

**Northeastern Nevada Partnership - Elko
Mining Sustainability Meeting
May 17, 2007**

Present:

Paul Killpatrick

Mary Korpi

Jim Collard

Elaine Barkdull Spencer

Dirk van Zyl

Karrie Shope-Hine

Mary Korpi thought that we should meet as a smaller group to step back and reevaluate what the group originally set out to do and if we have accomplished that mission. We also need to evaluate what our goals for the future will be. The Lander group is up and going. The Pershing group will be starting up. We need to get the Elko group back together - see who is not participating and who may be interested in actively serving on the committee. Setting up a routine meeting schedule will be beneficial to everyone.

Elaine Barkdull Spencer reported that community sustainability has been mentioned over and over again. There have been studies on target industries, populations' studies, workforce analysis reports which have opened her eyes into new directions. She says the answer comes in growth. We have to learn to encourage planned growth and get behind the educational programs. Addressing housing, education, and recruiting new people to our community are the only way we are going to grow. Learning how to grow and developing our infrastructure is the key for growth.

Elaine explained that it is up to us to promote the region. We need to go to communities and attend expos to promote northeastern Nevada. The more we can do as a region, the better because we are on our own for economic planning and regional development. One component of the five-year strategic plan with ECEDA will be working together as a region to promote the region. Lander County has been successful in group participation - they have consistent meetings. They work well with their sustainability group and the economic development authority. Pat Gray is their facilitator. We also need to look at what is ECEDA doing and what our group is doing and will be doing.

Jim Collard remarked that the BLM is behind this successful effort of Lander County. Leadership is coming from the Winnemucca field office. The BLM understands that this is a community lead effort. The hurdle is to make the land private after mining; using the infrastructure in place, etc. Mary Korpi thinks this group can be so much more than "mining" sustainability. Mining is one focus of it, but look at the whole community. Are we competing with ECEDA? Even if we are doing some things a little differently with each group, we can still learn from each other. The website will serve as a tool to get that done. Jim emphasizes that there is strength in unifying. The groups are all at different levels. There appears to be more community spirit with the Humboldt group.

Paul Killpatrick feels that the lack of progress with the Elko group is lack of vision from the chair (which is him). He feels we are taking a new turn and new vision, and we need new leadership. Dirk van Zyl says there's been a lot of discussion on economic development; when we began it was broader than that. As this group moves forward, we need a plan that will get the community back involved. The community needs to communicate what they want (community is the county and mining community). What do you treasure in your community? We need to find out what other entities are doing so that we are not duplicating efforts.

Mary Korpi feels that we have already accomplished some of the things that we originally set out to do, so she highly disagrees with Paul's earlier comment on leadership. Perhaps we need better dialog/communications. ECEDA does struggle to get regionalization. When the group first started gold prices were down. Now that gold is high we see less participation. Elko is still the leader in being a progressive county.

Elaine feels the group should stay together and it is the future of regionalization for this area.

Jim says we need to bring people to the table to talk. There is big disconnect in what really is going on with the mines their infrastructure and having the mines communicate that information. Dirk said that full engagement has not taken place yet in communicating the concept of what happens to a mine in ten years. The goal is not to replace the daily communications of a mine, but to have a regional conversation about mining and mine closure. Dirk – how to handle communicating information about the future of the mines.

Mary reviewed the notes of the community stakeholder meeting on February 22, 2007. The intent of the workshop was to make the data available to use to help us develop new objectives. The workshop was attended by a broad group of people. Is there something we should be following up on? We need to put this information on the website since it was a public forum. We need to schedule another forum and invite those who did not attend as well as other counties. We should expand this workshop and get a facilitator. It is critical that the Elko group get back to the roots of when this whole thing started. We have quite a lot of success. We also have tremendous opportunities for the future because of the governmental support. People need to understand what the discussion is all about. This is added value of what is happening in the community. Beginning to end mining process is not readily understood by most people.

Dirk also disagrees with Paul's comments on the leadership issue. Paul has done a great job leading us forward. He would recommend pulling together the broader meeting and discussing how the group can move forward with either the same leadership or different leadership. It is important to take this to the next level before we make the leadership decision.

Jim reported that the recent Winnemucca meeting generated \$1000 for the stewardship group. Decided to offer each group \$300 however they want (for the workshop?).

Dirk reported he is planning a mine closure workshop meeting on July 25 and 26 at GBC. So maybe we can plan the workshop for July 24. We need to properly plan the workshop. Review who is on the team and actively pursue commitment for participation in the group. If we plan the workshop for September or November, it gives us time to finish the website so we can use that as a communications tool. The group tentatively will plan the workshop for July 24, 2007. Mary said we need to do it with an Elko an Elko focus to reenergize our target group and invite the other counties. Dirk may be able to bring some other mining folks to look at the mine closures from a corporate level. We should have a one day workshop with dinner. We could have reports on what the other counties are doing and explain the ECEDA programs. Dirk will get his agenda for his mine closure workshop out to the group.

Our next meeting of the full group will be June 1 at 10:00 a.m. We will discuss the proposed workshop and the website.