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Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District  
Board of Directors

The Water Supply Community Work Group (Water Group) met on July 28, 2010 to discuss its future and to determine what recommendations, if any, it would like to make to the Board of Directors. It is our opinion that any decision to disband or radically reduce the Water Group mission would be a mistake for both the Board and the community that PAWSD serves. It is true that the first two meetings of the Water Group were less than productive. We were all there and understand more than most the complete lack of progress. There are likely many contributing factors to this failure but we would rather like to look forward not micro analyze what went wrong. The following outlines the actions the Water Group took at its meeting and its recommendations to the Board of PAWSD.

1. The Water Group elected to replace a facilitator with a strong Chairman, Bruce Dryburgh. That decision has already proven to be a success, and we believe that the format issue has more than been resolved. At the meeting the Group not only covered all of the items included in the agenda but also several more. Still the Group concluded its meeting a few minutes early.
  
2. The Board's rationale in forming the Water Group was, at least in part, a recognition that there was a great divide between the how PAWSD views their decisions and how the public views PAWSD's decisions. This is not an isolated disagreement--we have found that questions and distrust permeate almost every level of public discourse in Archuleta County. The Water Group was initially faced with this same distrust. On July 28th, 2010, the Water Group did exactly what many thought they could not do. They came together in good faith and set out a roadmap for how to efficiently provide PAWSD with community recommendations and to do so through a proactive and inclusive public process. In fact, the format and system adopted by this group may include a greater amount of public input than previously expected. The details of the Water Group's format recommendation are:
  - a. The Water Group should consist of about eighteen members, the number that attended the meeting. There were thirty members at the previous meeting.
  - b. We would rather have a few too many members than exclude good volunteers.
  - c. We believe that prior and anticipated resignations (some due to relocation) would allow for a few new members with specific talents if it were determined that such additions were warranted.
  - d. After discussion with Mr. Ranson and Mr. Hart it was agreed that elected (not candidate) BOCC should advise the Group but not be a member.
  - e. The committee recommends that the Water Group be divided initially into two groups. The first group would deal with existing water resources, rights and demand. The second subcommittee would deal with projections of population and other factors that impact water demand. It is recommended that the all subcommittees be open to members of other subcommittees and the public similar to the Town Tourism Committee which evidently is working quite well.
  - f. It is anticipated that four to six additional subcommittees would be needed in the near future to deal with:
    1. Alternative Reservoir(s) design and planning
    2. How to finance the expenditures recommended by the Group
    3. Alternatives to additional water storage such as water conservation, acquisition of additional water rights and a significant reduction in water losses
    4. Collaboration between area governments to facilitate long range community-wide planning
    5. Liaison with the community

It is anticipated that the mission of each of these subcommittees will change over time and that perhaps a few more committees will be required.

g. The Group identified key required skills for the subcommittees such as engineering, water rights law, long range planning, mathematics, statistics, municipal finance, environmental science and public relations. The Group was comfortable with the existing skills in the group but recognized that perhaps one or two more skilled personal may be required.

h. With PAWSD's blessing, the Water Group will meet again on August 11, 2010.

i. The Group recognized Sheila's assistance and indicated to her that her presence would be missed.

j. The Group requests that with Sheila's scheduled departure that the Board provide the Group with one or two key contacts in PAWSD to provide the required data and expertise to the Group.

To derail these efforts at this time runs the risk of derailing the process of public inquiry and the restoration of public trust altogether. If PAWSD cannot give a community group the opportunity to come together in a productive manner, how would they ever expect the community at large to do the same? We recommend that the BOCC and PAWSD work together as appropriate on these issues that impact both entities.

Just as the Water Group was able to make the difficult decision to be productive and to truly represent the community, we believe that PAWSD should make an equally brave decision to allow the public to continue assisting PAWSD through the Water Group.

Signed: Bruce Dryburgh and Will Neder on behalf of the  
Water Supply Community Work Group