

Mining Sustainability Meeting
Northern Nevada Partnership – Elko
June 1, 2007
10:00 a.m.

Present:

Paul Killpatrick
Mary Korpi
Karrie Schoppe-Hine
Leta Collard
Sheri Eklund Brown
Elaine Barkdull Spencer
Charlene Mitchell (Battle Mountain)
Sharlet Berenstein (Winnemucca)
Jay Paxson
Ann Carpenter (via telephone)
Jim Collard
Gerry Smith (Battle Mountain)

Introductions were made.

The NNP-E has accomplished a great deal in the past four years. The economic environment has totally changed – the price of gold is higher and there is a shortage of workers in the area. It appears to be time to re-evaluate our group's mission and goals in order to move forward. Leta said that there will be ongoing interest with regulatory issues as the BLM force is coming back and getting stabilized. Perhaps conducting another workshop to see where our focus should be is warranted.

Elko is unique with ECEDA doing a lot of things. We need to identify what is already being done in Elko by other committees so that we do not duplicate work. We need something unique, perhaps a project, or focus on a need that is not being met. Also, how can we strengthen our relationship with the other counties?

Mary said that we talked about looking at our mining assets but haven't done much with that. Gerry did do some work it.

Sharlet said that the HPSD group is redeveloping the template for mine infrastructure inventory. Another task they would like to do is to develop a personnel and skills database from the mines so they know how many welders, etc. are in the area and what their skill level is. They are working with their economic development and greater Pershing Partnership. They will take that information and provide it to their economic development group for their use. They do not want to duplicate what their economic development people are doing. They have every mine included (not just the gold mines). This would provide a picture of available workforce in the region.

Jim said that originally the website would harbor all of the information on the mines, workforce, infrastructure, etc. A lot of work has already been done. Jim will get a copy to Sharlet on what has been done.

Ann Carpenter likes the idea of a project; perhaps do an environmental project that enhances wildlife areas.

Get the right people in the group and give the reports on what each group is doing. Sheri said that water resource and water rights are the number one issues across the state. There are studies being done by the USGS for Elko County to determine our water resources and whether those resources can sustain population growth. This will be a two-year process.

Elaine said another focus could be alternative energy resources, particularly geothermal. Do we have any studies on our alternative energy potential?

Who should be here from BLM? Leta will see if Dondero would sit on the committee. Bring the right people together to discuss what they want. Is there a gap? We need reps from Southwest Gas, Barrick, Sierra Pacific Power, etc.

Economic, social, environmental all make up sustainability.

It would be nice to have a regional coordinator for the counties that would coordinate the groups, feed stuff into website, and manage communication between the groups.

1. Planning for July 24 Workshop – need a plan and an outcome. Listen to all groups, what are their projects? City, county, BLM, Barrick, Queenstake, GBC, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Farm Bureau. Invite the other sustainable groups. Helped them to have the focused facilitation. Need a focused message that we can share with people. Need a facilitator. Corporate level people may be brought in. We need Steve Dondero on the list for BLM associate field manager.

Create core group of planners for the workshop – Elaine, Mary, George Fennemor, Mary, Elaine.

Pull in Lou Schack. Set another planning meeting.

Leta's idea of a celebration of our community
Leta will contact ag people, cattlemen, soil conservation
Elaine will do press releases

Create interest panels and group panels based on their relationship – utilities, mines, ranching, etc.

2. Discuss Website Design/Domain Names – We need government links (BLM). Voted for www.northernnevadapartnership.com and net and org AND the NevadaGoldBeltCoalition.com and org and net. Karrie will check on all of these. Need to start getting information to Karrie. She will register domain names. She needs photos, community pictures. Get BLM map out there. Workforce information, info/links for each community, recreational, economic (ECEDA), and educational links. Gerry reported they have been working on their questionnaire. Lander is exploring getting with the community and mines and regulatory agencies to develop sustainable development plan.