

**Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 6:30pm – 8:30pm**  
**Sammy Quintana Community Board Room**

*(Note: This is a meeting summary and is not intended to give the meeting contents in its entirety. If you would like to get more details about the meeting, please contact another committee member that was present at the meeting, or the SF County Planning staff.)*

The meeting started at 6:30pm. David Dogruel chaired the meeting and was assisted by Jack Kolkmeier and Renee Villarreal from Santa Fe County. David announced that the Rio Pojoaque Acequia and Well Water Association was going to have a general meeting on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Community Board Room. Diane Boissevain gave a recap of the Pojoaque Valley Festival put on by Pojoaque Pueblo on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The next community festival is being planned for July 16<sup>th</sup>.

The committee began going over action plans for various elements that will be part of the strategic plan. The group continued their discussion about a running/multi-purpose trail. The committee wants to move forward with this and will start mapping out the areas where the proposed trails would be most ideal for training and recreational purposes.

The discussion then led to an action plan for revitalizing traditional agriculture. The committee discussed the idea of leasing water from the acequias where parcientes that do not use their water for whatever reason, would not be penalized for nonuse, but would be able to transfer the use. The mayordomo, depending on water availability, would then use the extra water for other parcientes or other areas on the acequia.

The group also discussed the idea of a farm initiative where a person that cannot tend to their land could hire people to cultivate the land so it can be used productively and not lose its viability. Diane Boissevain said that it is not a new idea renting farmland to use for gardening/farming. Cleo Romero added that today leased land usually is pastureland, but in the past you would lend the land to family or friends for free. Ben Gomez added that land was always leased or loaned back in the days, but doesn't know often that happens in the Valley today.

Roberto Mondragon talked about community gardening where pieces of fertile land can be rented out to farm on. This is really an old concept of practicing agriculture that can be revitalized he added. The question that needs to be answered if the Valley wants to move forward with a farmer's market is if there are enough Pojoaque residents that will participate in a local market. Also we need to consider how many people are still growing and farming in the Valley to be able to support a market. In addition, how many people would come to this area for another market even though there are other successful markets throughout northern NM? Ben said that it would not hurt to try to see if a farmer's market would work in the Valley. The way it would be successful is if a lot of different groups and people collaborate to make it happen.

Paul White discussed the idea of a farm initiative in more detail. He said that he would like to find funding/grants to be able to cultivate people's property and have farmer's come in to take care of the land. Right now the people who are supportive of a farming initiative that he has spoken to have been: The PV Irrigation District, the PV Water Alliance, the Interstate Stream Commission, and the NM Acequia Association. Another suggestion was getting funding to do sharecropping, or even using money to get contractors to clear out areas where invasive plants and trees have grown. The money could additionally fund the improvements for headgates and other acequia system components.

The group then completed another action plan to look at how the Valley could strengthen its arts and crafts economy. One of the comments made on this section was the need to create a community center because this would be the best place to display work from local artists. The Poeh Museum and Gallery is a good space for Native Americans in the area to display their arts and crafts, but there needs to be another venue for other artists in the Valley to show their work.

The committee ended their meeting by discussing what weekend day would be best to wrap up all of the action plans in a half day meeting. The group decided to hold the meeting on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12 to 5pm at the Sammy Quintana Community Board Room. The group will do a potluck for the beginning of the meeting, and work the rest of the time in small groups.