

GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2009

The July 9, 2009 Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee meeting was held in the Commissioner's Meeting Room in the Courthouse at 200 E. Virginia, Gunnison CO 81230.

Regular Members Present:

Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson, National Park Service (NPS)
John Scott, Vice-Chairperson, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
Erich Ferchau, At-Large, Development Community
Sue Navy, High Country Citizens' Alliance (HCCA)

Russell Japuntich, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Paula Swenson, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
J Wenum, Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW)

Alternate Members Present

Jon Muggelstone, Public At-Large
Elinor Laurie, Saguache County
Dan Reinkensmeyer (USFWS) nominated not yet affirmed from the BOCC

Staff Members Present:

Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator
Ruth Dukeman, Administrative Assistant III

Others present as listed in text.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Stahlnecker called the July 9, 2009 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee to order at 10:04 am.

PUBLIC NOTICE CONFIRMED: Stahlnecker verified that proper legal public notice had occurred.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Stahlnecker confirmed that a quorum was present.

AGENDA APPROVAL: No modifications to the agenda were requested. The agenda was approved as circulated.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS:

Gunnison County: Cochran advised that a pre-application was received from the State Land Board requesting cooperation of the BLM and USFS for exploration of geothermal resources in the Tomichi Dome/Waunita pass area. State Land Board owned the land but Flint Resources was the proposed developer. State land board deferred the decision for development to the County based on Sage-grouse habitat concerns. Navy asked the about the acreage involved. As this was a Pre-application the amount of sage-grouse habitat was still unknown. A meeting

was scheduled to determine the exact location of the proposed exploration. Laurie asked about existing policy for geothermal development. It was noted as this a new area of exploration the BLM and USFS was working to include information in upcoming modifications. With the current interest for renewable energy sources this type of activity will be more prevalent.

DOW: The nomination for Limited Season Structure submitted by the Stockgrowers was reported to be moving forward through the process. The Wildlife Commission schedule was reviewed, noting how a meeting was being held July 9th in Ft. Collins to review the proposal. It appeared that public input would be heard by the Wildlife Commission about the limited nomination big game session during an August workshop and that they may also may take public input and make a final decision during the September meeting.

BLM: It was announced that Brian St. George had arrived and was scheduled to be attending future meetings.

Proposed Nominations for Membership: A request for a formal letters to affirm the formal action for the proposed members was requested.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 17, 2009 MEETING MINUTES: Modifications to the June 17, 2009 minutes were discussed and agreed upon. **Moved** by Swenson, seconded by Navy, to accept the June 17, 2009 meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Navy was nominated to assist with editing of draft minutes in advance of the meeting for grammatical and typographical errors. The Committee agreed and the changes will be tracked in Word using the View Marks Option.

GRAZING RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE:

Cochran reported that an outline created by the lead researchers was circulated for review. A Grazing Research Project Sub-Committee Meeting was planned for Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:00 am in the Board of County Commissioner Meeting Room. The public was invited. Cochran further offered to collect input and present at the meeting for those who were unable to attend. Cochran reported how Peterson had presented the outline to the Stockgrowers Association Board at a recent meeting. The Stockgrowers Association Board had unanimous consensus to support the project.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Tuesday, July 14, 2009	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Grazing Management Sub-Committee Meeting BOCC Meeting Room
Thursday, August 13, 2009	10:00 am – 2:00 pm - Regular Meeting (Action Plan Presentation – Committee recommendation to BOCC)
Wednesday October 14, 2009	10:00 am – 2:00 pm - Regular Meeting

ADJOURN: **MOVED** by Stahlnecker, seconded by Scott to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The July 9, 2009 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee adjourned at 10:27 am.

WORK SESSION: Action Plan led by Erich Ferchau

Certification of Approval:

Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson

Greg Peterson, Secretary

Minutes Prepared By:

Ruth Dukeman, Administrative Assistant III