

Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary
March 24th, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Sammy Quintana Community Board Room

The meeting started at 6:30pm. David Dogruel chaired the meeting and was assisted by Jack Kolkmeier and Renee Villarreal from Santa Fe County. Announcements were made at the beginning of the meeting. Mary Lou Williams and Diane Boissevain attended the graffiti prevention meeting that was sponsored by the County Sheriff's Department on Tuesday, March 22nd. The meeting was very interesting and informative, but there was a very low turnout. Out of the 5 people that attended, 3 were PVPC members. Sheriff Solano discussed the different types of graffiti and ways that a community can try to prevent this type of vandalism. Diane said that the mayor in Albuquerque is cracking down on graffiti by suing the person and their family for tagging if they are caught. David D. asked what projects or resources are being committed to this part of the county to specifically deal with graffiti. Diane said that Sheriff Solano recommended starting a graffiti removal program and try to get paint donated and have volunteers from the community to assist in the program. David said that there should be a place in the Valley where a person could express their artistic expression through graffiti without damaging private property or offending other people. Mary Lou said that Sheriff Solano would be interested in coming to a committee meeting to talk more about what to look out for in assisting to track down taggers in the community.

Renee announced that the rescheduled meeting with Pojoaque Pueblo to discuss a farmer's market for the Valley with committee members and County staff will take place March 29th. David also mentioned that Vicente Roybal-Jasso will also be starting a farmer's market and will provide the website about his projects to the committee when he has something more cohesive.

David added that it makes sense for the committee to gather any information during this planning process that could help us with future projects through the plan. If there are any opportunities to work on collaborative projects with other groups, governments, or individuals then we should take advantage of this. The committee agreed and one committee member said that we should invite Steve Duran and Diedre Monroe to look at opportunities for a trail and try to pull some resources together. Mary Lou said that we should negotiate with Tesuque Pueblo in order to get this trail system going, but at the same time try to get other illegal trespassing mitigated in this area as well. Trespassing is a big issue and we need to look at this carefully. Mary Lou added the last thing we want is for these sensitive areas to be disrupted in any negative way. Levi Valdez stated that this is an area that he can bring to light and pursue it through COLTPAC (County Open Lands and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee) now that he is on the committee.

Levi said that we should be looking at the means to an end for this planning process. He added that the sign of a good leader is when that person does not need to take credit all the time. Taking credit for everything and not focusing on getting the job done is not the sign of a true leader. A leader should be more inclusive and be a team player.

A committee member suggested that we invite Paul Olafson back to talk about how to finance conservation easements. When land belongs to one of the Pueblos or any other private owner, conservation easements allow the right of way to cross through a portion of the land or to use it for a specific purpose.

Jack said he met with Commissioner Montoya in order to begin the process of setting up meetings with the Tribal leaders from each of the surrounding five Pueblos. He will update the committee once the meetings are set up. This will be our opportunity for us to look at common issues and find areas where we could possible work collaboratively with our neighbors. Five meetings will take place with each of the individual Pueblos during the month of April. Then after we get feedback we

would like to hold a meeting where all Tribal leadership of the Pojoaque Valley will come together in early May. This will be the time to find common issues and concerns for the area, and what road blocks we will come across. Jack added that there are still a lot of land use issues that need to be resolved.

The committee discussed the most recent edited working draft of the community-wide forum results. These themes will be the outline structure for the plan. The committee went through the themes in the working draft. These were the following comments and questions that were made on some of the themes by committee members:

Public Facilities:

- Need to consider trading a piece of land that is protected from development (like a conservation easement) for another viable piece of land. For example, an area near El Rancho and San Ildefonso Pueblo that is a sensitive archaeological site protected by COLTPAC could be swapped for an area that could be used for a multi-purpose facility.
- Need to acknowledge what buildings/facility are already in place rather than having to use capital outlay funding to create new infrastructure.
- The Wellness Center is a great facility –but the community is not entirely clear that the facilities are open to everybody. Need to clarify this because there is a sentiment that is not backed up by facts. This can be solved through education and communication.
- Need a multi-use facility that provides other amenities that what is not provided by the Wellness Center. For example, a youth center, a performing arts space, senior citizen center, and even some more meeting space.

Local Economy:

- Look into Internet connections and T-1 lines – look into Qwest issues.
- Needs to be a process for applying for business licensing and purchasing land in what will be the commercial zone for the Valley that can be streamlined; easier to pursue and to accomplish.

Water Supply:

- More than anything else we need to remember that this committee needs to set aside personal biases and work for the greater good of the Valley as a whole.

Understanding and Resolving Land Use Issues:

- What needs to be improved and why?
- Traditional Communities Land Use Code is for the entire County, but the community plan will have priority over land use issues and zoning in the Valley.
- Certain areas of the Valley could have certain density requirements where other areas may be different.
- Because the Valley is unincorporated we are two steps removed from the most effective mechanism to solve our problems.

Jurisdictional Issues:

- What issues require certain actions? Arroyos, rivers, and trespassing are some key issues.
- What could be resolved by local cooperative action? By state action?
- Need to look at the Indian Lands Act of 1924 and the Indian Reorganization Act of 1933, which compensated the Pueblos for encroached land and attempted to secure new rights for Native Americans on reservations. Understanding and educating people about these Acts could set a context for land issues. At the same time we should not try to create a legal interpretation of the Acts for the Valley.