

GEM Committee Minutes – March 3, 2010

Corrected 3/15

1. Attendance: Laura Warburton, Kent Lyons, Jim Ormsbee, Ron Gleason, Kim Wheatley, Ross Mertlich, Richard Sorensen, Jennifer Graham, Sharon Holmstrom, Cindy Beger, Steve Clarke
2. Announcements:
 - a. Steve Clarke will attempt to make available the training material given to the joint West Weber/Ogden Valley Planning Commissions on March 2. The subject was Legislative versus Administrative action, which might be useful to get more time for the Commission to focus on ordinances and planning. If that occurs it will be more important than ever for the public to study the detail of the Commission packet prior to meetings.
 - b. A meeting called by Gage Froerer for March 4th at noon in room 215 of the Senate Office Bldg. was announced. (Note: a summary email of that meeting is available on request to Steve Clarke)
 - c. Planning Commission work meetings are now officially scheduled for 5 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month.
 - d. Curtis Christensen (County Engineer) indicates the State has committed funding, and a consultant has been selected to study sewer implementation for the South Fork drainage of Ogden Valley. This study includes the town of Huntsville. The Wolf Creek Sewer Improvement District has agreed with the State and County to provide sewer services for the North Fork drainage in the Valley. (Note per Lowell Peterson: Wolf Creek Water Company and Wolf Creek Water Conservancy are both privately owned companies that provide drinking water and irrigation water in their service areas. Wolf Creek Sewer Improvement District is a body politic with an elected Board.)
 - e. Cheryl Ferrin is the new Committee member representing the Weber School District. Unfortunately the School District Board meeting is also on the 1st Wednesday of the month.
3. Ron Gleason (a member of the Board of the Green Hills Water and Sewer Improvement District, which is responsible for providing water and sewer services to the residents within the Green Hills subdivision and some surrounding areas) noted the Board received a letter from Weber/Morgan Health Department in November. The following is an excerpt from the letter:

“Your wastewater disposal system is among approximately 130 other similar disposal systems in the state. In the past, the Department of Environmental Quality would review engineering plans and give construction approval. At completion, a final inspection was made and the service and

operation of the system was left in the hands of the owners. Unfortunately, it was discovered that in most instances servicing and maintenance was not done until the system was in a state of failure. We also learned that even routine pumping was ignored. Several systems had early failures, where simple maintenance could have avoided more costly repairs.

These deficiencies, which may impact the environment and public health, motivated the legislature to pass a house bill in 2008 and amend the powers and duties of the Water Quality Board to include authority to issue Operating Permits for these wastewater disposal systems. As of November 2009, in Weber and Morgan counties, that responsibility has been handed over to the Weber-Morgan Health Department.”

4. The Committee unanimously adopted the GEM Committee mission presentation as an official Committee document. The Committee expressed sincere thanks to Kimbal Wheatley for his role in leading the group through this work and his efforts to provide the document. Kim, Ron Gleason, and Laura Warburton will look at social network tools (e.g. Google’s WAVE and others) to see how we might use them to promote discussion and the development of ideas in the future.
5. We discussed the possibility of using the mission/who are we document as a tool to invite new members to join in the work of the Committee. (Note: Since the meeting Cindy Beger has offered some very thoughtful comments about additional material she feels will help us communicate with others. Those comments will be available as her permission is obtained.)
6. Jennifer Graham led us through a new Ogden Valley Recreation Planning Committee organizing document. Commissioner Bischoff has asked Jennifer to lead the new Committee (we agree she is an excellent choice). Kim Wheatley moved (and the second was not recorded) for adoption pending review of the new modifications suggested – the motion was approved unanimously. Jennifer will distribute a new copy. The Committee members will work with Jennifer to identify the organizations and potential new members for the Committee.
7. The heliport at Red Moose Lodge was discussed. The Planning Commission is seeking answers to questions from the County Planning Staff and expects to address the tabled issue in either the March or April meetings. The Committee concluded we would study the CV-2 zoning ordinance in our next meeting and attempt to create thoughtful suggestions for improvement to the Planning Commission and Staff.
8. The Committee was invited to consider future priorities for study.
9. A new District Ranger, Robin _____, will be in place this week. Steve Clarke will invite her to participate in the GEM Committee.
10. The next meeting is Wednesday April 7th at 5 pm in the Huntsville Library, large conference room.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.