

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Notes
July 29th, 2004, 6:30-8:30pm
PV Administrative Building

The meeting started at 6:38 pm. David Dogruel, who accepted the role as Vice-Chairperson, took on the role as chairperson for this meeting because Vicente Roybal-Jasso was unable to attend. David stated that if anyone felt there should be a different person in his role to please make it known. He also stated that he works full time and also volunteers for the fire department so there will be some times that he will not be able to attend meetings. David then had new group members introduce themselves. John Gutling introduced himself as a resident of Pojoaque and said that he would like to participate in the committee meetings.

David briefly recapped the last committee meeting with presenter Elizabeth Keating. He felt like she did not tell us anything that we did not already know before. Overall the group felt it was a good presentation. David Ortiz said he thought the information about the relationship between ground water and surface water was interesting. One group member said that they thought it was interesting to know that the Valley shared the same aquifer with Santa Fe. David Ortiz also added that it interesting that deep wells don't necessarily mean good water.

David Dogruel then asked for any feedback on the Water Fiesta that took place July 18th in Nambe. On group member said that the speech from John Nichols was good. He gave a summation of the Aamodt case. By his speech it was obvious that he is not at all in favor of the Aamodt settlement. He talked at length about a similar case concerning building a dam in Taos. The community fought the proposal, and the dam was never built.

Renee Villarreal mentioned that there has been talk that the water fairs are just a way for Santa Fe County and/or the Pueblos to gather information about where the wells are located in the area. People are skeptical because nobody has received their results from the tests. Renee said that the New Mexico Environment Department said that all result letters of those people that participated in the Pojoaque and Tesuque Water Fairs were going to be sent out Friday, July 23rd. Nambe Water Fair results were going to be sent out the week of July 26th. These water samples will be validated using LANL technology to make sure that the testing was accurate. The samples will also be used to pinpoint hot spots where well contamination is occurring in order to isolate these areas and try to resolve the problems as soon as possible.

David Ortiz also mentioned that there is a proposal out to get the high school renamed to Jacob Viarrial High School. There will be a school board meeting to act on this proposal on Wednesday, August 4th. Eighteen people have submitted email concerning the proposal so far. Out of this number, 17 people are opposed to the proposal. Pojoaque Pueblo has submitted 311 signatures from their tribe supporting the proposal. If you would like to email comments to the school, you can email them at arb@pvs.k12.nm.us or call the office at 455-2282. Mary Louise Williams mentioned that by the late Pojoaque Pueblo governor not following the rule of laws and compacts in the area, this is not a very good role model for young kids at the school.

A summary of the notes from the last meeting were mailed and emailed out. If you want another copy, David Dogruel mentioned they were on the back table. The committee approved the notes as they stood. David Ortiz thanked Renee for providing the thorough notes. Jack Kolkmeyer mentioned that Renee will be going back to graduate school soon, but will continue working with the County part-time, with her focus being on the Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee.

Jack then passed out the proposed schedule for the committee's next upcoming meetings to look at and approve. He then discussed the transportation initiative that has been in the works for 2 years in order to get regional support and collaboration for a regional Park and Ride system. On Wednesday, the City of Santa Fe was the last group to adopt the Regional Transit District (RTD) proposal. In addition to them, there are five northern pueblos that are on board with the plan, along with five government entities of northern NM that committed to being part of a Regional Transit Planning Authority. The RTD will not only take over the Park and Ride, but it may be part of the conversation of a commuter train proposal in the near future in order to keep local government control over the project. Jack said that this initiative was really important because it brought elected officials together to work on a common planning initiative. This same model and collaboration effort will be used to decide on regional water and wastewater initiatives soon. An intergovernmental tribal summit was held last week that committed certain government entities, both tribal and non-tribal, to come together to work on common issues.

Jack's concern about this process is that it leaves out the traditional communities because they are not a legislative municipality or entity. The Water Alliance and other water associations should have been invited to the summit, as well as a representative from the school boards. The summit made him realize that the plan that the PVPC comes up with will be a document of importance because it will force all the issues that we have to come together about and work to strategize about. Professionally we have been concerned about trying to determine the core values of this group and figure out what we are truly mandated to accomplish. That is, looking at the laws, rules and regulations that we will conform to or need to change will be important.

Jack continued by saying that we need to figure out how to sort through all the issues in the Valley. Ultimately we will act as a filtering system for the communities in the Valley and the Pueblos seem to also recognize this role for the committee. Mary Louise asked if the Pueblos iterated this. Jack said they did when we had the tribal summit last September to introduce the PVPC and our intent for formation.

Jack said that we might need help from the committee members to support a delegate to represent the Valley. The question now is how do we get a representative for the PVPC to participate in the planning process for a water/wastewater regional plan.

Someone asked why all these things are surfacing all of a sudden in terms of collaboration. Jack said he thinks it is because people are searching to find out how we can all make collaborative decisions for common problems/issues. Also because he thinks that it is known that there needs to be more communication and joint decision-making. Steen asked if Jack thought that all of this has come from the Aamodt failure and the need to get more people at the table. Jack said that this may be a connection, but the questions still remain- who does need to be at the table and who gets to be there?

Jack said that land use sets precedence, but ultimately governance prevails with the Board of County Commissioners. The patterns and institutions need to mesh together and make it work. As we find out about these meetings, we will disseminate the information to the committee.

A committee member asked how we could be invited without being a government entity. Renee said that eventually stakeholders will be identified even if they aren't government entities.

Doug Crosby commended the people that had the vision to start this committee with the help of the County. This group is way ahead of the curve. Somebody saw that things were going to change and they were the visionaries. Steen Rasmussen said we need to think about how we can integrate these various entities and find the movers and shakers to participate.

Jack said that since the Valley doesn't have an existing code in which to follow, we will need to create a code that is legally enforceable. Steen added that the committee needs to be the big tent over the other special interest groups. These groups could possibly act as working groups of our committee. He asked how we would mutually help each other to show that we need to work together to achieve a common ground. Strategizing will require input from these various groups. Jack stated that when we review our scenarios, we can present those future scenarios and see if other groups and stakeholders see the same thing or something different.

The committee started to talk about the proposed schedule that Jack handed out. The committee is scheduled to work on roads and transportation this meeting, but next meeting we are going to try to come back to the History and Culture SWOT. Jack said if the SWOT process takes longer than one meeting, that's okay. After the History and Culture, the next SWOTS on the agenda will be Wastewater, then Water. The Water Alliance should be a part of this conversation. Then we'll move on to Jurisdiction and Land Status where we will try to get into who owns what and try to be clear on the rules and regulations of this subject. Then we'll move on to the Economic/Commercial Development SWOT. After this point, the scenarios will be brought back, but we will need to meet on a weekend to get through these because we will need at least a four-hour session. At this point we can then devise strategies, tactics and reiterations of what the plan should include. Then before Thanksgiving the committee could take a break while the County starts to compile and put together a rough draft as it exists. Jack stated that this timeline is very ambitious, but we should shoot high.

David Dogruel said that too fragmented entities do not lead to anything. When you get to the heart of it, fragmenting caused division in this group. But the people that contributed to the division have stepped back or removed themselves from the process. We are now accomplishing something with the group that now is participating. And when more people start to participate, they will bring forth ideas that we didn't think of. These people have an opportunity and right to participate at any time if they choose to.

Someone in the committee asked if the people that were originally participating still getting updates and the information about meetings. Jack said yes, all the people that originally started still get information. It is up to them as to what they want to do with it.

After a short break, the committee then started with the Roads and Transportation SWOT analysis, facilitated by Steen. Steen read his contributions to the matrix for the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) that face the Valley. The committee then began discussing what should be added to the matrix. These are the additions the group made to the matrix:

Weaknesses:

- Maintenance of private roads and other access roads
- The roads do not secure access to properties
- Utility easements are not formalized
- Roads are used as an alternative route for acts of vandalism

Issues concerning weaknesses:

- Three classes of roads: Private, County/State, Tribal
- Emergency response
- Confusion for jurisdiction policing
- Drainage and flooding issues

Strengths:

- Roads are used for religious purposes – ex) Pilgrimage to Chimayo and other spiritual rituals or events
- County road are used as alternative routes to transport equipment

These categories along with the other elements of the SWOT analysis still need to be completed. The committee then put together a tentative strategies sheet for roads and transportation concerns:

- Investing in speed cameras to be placed in strategic locations and moved around to avoid detection.
- Speed calming mechanisms with the help of SF County Public Works
 - Speed humps and speed tracker
- Identify specific accident “hot spots”
- Change configuration of some roads

The committee concluded with announcements. Renee told the committee that the Diane Boissevain would like to host a pot-luck at her house on October 10th, 2004. She thought this would be a good time to get the Water Alliance members and the PVPC members together for a social event to meet each other over food. We will talk about this more in detail as we get closer to the date, so please put this on your calendars.

Also Renee mentioned that since Diane was generous to provide us with snacks for this meeting, along with Amelia, who always was so kind to bring us treats in the past, that maybe it would be a good idea to get another volunteer to bring snacks for the next meeting. Mary Louise volunteered to bring something the next meeting. Thank you Mary Louise for volunteering! And thank you Diane for the delicious chocolate chips cookies and strawberries! The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Notes by R.V.