

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

June 6, 2013 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 8:07 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: Noon.

Council Members present: Council President Susuras, Councilmembers Chazen and Norris; Boeschstein entered at 8:15 a.m. Councilmembers Brainard and Doody were absent. Staff present: Englehart, Shaver, Moore, Trainor, Schoeber, Franklin, and Tuin.

Agenda Topic 1. BLM Briefing from BLM Planning Lead Samantha Staley canceled as Ms. Staley could not attend.

Agenda Topic 2. Briefing on BLM comments for Current Resource Management Plan.

City Manager Englehart introduced the topic noting that the City has until June 24 to submit comments on the draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the BLM administered lands within the Grand Junction Field Office area.

Public Works, Utilities, and Planning Director Trainor explained the process and the time frame for the Resource Management Plan.

Utilities Manager Franklin noted that the Plan guides the BLM on decisions for the next twenty years. The Grand Junction Field Office covers two million acres. This process started in 2009. The City was involved throughout the development of the Plan and therefore has few issues. The City's focus points are livestock grazing, land tenure, protection of the watershed, travel management, tamarisk, fire mitigation, and trails. Four alternatives were put forward: Alternative A – keep as is; Alternative B – the preferred alternative and a balanced approach; Alternative C – a conservative approach; and Alternative D – a development centered approach.

Livestock grazing – the City supports grazing whereas Palisade has shut off grazing on their watershed lands. The City sees benefits and has not found giardia contamination to come from the livestock.

Land tenure – the Airport Land will not likely be developed in the next twenty years, regarding Somerville Ranch, the area has a checkerboard ownership and there are some concerns on some plant life and the effect of road dust. Regarding Riverfront parcels, the City has an agreement to maintain the existing trails. Councilmember Boeschstein asked the City to add a comment that all riparian areas should be protected from development.

Water Resource Protections – the City is asking that the table listing Juniata Reservoir as being impaired be updated as it no longer is, and support watershed protection areas including no leasing of federal minerals within the watershed, and let the current leases run out.

Councilmember Boeschstein asked that a comment be added that BLM should claim islands in waterways previously unclaimed.

Travel Management – the City is asking that the roads be left open to access in the watershed such as Old Miller Road.

Tamarisk and Russian Olive – the City supports continued control and eradication and noted that the BLM's support of commercial harvesting is in conflict with that

Fire Mitigation – the City has fire mitigation plans and supports allowing a natural fire to burn if it helps the resource.

Trails – the City supports trails developments. Councilmember Boeschstein asked that the City also add comments regarding the wash trails – Leech Creek, Lewis Wash, and Monument Canyon.

Utilities Manager Franklin then addressed the Town of Palisade's comments that may conflict with some of the City's expectations. One in particular is the creation of a 10,000 acre special recreation area. That is currently not in the preferred alternative but if moved into the accepted alternative, Palisade's request would affect some of the City's roads. The City would lodge an objection.

The discussion concluded with the Council present indicating support for the comments described.

Agenda Topic 3. Workshop Items Review

Council had scheduling discussions on the Avalon Theatre Project, Active Threat Training, Facility Assessment, drainage/storm water issues, large emergency vehicle storage, Las Colonias Master Plan, Matchett Park Master Plan, a RAMP grant application for Horizon Drive, meeting with Clifton Fire Board, Amendment 64, the 7th Street Post incident Report, homelessness, addressing, TABOR, the selection process for the District E vacancy, annexations/enclaves, canals and the Master Trails Plan, the volunteer board appointment policy, and budget policy decisions including defining fund balance.

Staff was directed to plug the items into the schedule and to also schedule a full day workshop.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

Councilmembers had additional discussion on the Avalon Theatre Project.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2013, 8:00 A.M.
CITY AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET**

To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025

1. **BLM Briefing from Planning Lead Samantha Staley:** Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
2. **Briefing on BLM Comments for Current Resource Management Plan:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the BLM administered lands within the Grand Junction Field Office. Staff will present an overview of the document and discuss City comments to be provided by June 24, 2013. [Attachment](#)
3. **Workshop Items Review**
4. **Other Business**