GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2012

The September 19, 2012 Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee meeting was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Courthouse at 200 E. Virginia, Gunnison CO 81230.

Committee Members Present:
Voting:
Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson, National Park Service (NPS), Regular
J Wenum, Vice-Chairperson, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Regular
Greg Peterson, Secretary, Gunnison County Stockgrowers' Association (GCSA), Regular
Chris Bove, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regular
Elinor Laurie, Saguache County Alternate
Sue Navy, High Country Citizens' Alliance (HCCA), Regular
Phil Chamberland, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Regular
John Murphy, United States Forest Service (USFS), Regular
Patty Gelatt, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regular
Peter Caloger, Public At-Large, Regular
Eric Ferchau, At Large, Development Community, Regular

Non-voting:
Kathy Griffin, CPW Alternate
Charlie Sharp, USFWS Alternate

Visitors:
Andrew Archuleta, BLM, San Luis Valley Field Office Manager
Jenny Nehring, Coordinator, Poncha Pass Local Working Group
Nathan Seward, CPW, Gunnison

Staff Members Present:
Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Stahlnecker called the September 19, 2012 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee to order at 8:02 am.

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Charles (Charlie) Sharp was introduced as the new USFWS alternate member. He was appointed by the Gunnison County BoCC on August 21, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 23, 2012 MEETING MINUTES: The Committee reviewed the minutes. **Moved** by Wenum, seconded by Chamberland to approve the August 23, 2012 meeting minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS:

> **Peterson:** Peterson inquired about the status of the Candidate Conservation Agreement. Cochran reported that he had an email communication from Russ Japuntich that Japuntich is working on the Biological Assessment (BA) for the CCA. Sharp affirmed that the CCA has not been received by the USFWS. Murphy reported that the USFS has signed the CCA. Stahlnecker reported that the NPS has not signed the CCA but expects it will be signed in the near future.

LAND PRESERVATION FUND SUPPORT LETTER: Cochran informed the Committee that Gunnison County Attorney David Baumgarten recommended that the Committee not submit a "letter to the editor" in support of the Land Preservation Fund ballot issue. In order to avoid any possible violation of the Fair Campaign Practices Act, Mr. Baumgarten recommended that if the Committee chooses to take formal action, that it do so in the form of a formal written resolution, which if adopted by majority vote of the group, be sent to the newspapers as a standalone document created in the normal course of the Committee's work.

A draft resolution, 2012-1, titled "A RESOLUTION OFFERING SUPPORT FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY LAND PRESERVATION FUND" was circulated for review by the Committee.

Moved by Peterson, seconded by Bove to approve Resolution 2012-1 as circulated.

Discussion: Discussion ensued concerning possible violation of Federal law (Hatch Act) if Federal employees vote on the motion. Wenum noted that State employees cannot engage in election campaign activities. After discussion, the following Committee members abstained from voting on the motion:

J Wenum
Patty Gelatt
Chris Bove
John Murphy
Ken Stahlnecker (not sure if Ken did abstain)

Motion approved by unanimous vote of remaining members.

USFWS INFORMATION REQUEST: The Committee discussed the information request made by the USFWS following the extension of the Proposed Rule deadline. Gelatt noted that this was not a formal request for information. Gelatt asked that Gunnison County summarize land use reviews, with permit conditions, actions taken and examples of typical reviews. Griffin noted that CPW plans on submitting information on CPW conservation activities that have occurred since the last information submittal. BLM was not present to discuss their response but Cochran

noted that an email with Japuntich indicated they probably were considering submitting the CCA as "new" information.

Peterson inquired about what other counties may be submitting, including Saguache County. He asked if they may be doing things that may benefit the sage-grouse that will go unreported. Peterson asked that information about the Nature Conservancy sage-grouse climate change brood rearing restoration/resiliency project be submitted.

Griffin reported that the Western Governors' Association may be doing another survey on local government activities related to sage-grouse conservation in the near future. A survey conducted last year appeared to be hastily assembled and the response from local government rangewide in both Greater and Gunnison range was not good. Gunnison County provided the only response regarding actual activities, regulatory actions, etc.

Peterson reported that Gunnison Ranchland Legacy is working on several easement projects that may be reportable. He will work with Cochran to that end.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Date	*Time*	*Notes*
October 17, 2012	10-2	Regular Meeting
November 14, 2012	10-2	Regular Meeting

ADJOURN: **MOVED** by Stahlnecker to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The September 19, 2012 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee adjourned at 8:59 am.

FIELD TRIP:

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL:

_____
Ken Stahlnecker, Chairperson

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Greg Peterson, Secretary

Minutes Prepared By:

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James O. Cochran, Wildlife Conservation Coordinator