

**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
COUNTY OPEN LAND AND TRAILS PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(COLTPAC)**

Thursday, May 20, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fe County Open Land and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was called to order on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Chair Matthew McQueen at the Santa Fe County Community Projects Conference Room, 901 West Alameda, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Matthew McQueen, Chair
Brent Bonwell
Todd Brown
Jack Frost
Jan-Willem Jansens [arriving later]
Jerry Rogers
Stephen Schoninger
Scott Stovall

Members Absent

Judy McGowan [excused]
Sandra Massengill [excused]
Sam Pallin, Vice Chair [excused]

Staff Members Present

Scott Kaseman
Colleen Baker
Beth Mills
Allison Moore

Others Present

Bill Baxter
Julie Berman, Strategic Planner
Roman Abeyta, County Manager

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Bonwell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Stovall seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 15, 2010

Dr. Mills noted it had the wrong date on the top of the first page.

Mr. Rogers moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2010 as amended. Mr. Stovall seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items on this agenda.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resolution 2010- A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTIONS 2001-01 AND 2001-46 TO ADJUST THE REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNTY OPEN LANDS AND TRAILS PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REFLECT CHANGES IN COUNTY PROGRAMMING

Dr. Mills said she requested Julie Berman and Roman Abeyta to come tonight. This was the first attempt to restructure the committee. It also dealt with the role of the Committee. She turned it over to Ms. Berman and Mr. Abeyta.

Mr. Abeyta thanked the Committee for having them. He said he and Ms. Berman had been tasked with assessing all of the County's committees. As they went into recession it was to work as efficiently as possible. He asked Ms. Berman to take an inventory of all committees and come up with concepts for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to show how they could be more efficient, number of committees, membership, etc. Some didn't need to exist anymore. Some had trouble getting a quorum. COLTPAC was very good. It was working and could serve as a model for other committees. Before any final recommendation to the BCC they wanted to visit each one.

Mr. Jansens arrived at this time.

He said they came up with a couple of options. Option A would be to take all the committees they thought were needed and reduce membership to 5 on each one. Option B was to combine all committees into two major commissions

Ms. Berman said this was their fifth committee to visit. This started in March 2009. They were to look at every single County committee. The Clerk didn't have all the committees. Yet each one should be publicly noticed with agendas and recorded minutes. They didn't have all the enabling legislation. The Clerk didn't have them nor did Legal nor did the Division Directors.

In looking at enabling legislation, last July she took a resolution on the 13 that were finished with their work. There was no legislation to sunset them and the resolution abolished those 13.

She met with Dr. Mills last July and asked questions about the committee and pulled out the legislation that had established this committee.

In her investigation she found that some had too many members, some did not have clarity in the terms of the members.

She updated the BCC and came up with various thoughts about it. Committees were subject to the State mileage and per diem act but the County had never budgeted for it. But it did say people were entitled to reimbursement. She did a spreadsheet on what impact that would have. For this committee it would be \$12,040 per year.

The Legislature recently cut some funding for the Maternal and Child Health Committee. So their deliverables were not going to be required by the state. So they needed to look at that 11-member committee.

Ms. Berman went over the history from her handout. In 1998 a resolution referenced the County General Plan to create a county-wide open space plan. 25 members were to be appointed and it was to be strictly advisory. She went through the document with the Committee.

Dr. Mills noted the 2001-06 Resolution authorized appointed alternates to the committee. She thought 200-01 started COLTPAC.

Chair McQueen agreed it was 2001-01. They had one at-large member to make 11. It would be useful to have all these resolutions in one place.

Ms. Berman said they wanted to have a structure that would be consistent with membership. Some committees had commissioners appoint members.

In response to questions, Mr. Abeyta said if the County had to pay per diem and mileage they could not afford to pay all of them.

Mr. Jansens said \$91.50 was the maximum per diem with overnight. Otherwise it went down to \$12.50 or less. None of the COLTPAC members could claim \$91.50.

Ms. Berman had the act for per diem and mileage and she quoted it. She said the act also covered advisory committees. She said they hoped members would waive it but the County Attorney said they had to pay it when it was approved.

Mr. Stovall commented that at the Board of Finance there were members who would waive their per diem. He also served on other committees that waived their per diem.

Mr. Abeyta explained that the County was running out of money and now projected it would be gone in 18 months so they would need a bond or something similar.

Ms. Baker said they had \$1.7 million from bonds and staff were paid from the 5% on acquisitions.

Mr. Abeyta said they also were projecting a \$12 million deficit in two years. Open space was one place

they were looking at cutting back.

Mr. Schoninger asked if the County could do a bond issue now, practically speaking.

Mr. Stovall thought that would not be a problem and with current rates it would be advantageous.

Mr. Abeyta said they needed to figure out how to support the staff. The BCC would have to decide where to make the cuts.

Dr. Mills pointed out that the program currently drew a very small amount from General Fund - not even \$250,000. Some of their staff were being funded out of other sources. So the County did get a lot of bang for the General Fund buck.

Mr. Abeyta said they could continue to do that if those other sources remained available.

Dr. Mills said they had gone to TPL for another round of funding. TPL suggested the program was in a position for another GO bond and the possibility of adding a mil levy for additional staff. But they ran into a wall with both of them and were told to back off. She wanted that looked at more carefully.

Mr. Abeyta had heard that GO bonds might not be a problem legally but the mil levy might be.

Ms. Baker had heard there was no mil levy for open space. Bernalillo County did that.

Mr. Stovall explained that the mil levy was capped but the GO bond was not.

Ms. Baker said the feasibility study looked at 3 options: General Fund, GO bonds and GRT.

Chair McQueen didn't think they could work this out tonight. The funding and the committee structure seemed to be different issues.

Mr. Abeyta thought there would always be a COLTPAC but the funding was a question.

Mr. Stovall appreciated the position the County was in. Each of the members had some expertise in one of the areas of their responsibilities. So if it was limited to five members, they might lose some of that expertise. They just made recommendations to the BCC. He recommended they waive the per diem. Even without acquisition they still had maintenance and management.

Mr. Abeyta said that was why they were here. So as long as we could waive per diem, they could keep COLTPAC.

Mr. Rogers agreed that the composition relied on the purpose of the committee. Maybe an appointed committee based on expertise would work but probably allowing Commissioners to appoint would not keep the expertise. Operation was also a need for the places that had been acquired.

Mr. Jansens said his interest was in the stewardship part. His background was ecology and care of

open space sites. There was also a need for diversity on the committee for stewardship and a community point of view. Wildlife and surface water were not being addressed at all. Other groups had talked with the County about it. The County's rivers and streams were totally neglected. They were just beginning to understand the importance of the relationship with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and wildlife. They should look at how that connected with COLTPAC and /or the Planning Commission. He had spoken with Karen Torres about how the Water Committee could include surface water.

Chair McQueen thought if they could get over the per diem/ funding issue, this committee would do it. This committee was amazing with its expertise. The County would lose a lot by cutting it down to five.

Mr. Stovall asked if they were going with Option A or Option B.

Mr. Abeyta thought they were going with Option A.

Ms. Berman explained that under Option B, work groups could be formed under it that would avoid the per diem problem.

Ms. Berman asked about terms for committee members. The resolution had to get past legal. They needed to clean up the language and forward a resolution to BCC. Mr. Abeyta and she didn't have the answers. She shared with the committees what was going on and what they heard back.

Mr. Jansens asked if they could continue to work with alternates. He understood that under SLDP there was place for community organizations that would inform constituency.

Mr. Abeyta said with Option B the input from the work groups would go into those two committees.

Mr. Rogers suggested that perhaps neglected committees just reflected lousy staff management. With this Committee the staff management was very good.

Ms. Berman said that point was well taken

Mr. Frost said he worked with the State Engineer and a lot with attorneys. He appealed to them to find out what other class one counties thought they could do. It might be a really small hurdle.

Mr. Bonwell wondered if Sandoval or Bernalillo had done it or not. It made sense to find out.

Dr. Mills said they might need to move to a larger perspective to resource management and would need all the expert advice they could get. So they might be dealing with an interim resolution and how the function of open space was evolving as well.

Chair McQueen thought perhaps they could work on it. This was a normal turnout. Maybe next month they could look at what the resolution would look like and find out about per diem.

Mr. Abeyta agreed and they would come back here before a final recommendation to the BCC.

Mr. Jansens said he would peruse the two ideas of wildlife and surface water and figure out how to address them.

Ms. Berman suggested that in the discussion the Committee could do a resolution - to form a subcommittee with those two topics rather than separate committees.

Mr. Jansens said it was discussed with Land Use staff but maybe it would be appropriate to decide here.

Mr. Frost asked if they were being asked to clean up this resolution history as a task.

Ms. Berman said that as they continued the discussion that Dr. Mills as staff would clean it up with consistent language and bring it forward as a draft. Typically they would probably repeal the previous resolutions and start all over.

Mr. Rogers commented that there was a problem in bureaucratic bean counting. It clouded the vision for this community - like the trap of five members or 7 members.

Chair McQueen thanked them for coming. He asked if everyone had seen the draft resolution that was sent out and asked how to consider it - as a whole or in a subcommittee. He had some suggestions on form and style and a couple of substantive issues.

Mr. Stovall felt if it went to a subcommittee he was not sure how the members could convey their opinion and have them come up with a draft. It would be a lot of work for a subcommittee.

Chair McQueen didn't want to wordsmith it as an entire committee. Maybe they could spend a few minutes on the substantive issues and give it back to Dr. Mills.

Ms. Baker thought they could deal with the numbers of members easily. But things at the County might change how they functioned.

They had been wrestling with what was happening with SLDP and the broad goals in it and how the open space program fit into that. They didn't know what role they would play. There were things like Ian's two committees and just the nature of the cycle they were in that meant they might not have acquisition funding.

Mr. Jansens suggested a process to consider the purpose of the committee, the context of its function with SLDP/connections, public participation and what the composition needed to be. Those were the key points to be expressed in the resolution.

Chair McQueen said the purpose and context would tie into the COLTPAC plan and the context with SLDP. The current composition was complex but worked very well. He thought they could make a lot of changes in it. He would be interested in Legal's template. He showed one from 2004 on rules of order. There was a lot of work they could do before bringing it back to the full committee.

Mr. Baxter said the Committee had also been given permission to lobby for what they saw for the future and the way it was presented would determine whether or not it would happen. Trails didn't cost a lot but required a lot of work. COLTPAC could do a lot with trails without a lot of money. At some point there would be money again and responsibilities for using it.

Chair McQueen liked doing management of trails and felt they needed to work on it.

Ms. Baker agreed that would help with the strategic part. They were not a divided program and they could do all of it. It was not just acquisition or just maintenance.

Mr. Bonwell had been frustrated about so much emphasis on acquisition and brought his proposal for the trails subcommittee. He was on the biking subcommittee; Dr. Pallin was on the equestrian subcommittee. He thought sub committees were good idea. He felt the Committee and subcommittees could take on the leg work to support the work of the County with limited staff and budget.

Chair McQueen asked if they had a subcommittee on Arroyo Hondo.

Ms. Baker agreed. They also worked on having an outreach committee. Not all subcommittee members had to be members of COLTPAC.

Mr. Jansens envisioned more integration with land use and with public participation. He felt they could improve a lot there. He saw it as an important function of the Committee to maintain 11 members and alternates. He thought it functioned well at this number and didn't think shrinking would help this Committee.

Chair McQueen said if the County had to pay per diem they wouldn't stay at 11 and 2 alternates. He said he always felt he didn't represent a geographic area but the interests of the County and just happened to live in the south part. The other key issue was whether they would stick with north, south and central or go with districts. He thought the geographic areas were used to avoid the political ramifications. He worried about it becoming too political and thought the five member plan was tied to districts. He also had problems with a city representative.

Mr. Frost said there had always been difficulty getting pueblo and north and south representatives.

Dr. Mills agreed the idea of five from districts might not be good and if they were to cover all the expertise. She preferred a needs-based representation. They needed people who understood finance, wildlife, restoration and trail maintenance. No one cared where they came from.

Mr. Stovall said they could specify those requirements but thought the BCC would want to see someone from each geographic area to make sure they all had a say.

Dr. Mills suggested maybe one from each area.

Chair McQueen agreed with her. The Committee had an amazing diversity. He wouldn't want to get too specific. They could look for different skill sets through the applications.

Dr. Mills agreed it had been amazing. They had been lucky with the expertise they had. Staff recommendations were not part of the structure. They had been aggressive with some people and they accepted our recommendations but nothing said they had to in the future. She wanted to be careful because it could get political and they could end up with people who had no interest. That brought up how to get those people off.

She noted that the County had been set up with geographic areas but not just south-central-south.

Mr. Stovall asked if staff got good response in ads for committee positions.

Dr. Mills said it depended on the quality of the advertising. She thought the interest was out there.

Mr. Stovall asked how much staff time the committee took.

Dr. Mills said if it functioned just as an acquisition committee it would take a third of her time.

Ms. Baker added that if subcommittees really got active it would take lots of time.

Mr. Rogers commented that without COLTPAC those things would still have to be done.

Ms. Baker said she got a lot of energy from having this support.

Mr. Stovall said the BCC got public input that it wouldn't get otherwise. That showed them that the members were all from different areas. This was kind of an at large committee. Secondly, from their standpoints, it gives them background cover. They could say the committee recommended that the County acquire this land.

Chair McQueen agreed and added that if it was five appointed by commissioners it would take away that credibility.

Mr. Schoninger asked if there was a trails map for the county.

Ms. Baker said they had various maps.

Chair McQueen asked if they had enough information and comments for the next draft.

Mr. Rogers thought so.

Ms. Baker asked how they would intersect with SLDP. The staff and committee had a very large vision. She wasn't sure that was understood at the County so it was unclear now.

Chair McQueen asked that the next draft be emailed out well before the next meeting.

Mr. Frost said he was hearing they wanted to defend a larger committee in a rational way and beefing

up their mission. A lot of this draft was organizational to him.

Dr. Mills said they had to move away from reporting to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Frost asked if the SLDP had a staff member servicing it. Dr. Mills said there was none.

B. Trails Subcommittee

Mr. Bonwell reported and explained it came about because of his interest in trails.

Mr. Bonwell said they wanted to look at long range planning for trails to see which ones were being connected and where they existed in a Master Plan of trails. There was not much distance between Lamy to 14 to Kennedy Line to SFCC. He hoped the subcommittee could now tap community people to serve on the trails effort with volunteers to work on them. He and Mr. Stovall met with Dr. Mills a few weeks ago and they both agreed to be members of the Trails Subcommittee. They would report back the work of the subcommittee to COLTPAC.

Chair McQueen asked what was happening with Santa Fe Conservation Trust Trails. The COLTPAC funded a portion of a staff person for them.

Ms. Baker said SFCT was no longer a part of it. It began as a partnership and ended up being a contract relationship. The (8) volunteers had taken it over and they were struggling with organization. The SFCT had offered to be some sort of pass through and County staff were trying to help but wanted to let them be volunteers. The volunteers went through the full training. They were still working on it but it was small.

Mr. Bonwell said he had been in communication with them. They had a lot of Dale Ball to maintain and look at the strategic pieces. The rail trail was a nightmare with DOT. Those were big ticket items. There were Galisteo Preserve trails and volunteer groups with proper leadership could do a lot of it.

Chair McQueen asked what they needed from the Committee.

Mr. Bonwell said they needed recruitment of members so they could do this.

Mr. Bonwell moved that COLTPAC create a Trails Subcommittee with Mr. Stovall and Mr. Bonwell as co chairs. Mr. Stovall seconded the motion.

Mr. Jansens asked how much time they envisioned. He was interested in trails but didn't know how much time he could commit.

Mr. Bonwell announced that in the second week of July the National Mountain Biking Association would meet and have an all-day training on the second Saturday in July.

They wanted to identify which areas to concentrate on with the most critical maintenance and get that

approved through County staff and report back. They would schedule a four hour work day and notify everyone when they were having a work day.

Mr. Jansens agreed to serve on the Trails Subcommittee.

Mr. Stovall commented that many people, when they heard he was on COLTPAC, asked him about trails.

Ms. Baker showed a brochure put out by the NMDOH for doctors to share with patients who needed activities.

Mr. Stovall thought the subcommittee could look at outreach.

Mr. Brown said this was his last meeting and thought maybe Mr. Baxter could take his place.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair McQueen explained that the Committee could not appoint any new members.

7. MATTERS FROM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS STAFF

Ms. Baker thought their discussion was very timely. The kinds of things staff members were hearing were very disheartening. She really didn't know what their future looked like. They were making every effort to build.

Mr. Rogers thought Mr. Abeyta and Ms. Berman were being dragged into a bureaucratic operation that would be much worse.

Chair McQueen suggested they all could call their commissioners to say how well they were working.

Mr. Jansens said they needed to do some PR and show what they had accomplished. Having articles in the New Mexican and Green Fire Times should be done now.

Ms. Baker agreed. They were talking about regular spots and anything that was free. Anything the committee wanted to do to help make the program more visible was important. It was difficult to do all of it well.

Mr. Jansens said with the opening of Arroyo Hondo he could see if Stacy Matlock could do an article. Also the New Mexican Green Pages blog should be targeted. They liked to boost their web with green pages. And the Green Fire Times was a great vision. Members could take the burden off of staff shoulders. He said he was very willing to help.

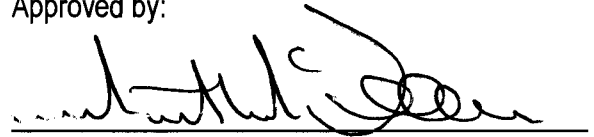
8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no matters from the Committee.

9. ADJOURNMENT

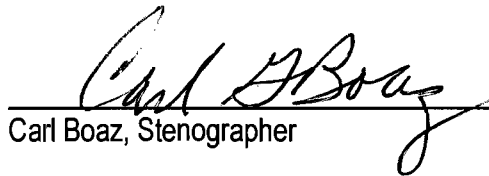
The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Approved by:

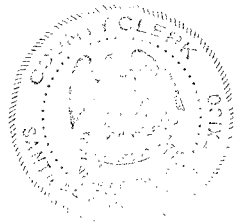


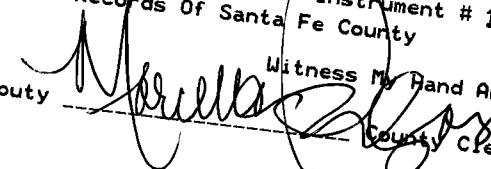
Matthew McQueen, Chair

Submitted by:


Carl Boaz, Stenographer

ATTEST

VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK




COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss COLTPAC MINUTES
PAGES: 11
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 3RD Day Of February, 2011 at 02:45:49 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1625797
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County
Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM