

**Advisory Board of the Environment –
ABE Minutes
856 Costello Avenue, Fairplay, CO 80440
Conducted in person room 1101, and by Zoom video conference
Tuesday February 16, 2021**

Attending (logged-in)

Absent:

Ramon Castro - by Zoom
Cliff Pugh – by Zoom
John Reiber – In person
Tyler Stoltzfus – by Zoom
Bernie Petersen – by Zoom
Jennifer Migliorato – by Zoom

Guests: None

Call to Order. The meeting was conducted by Zoom video conference; Mr. Reiber was at the County Building. Mr. Reiber called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was not performed, no flag present.

Roll call of Board members present. A Quorum is present.

Consideration of proposed additions to or modifications of the January 19, 2021 agenda. Mr. Castro motioned to accept the Agenda as written, Mr. Stoltzfus seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved as written.

Review and approval of minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting. Mr. Stoltzfus motioned the January 19, 2021 Minutes be accepted as written. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Introduction of Board members and members of the public.

None present

Remarks or input from members of public. None presented

Presentation of pending Land Use Actions and ABE response:

1. 21SET02 – Request for Variance on set back.

Looks to be a request for a 22 foot variance to construct a residence. Mr. Stoltzfus said he saw no issues in regard to wildlife. Mr. Pugh believes this is a planning issue and not an issue for ABE. Mr. Reiber did not think there was enough clear info for any determination on if other locations on property would be suitable for building, need a better topo map to clarify. There is concern that if the road would need to be moved in future, for whatever reason, this variance request could put the road within 8 feet of the proposed residence construction. In the end committee members felt this was more of a question for the Planning than for ABE.

2. 21CUP02 – Hartsel Solar Farm. ABE expressed concern that the information was received at such a late date that it did not allow for adequate time to review the lengthy document prior to the meeting. Mr. Castro asked if the retention ponds should be fenced to exclude wildlife? Mr. Stoltzfus stated that these ponds could provide an additional water source for wildlife and did not see that they were a concern for wildlife as proposed. Mr. Reiber noted that the proposal calls for double fencing to keep separation of any sheep/goats used for vegetation control separated from any wild sheep using the area. Mr. Petersen noted that the document stated they would not be using any sheep/goats for vegetation management. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U. S. Forest Service did send in letters with comments and it does appear that the proposing company did take those comments to heart and tried to incorporate them. Mr. Castro asked if we could request that camera monitoring be continued for at least a year so that a determination could be made regarding the wildlife usage of the corridors as planned. Mr. Reiber stated that the proposing company did say in the documents that they would continue the camera monitoring for at least a year. Ms. Migliorato asked if there was **a retention pond maintenance plan to ensure they are working properly? This is one recommendation to come from ABE.** Mr. Castro asked what the group thought of the view shed photos provided. Mr. Petersen stated they look like large ponds from a distance. General consensus was they are not very aesthetically pleasing especially for those living in close proximity. Mr. Petersen asked if anyone had been following the threads on Face Book regarding the project. None of the other members had seen the threads. Mr. Petersen stated these threads were on the Park County Property Rights group and the Park County Bulletin and that the majority of the comments were against this project for a variety of reasons. Mr. Petersen stated that he is very concerned that we are taking a large chunk of valuable habitat from winter range for elk, antelope and mule deer and that he fears that the 715-acre facility proposed will cause these herds to stop using the area. Mr. Petersen said he is opposed to this proposed facility because of the impacts to wildlife. Mr. Pugh asked if long term monitoring could be done to study the actual impacts to wildlife, how much they might be displaced by the facility. Mr. Reiber said that the long-term monitoring was in the proposal. Mr. Castro asked if the lighting for the facility would be an issue for wildlife as well as the noise from the substations? Mr Stoltzfus said that the wildlife would most likely habituate to these conditions.

3. 20ADMIN09 – Mr. Reiber said he forwarded our recommendations on to County

Old business:

- **Past pending Land Use cases.** None
- **Eddie Kochman Memorial Project.** Mr. Reiber said he had spoken to Commissioner Mitchell regarding this project and that the Commissioners will send a letter to CPW requesting to get it back on track.
- **WOLF REINTRODUCTION UPDATE.** Mr. Reiber stated that he spoke to Commissioner Mitchell about this as well and that the county was drafting a letter, along with other concerned counties, requesting that the original time line be adhered to and that adequate public input be received. In addition, questions will be raised as to the need to do this reintroduction since it has been documented that wolves are already present in the state.

New business:

- Elect new ABE Chair and Secretary.
 - Secretary. Mr. Petersen was nominated to act as ABE Secretary for this meeting. Before the start of the March meeting, a board member will be chosen to serve as secretary for that meeting.
- Vacant ABE Seat. There appears to be several individuals interested in serving on the board. The County will post an advertisement in local papers for any interested individual on this board and others.
- Ms. Migliorato stated that while her time was up for serving on the ABE, she is still interested in staying on the ABE if possible.
- Mr. Pugh stated that in the next few months he will likely be resigning his position on ABE for personal reasons. Mr. Reiber stated the groups appreciation for his long support in this position.
- The next meeting will be held March 16, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Notice will be provided if there is an option to meet in person at the County Building or only by Zoom.
- **Additional comments or matters of Board interest:**
 There is concern that the time frame of the Chairman getting the information from the County and then out to ABE members is not allowing adequate time to review the materials, especially if they are lengthy. In addition, the timing between when ABE meets and the County holding its planning meeting does not allow enough time to get out recommendations to the Board. Mr. Reiber will look into either moving the meeting dates or having information sent out in a timelier fashion.

Adjourn. Ms. Migliorato motioned the meeting be adjourned. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Stoltzfus. The motion was unanimously passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.