

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

JUNE 24, 2002

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, the Board of Trustees for the Town of Palisade, the City Council of the City of Fruita, the Board of Directors for the Grand Junction Drainage District and the Board of County Commissioners for Mesa County, convened into a special session the 24th day of June, 2002, at 7:45 p.m. in the Adobe Creek Room at Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main Street. Grand Junction Councilmembers present were Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Jim Spehar, Janet Terry, Reford Theobald, and President of the Council Cindy Enos-Martinez. Absent was Councilmember Harry Butler. City Staff present were City Manager Kelly Arnold, City Attorney Dan Wilson, Assistant City Manager Dave Varley, Public Works Manager Tim Moore, Utilities Manager Greg Trainor, and Utilities Engineer Trent Prall.

Mesa County Commissioners Jim Baughman, Doralyn Genova and Chair Kathy Hall were present along with County Attorney Lyle Dechant, Engineer Mike Meininger, Paralegal Donna Ross, and Clerk to the Board Bert Raley. Fruita City Councilmembers in attendance were Mayor Jim Adams, Mel Mulder, Ken Dodgion, Dave Karisny, Nick Kohls, Trinidad Silva, their engineer and City Clerk Margaret Steelman. Palisade Trustees present were Mayor Dean Smith, Galen Wallace, Patty Hammond, Geraldine Burdick, Fesalene Ashurst, Bill Christopher, staff Bonnie Pearson and Town Clerk Judy Lockwood. The Grand Junction Drainage District was represented by Board members Jim Adams (also Fruita Mayor), David Courtney, Art Bulla, Manager John Ballaugh and Clerk Donna Garlitz.

Some members of the public were also present: Doug Fassbinder, Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Daily Sentinel Reporter Mari Vader.

Mike Meininger of Mesa County Engineering Department, summarized the purpose for the meeting, the purpose being to address valley-wide stormwater issues in a joint effort rather than as five separate entities. He presented a slide show which touched upon Clean Water Act regulations that will require permitting for the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County and perhaps the other entities as well. The permit is to address stormwater and its associated pollution of the water systems.

Another reason for the entities coming together to address stormwater issues are the number of items in common that must be addressed such as a backlog of operations and maintenance, capital improvements and some of the flooding problems.

Mr. Meininger then identified the numerous drainage districts and the other jurisdictions along with the 28 different drainage basins that cross these jurisdictional lines and stated a big problem is knowing who to call when there is a problem.

Mr. Meininger concluded by stating the primary goal is to form a steering committee to address some of these issues by making recommendations for long range valley-wide storm water management. He and other staffers set a goal of having a final report from the Steering Committee by August, 2003. He identified some possible options that might come out of such a report.

A committee of 12 to 15 members with staff facilitating was proposed and a list of 9 for steering committee appointments was handed out for initial consideration.

Grand Junction Councilmember Kirtland felt more information was needed and more direction would need to be given to the Committee members before sending this effort out.

Mr. Meininger noted that on March 10, 2003 the discharge permits will be needed. On the other items, whether to address the flooding issues and how to address them is the question.

Mr. Trent Prall, City Utilities Engineer, added that for the Phase II Stormwater Regulations he suggests a best practices approach with control over development, structural controls, and public education (e.g. adopt-a-stream program).

Grand Junction Councilmember Jim Spehar inquired who will be responsible for complying with regulations. Mr. Meininger replied that it will depend on whether a stormwater utility is formed. Mr. Prall suggested that would be in the future, for the time being intergovernmental agreements will probably be used. Councilmember Spehar asked if the proposed Committee will look at all the basins and prioritize them? Mr. Meininger replied no. Mr. Spehar suggested that expectations should then be set based on what's affordable.

Drainage District Manager John Ballaugh stated that they are looking for a way to prioritize the issues, that is, what kind of organization can address stormwater, and how aggressively do they want to attack these issues.

Grand Junction City Councilmembers were concerned that the Committee should be getting clear and neutral direction so that they could form recommendations.

Mesa County Commission Chair Kathy Hall called for a conclusion to the discussion and a vote from each entity as to the formation of a Steering Committee. Mesa County, the City of Fruita, the Town of Palisade and the Grand Junction Drainage District each and separately adopted the proposed resolution forming the Steering Committee. The City of Grand Junction declined to make a decision that night, stating more information and time to consider the information provided that night was needed. The Grand Junction Council decided to discuss it further on July 15th with possible adoption on July 17th.

Grand Junction Councilmember Bill McCurry left the meeting 8:20 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. The Grand Junction City Council went into workshop session.