

Mining Sustainability Meeting
April 11, 2006
Great Basin College Berg Hall Conference Room
Ely – GBC 108
Battle Mountain – BM 3
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Elaine Barkdull

Ursula Sindlinger

Leta Collord

Jay Paxson

Sherri Eklund-Brown

Rod Davis

Charlene Mitchel

Paul Killpatrick

Norm Cavanaugh

David Pacioretty

Mary Korpi

Dirk van Zyl

Adella Harding

Brad Kelly

1. Review Minutes – The minutes of the NNP-E meeting on February 7, 2006 were approved with minor changes.
2. ECEDA Grant Opportunity – Elaine Barkdull reported on a \$3 million regional grant that will focus on strategic planning for communities that are dependent on mining. The grant would fund a regional strategic planning session that will culminate in a regional strategic plan that the counties can use for future direction. The grant would also fund a feasibility study to determine if a mining cluster could continue to prosper in northeastern Nevada, sans mining and long into the future. Elaine said that ECEDA has been looking at mining companies that have a broader customer base. There are three Canadian companies that are interested in the region. Queenstake has been doing some toll mining (sending ore somewhere else for processing) for Newmont. With the rail port, there are possibilities for more mining companies to do toll mining, which saves our skilled labor force for other jobs - for example metal fabricators. NNP-E gave Elaine approval to move forward on this grant. Elaine reported a recommendation was made for ECEDA to attend the Hard Rock Mining Conference to help us narrow our focus. Many people are looking at brown sites and municipal wastes opportunity. Speaking of grants, Leta Collard stated that the Nevada Stewardship is applying for a grant related to sage grouse and human refuge causing an increase in the crow population. The overall grant would be worth \$100,000 dollars. If we get these grants, we would have to meet more often.
3. Clean Renewable Energy Bonds Program (CREBs) – The NNP-E discussed the CREBS program. Elaine Barkdull stated that it sounds like it's more for public facilities. Jeanine Harter had talked about renewable projects within the state and Ann says that she's been a real supporter of solar. It takes a tremendous amount of acreage of flat roofs. On mine sites you have the large dumps that could be used for the solar panels. This might be a process to have people start thinking of in a mine

plan. Mary Korpi said that at Lone Tree it's really hard to know if this would work there at this point. Overburden piles have to be protected against erosion. Elaine says we need to bring a couple of people in to talk about this program and to set aside ½ a day to discuss the options. The whole topic needs to be explored further. Battle Mountain works closely with the mines – more important for access to power grid.

4. BLM Sustainable Development Funding –Great Basin College will be applying for a \$15,000 BLM grant to develop the website. A decision needs to be made about what we want to fund, maybe to create a website and to fund a regional workshop. GBC may want to come up with three things to fund and present to the BLM. Probably get \$11,500 of work out of this. Reginald Reid would like to make this a national type of project to get the word out about mining sustainability. Nevada Mining Communities might be a good name for the web site. Dirk would fully support development of our very own website that would be regional. We would hire a website developer to get the project off the ground. Battle Mountain and Lander groups should have to sit in on the development phase of the website because our focus is regional. We need to move ahead on this one fairly quickly.
5. Updates
 - Battle Mountain – Rod Davis reported they are moving forward on inventory of mining. Newmont has supported the development of the community development tool kit that is available on the web at www.icmm.com. The workshop with Winnemucca group will be happening real soon. There will be one more lunch meeting to start putting the agenda together.
 - Sherri Eklund-Brown reported that the focus of the commissioners have been on economic development, water, restricted air, wilderness, and grazing. She is currently a member of the newly developed Central Nevada Regional Water Authority and will report our recommendations to them. She reported that the water resource department and the state engineer's office need more funding to increase the department and to develop a better public information system. Sherry reported there is a lot of change in grazing and land management. There are 169,000 cattle in Elko County and 66,000 in Humboldt. The Forest Service is changing too. We currently have 1 million acres of wilderness and another 1.3 million acres is being requested. The commissioners will continue to look into that. Hill Air Force Base and Mountain Home want to increase restricted air space. Increased restricted air space would have an unfavorable economic impact to the area. Currently, there is a centrally accessed tax that goes to every county that the commercial flights fly over. We would lose that revenue. There is no economic benefit to the counties for doing this. Ann Carpenter suggested meeting with the communities east of the Fallon Air Force Base to see what their experience has been with the restricted air space.

- Mary Korpi spoke with Jeff White at Lone Tree to get an update. Newmont is still trying to determine what they want to do with Lone Tree. They continue preparations for the end of mine dewatering and the beginning of lake
- Paul Killpatrick reported that GBC continues to work with sustainability and training the workforce. The ground breaking for the new technical building should occur in August.
- Ann Carpenter will give a tour of the Tonkin Mine sometime in early summer to anyone who is interested to see the facility. The mine closed in 1989 after operating for less than a year. The equipment and facilities are in good shape.

6. New Business

- This is the last meeting that *Elko Daily Free Press* reporter Adella Harding will be attending. After 15 years with the paper, she is retiring and moving to Texas.
- The next NNP-E meeting will be tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2006 at noon.

Northeastern Nevada Partnership Groups Cooperative Plan for Diversification

Elko County Diversification Authority (ECEDA) is planning to apply for a grant from the Nevada Commission of Economic Development (NCED). The application seeks funding for five programs that will help guide the future of Nevada's top mining dependent counties.

Three separate, yet cooperative, Northeastern Nevada Partnership Groups have formed in Elko, Winnemucca and Battle Mountain. The groups include representatives of mining, business and government. Due to the finite nature of mining, the primary goal of the three partnerships is to plan for a future after mining. The groups meet quarterly to report on their programs and progress. The Cooperative Plan for Diversification will be the first program to address the counties as one region.

Programs to be funded by the grant include:

1) Regional Strategic Planning Session - The Northeastern Nevada Partnership Groups will hire a facilitator to conduct a brainstorming session that will allow all participants to contribute their thoughts and ideas on future economic development of the region and how they would like to prepare their communities for the day when mining is no longer the number one industry in their counties. Participants will include the members of the Northeastern Nevada Partnership Groups, the area chambers of commerce, local and state EDAs, utility companies, school districts, the community college, political leaders and other key stakeholders.

Outcome: The Strategic Planning Session will culminate in a regional strategic plan that the counties could use for future direction.

2) Mining Cluster Analysis – Hire a company to analyze the feasibility of targeting a mining support cluster of businesses... with a focus on developing our region into a mining support and ore-processing hub. The report will include an outline and profile of the types of businesses that we could successfully recruit.

In addition, the analysis would include a survey of all the companies currently being utilized by the local mining companies and determine if a local site is feasible for these types of industry.

The availability and feasibility of toll milling would be determined by surveying local mines.

Outcome: This study will help determine if a mining cluster could continue to prosper in northeastern Nevada, sans mining and long into the future, by serving a larger market.

3) Alternative Energy Resource Analysis of the Region – contract with Nevada subject matter experts in geothermal, wind, solar, and biomass to determine the region's availability of each alternative energy resource; compile the information and thereafter perform a SWOT analysis to determine the best resource for potential enhancement of our regional economy.

Outcome: The final phase of the analysis will identify the most useful alternative energy resource(s) and will include an outline of the types of industry we could attract using the resource(s).

4) Hard Rock Mining Conference – funding for five to six people from the various groups to attend a conference in Tucson, Arizona, to be held November 12-14' 2006, so that they may learn more about sustainable uses for mines preparing for closure.

Outcome: The attendees will be expected to gather information and network with conference participants in order to learn more about other states' and countries' various programs for sustainability. They will then bring their experience back to the groups for further discussion and use.

5) Site Assessment of Local Mines – a consulting company will perform a quick assessment of various regional mine sites. The consultants will survey or visit mines in order to assess the sites' potential for alternative industrial use. This assessment procedure will be based on the individual mines' preference.

Outcome: The assessment will help to determine the usefulness of existing mine sites and mill sites for future economic development purposes.