploration and economic influences;
- Yellowstone National Park it’s economic and recreational drivers;
- Wildlife (both diversity and species);
- History
- Outdoor opportunities such as recreation, fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing
- Scenic values
- The geologic and energy resources within Park County. For example, the Big Horn Basin has large amounts of oil that has supported jobs, roads, and infrastructure since the early 1900s. When poverty becomes dominate, the outdoor resources are damaged.

General Meeting Discussion

Dessa introduced the importance of a Natural Resource Management Plan and the plan development process. The group was encouraged to initiate participation in the process by taking the public survey that was released in early April (link in the presentation and on Park County website) and encouraging others to take it as well. Limited participation has occurred on this survey despite it being advertised in the newspaper, posted on the County webpage, and announced on April 1st on the “Speak your Piece” radio show. The group discussed options for increasing participation. General discussion ensued regarding to the difficulties with getting people involved and reaching a consensus. Part of the problem is that local input is not always there unless a contentious action is occurring. The plan will outline resource management priorities and provide that input even if the general public is not involved in that specific action.

A committee member requested examples of other resource plans around the region. Several counties have already developed plans or are in the process of developing plans. Big Horn County recently released their new NRMP and the Meeteetse Conservation District has a plan which will serve as an important reference for our work. Dessa will look for additional examples for review. Steffen Cornell of the Meeteetse Conservation District requested that the District’s Plan be taken into consideration and be included, in some form, in the new Natural Resource Management Plan.

The Commissioners expressed how they wish they would have had an approved natural resource plan during past federal planning efforts. They have experienced the need for this planning effort and appreciate the funding that was recently provided by the State.

During brief discussion about the schedule, it was determined that the next meeting will involve agency participation, followed by a meeting and further discussion with the Steering Committee regarding the Objectives and Priorities. We will send out an email notification to everyone about the next meeting once it is scheduled. Joy envisions two to three more virtual or in-person opportunities to discuss plan development, with the Steering Committee partaking in reviews of the draft document and providing continued comment. In-person meetings can occur after some of the COVID-19 response group size restrictions are lifted.

There was a request for overlays for various wildlife resources, such as big game and other resources. Dessa said that it was possible to provide overlay maps as requested.

Action Items:

1. Please take the survey: <https://s.surveypplanet.com/eBj8ATLN>
2. Each committee member should try to ask at least five other people to take the survey.
3. Joy will send an email to all county employees and reach out to agencies and other interested parties to garner more participation in the survey effort.
4. Review some neighboring county or Conservation District plans
 - a. Big Horn County: <https://www.bighorncountywy.gov/#nrmp>
 - b. Meeteetse CD: <https://meeteetse-conservevwy.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Land-Use-Plan-2011.pdf>
 - c. Washakie County District Plan: https://www.washakiecd.com/uploads/4/6/2/9/46293003/wccd_2017_natural_resource_plan_final.pdf
 - d. Sublette County (they are starting to redo their plan this year as well): <http://www.sublettewyo.com/DocumentCenter/View/206/ComprehensivePlan?bidId=>
 - e. Hot Springs County Natural Resources Plan of 2014 (essentially served as the baseline for the Big Horn County NRMP in their early days of development):

<https://www.hscounty.com/component/edocman/county-planner/natural-resources-plan-2014?Itemid=>

- f. Campbell County Amended Natural Resource Land Use Plan of 2016:
<https://www.ccgov.net/DocumentCenter/View/4929/Campbell-County-Amended-Natural-Resource--Land-Use-Plan>
- g. Utah went through this planning effort a few years ago for all of their counties. Some of them such as Box Elder, Tooele, and Salt Lake followed a similar template that Wyoming adopted. You can review those plans here: <https://rmp.utah.gov/county-resource-plans/>