

## **BoCC Statement to PAWS/Public on 7/6/10**

John Maynard Keynes, quite possibly the most well know economist provides the following quote:

“The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as escaping from the old ones” John Keynes

Famous quotes are often designed to break down complex problems or issues, and allow for a new and fresh perspective. The quote I just read is still applicable to turning the County around and the BoCC understands this concept. This thought is also very pertinent to changing direction in how our local water district operates.

Since 1977, the BoCC has failed to provide oversight to local districts. State statutes were written so that ‘local government bodies’-in our case the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners should provide oversight to ensure the County residents are protected. Most states have a public utility commission to provide oversight of utilities like our water company so that debt and fees are kept at responsible levels. Colorado does not have this structure and instead gives that responsibility to the BoCC.

We not only have the authority provided by State law, we have the responsibility to provide this oversight. We take this responsibility very seriously.

In the joint public meeting between the PAWSD Board and the BOCC held last month to receive the PAWSD Annual Report, it was agreed that this oversight is the law and that the BOCC and the PAWSD should enter into a formal agreement to outline how this oversight should take place. We have drafted an outline of the the things we feel need to be done in order to provide the proper oversight of the PAWSD. We are now requesting a public meeting between the PAWSD Board and the BOCC to review and finalize the outline of how oversight will take place in the future. Once in agreement, we will direct our attorneys to prepare a memorandum of understanding or MOU incorporating the agreed controls and oversight processes.

Our community desires that a well documented and executed oversight process be put in place and we are looking forward to working together with the PAWSD Board to achieve this important goal for the citizens of our community.