

**Notes for Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting
January 29, 2004
submitted by Elaine Best**

Vicente opened the meeting. He hopes the plan will be completed soon, hopefully this year. The notes from December 11 were made available. They were not formally approved.

Narcisso, Mary Lou and Steve Benjamin from PVPC attended a wastewater meeting. A summary of the meeting was distributed, as well as information from a Wastewater Facility Planning study.

Sarah: It is complex to make a wastewater plan with so many different members (Pueblos, LANL, Communities, etc). A study of the legal implications of this plan has been completed. The meeting was very productive.

Harry Montoya reported that there has been a follow-up meeting between LANL and the County.

Mary Lou: We owe Harry a vote of thanks for putting this together. It gave the PVPC a voice. San Ildefonso may not go along with the proposed Aamodt suit settlement.

Narcisso: Three Pueblos were represented at the meeting. There was talk about spending \$500 million -- \$200 million for water and \$300 million for wastewater.

Sarah: That estimate covers a larger area. There are 17 different study areas.

Romella: Ed Gonzales, at a meeting on Sept 5, said \$200 million for water and \$200 million for wastewater for the Pojoaque Valley.

Narcisso: If this is implemented, we may have to give up our wells.

Vicente: Some people say they will defend their wells with guns. Water was free, but with a centralized water plan, we would have to pay.

Sarah: Steve Benjamin has said that in the interim we could come up with a regional management authority for septic tanks to address the contamination problem.

Meade Martin (a new participant) said that he has an individual wastewater system. After treatment, the water can be used for irrigation. This would be cheaper than a centralized wastewater system. It is amazing technology.

Romella: A feasibility study will be conducted to look at various options. This technology will be considered.

Vicente: They are proposing a municipal solution. A local solution would be better for us.

Karen: The County recently changed its position on septic systems, and is favoring the more advanced types.

Vicente: Those with small lots (< .75 acres) are being required to use the advanced systems.

Harry: The wastewater study is being emphasized first. They are testing wells, from Tesuque, Nambe and San Ildefonso. Maybe people could maintain their own wells.

Charles Berger: How will this affect the Pueblos. Will they give up their wells ?

Romella asked several new people to introduce themselves. Mario Gonzales and Orlando Martinez were attending because Mario is running for County Clerk. Diane Boissevain, Carl Berney and Meade Martin introduced themselves. Meade has a farm in Nambe, Carl lives in Nambe.

Romella thanked everyone for their perseverance. She noted that there are more participants than usual tonight. She said that tonight she wants to show how the results of the Internal and External analysis will fit together and how the results will be used, so that we can be more comfortable with the methodology.

The Internal Analysis covers areas we have authority to plan for. The purpose of the external analysis is to define the positive and negative factors outside of the traditional community that will impact our ability to achieve the mission. She asked Karen to read the Mission Statement, and then asked someone from each of the internal analysis subgroups to read some strengths and weaknesses.

Elaine read the list from the Water group. A number of people added information about specific problems. David Dogruel commented that some wells are going dry and recharging more slowly than they used to. David Ortiz said that this was happening to wells less than 50 feet deep. Ken said that there is a study showing increased contamination in Nambe. Someone commented that no one is enforcing the requirement to replace cesspools. She knows of several that are still in use. Someone else said that a neighbor has contaminated his own well by putting it too close to the septic system. Charles Berger said that he used to have good water, but now it has iron. Steen said that the deeper we dig, the older the water we access. Old water has a lot of dissolved minerals. This is not a result of human activity.

Russella gave us the following strengths and weaknesses from the historical group. Some of our strengths are that we are multi-cultural, with a shared

interest in the environment, and in remaining rural. We still have cottage industries, with a high proportion of artisans. Weaknesses are that the tribal and non-tribal people can disagree, and there are long-standing rifts. The small businesses are hard to maintain. We lack adequate recreational facilities, and need a meeting place. Narcisso added that there is not much for seniors. He talked to Ben Lujan about the need for a place for seniors and teenagers.

Vicente talked about land use. Increasing density is a weakness. The rewrite of the County Code will help with this. He hopes that the family lot split will only be used for legitimate purposes. Sarah added that there are about 150 legal lots smaller than .75 acres, out of a total of about 2034 legal lots. Many small lots have been grandfathered in. It is also possible to get a variance to have a small lot. By legal lot, she means a lot that has been recorded with the County and on which property tax is collected. Sarah has worked on cleaning up the County records, but there are still lots that they don't have data on. Vicente said that the Land Board made a mess in 1926 when it said that unclaimed land belongs to the Indians. This is a weakness. Land Trades between the Pueblos and the Federal Government could solve this. Romella commented that this is an external factor. Romella said that much of the open space is owned by the Pueblos. Vicente said that there are some large privately owned parcels, and that the Land Grant is a potential source of open space.

Mary Lou talked about education. There is interaction among diverse groups in the schools, which is a strength. However, not all interactions are positive. (weakness) The Pueblos believe that they are culturally disadvantaged. There is a member of the Board of Education from San Ildefonso. However, none of the teachers or counselors is from the Pueblos. There are new schools and facilities (strength), but facilities must be financed through bonds (weakness). David Ortiz added that many parents are not registered to vote so it can be hard to pass a bond issue. Mary Lou asked whether it is the school's responsibility to foster respect for the environment. Sometimes we ask the schools to do things that are really the family's responsibility. A weakness is that we don't own open space for athletic practice. Pojoaque is right at the national average on test scores. The high school dropout rate has been increasing in the last few years. About 2% of Pojoaque students go to Los Alamos schools. According to Narcisso, about 1/3 of the students come in from Espanola. Home schooling is not a large factor. Mary Lou said that a weakness is that there are not many science and math teachers available. They tend to go on to higher paying jobs. A strength is that computers are available in the high school and middle school.

After the break, we went on to the external analysis. Romella said that scenarios are stories about the future. Four scenarios were formulated. A story is an involving way to present possibilities, and is a way to manage a wider range of uncertainty. The scenarios increase decision makers' ability to cope with uncertainty and surprise.

The scenarios are not yet completed, but each author was asked to describe the scenarios in their present state.

Carlos and Doug wrote scenario A, in which the Pueblos had increased political power and there was also increased regional government support. Doug said that in this scenario, on the global and national level, there were solutions for the problems of poverty, war and the environment. The poor got adequate resources. Science and technology solved problems. Desertification was decreasing. People were living in outer space. Sustainable technologies were being used for transportation. The people felt represented by their governments.

Romella said that the global issues are important to the traditional community because they impact our ability to achieve our mission.

Steen said that when they identified the key issues they found two main issues – issues related to the Pueblos and water.

Carlos said that we may need to unite. We may need a local government, with a mayor, so that we can have parity with the tribes. We need a more seamless community in which the Pueblos and the traditional community help each other. People should be studying Tewa in the schools. We need to provide opportunities for our children to stay here, by leasing land from the tribes and having development on the land grant.

Gordon presented scenario B, in which Pueblo influence increased but regional government became weaker. In this scenario, the US loses political and economic power as other groups of nations become more powerful. The environment gets worse. There is a threat that we will be swallowed up by the Pueblos, but also an opportunity, because the Pueblos will be able to deal more forcefully with the rest of the world.

Steen presented scenario C, in which both the Pueblos and the regional government became weaker. In this scenario, Iraq backfires badly, Al Qaeda regains strength in Afganistan. The US spends more money on the global problems, but we continue to lose friends. In the local context the economy is bad, there is little income from tourism. However there are new jobs because of massive investment in LANL. The Pueblos have over-extended with their casinos and resorts. They go bankrupt. Global warming causes massive changes in our climate.

There was no time to present scenario D. Romella said that the next step is to complete the internal analysis and complete the scenarios. The community will choose the most likely scenario.

The next meetings will be on Feb 12 and Feb 26.