

**Pojoaque Valley Planning Committee Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, June 9<sup>th</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 6:35pm. David Dogruel chaired the meeting and was assisted by Jack Kolkmeier and Renee Villarreal from Santa Fe County, and Carl Moore, facilitator. Announcements were made by some of the committee members. The group discussed the San Ildefonso Pueblo agreement to allow access for Los Alamos County to get to the water wells that supply water to town. The committee also discussed the revised Aamodt Settlement proposal that would not cap any wells, but will depend on Federal funding for infrastructure costs. Also there was discussion on whether or not to set up an information booth at the Pojoaque Valley Festival occurring on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The group decided to try for the next community festival in July so they could prepare signs and have more specific sections of the strategic plan completed.

Another announcement was made about the Galaxy Night in the Valley that will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the high school football field. Allan Hale, an expert in astronomy, will be giving a lecture and also having observations on telescopes for the community to come and participate. The event will start at 7:30pm and end around 12:00am. Amelia Garcia is one of the volunteers from the Valley helping out with this event. She is requesting that if anyone would like to share his or her telescopes for this event it would be helpful in order to have enough for the public to use. Refreshments will also be accepted if anyone wants to donate any food or drink. For more information about how you can volunteer or assist in this event, please call Amelia at 455-3118.

David announced that the Semi-Annual Trash Clean-up for State Road 503 will take place on June 18<sup>th</sup> starting at the S.P.M.D.T.U . Hall, beginning at 8am. Please volunteer!!

David O. and Don Wilson discussed the County Code Rewrite meeting they attended on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Pojoaque. Three people from the Valley attended this meeting. Topics and issues that were discussed were:

- Nonconforming Uses - Prior or pre-code properties – grandfathering in properties that were in existence before the Code.
- Family Transfers – The Rewrite will tighten up requirements because of abuses that have occurred in the past.

Levi Valdez discussed open space projects that are being considered in the COLTPAC meetings he has attended. He said would be a good idea to present this committee's trail plan to the COLTPAC committee for discussion and consideration. Jack added that as part of the ordinance to create a community plan, it is required that an open space plan also be included.

Diedre Monroe gave a presentation on the current riding trail system she has helped with in the Caja del Rio. She had draft maps to look at where the current trails are, and how they could possibly connect to the Pojoaque area where cross-country trails are already used. Diedre would be willing to work with the committee to get this trail system connected with the help of her contacts at BLM and the Forest Service office.

Mary Lou Williams said it is important to look at a trail plan that would benefit the residents of the Valley primarily and not make it into a really large area for lots of horseback riding and the

possibility of degradation on the land. Also the committee needs to work closely with the Pueblos that are affected, as well as the Jacona Land Grant.

Diedre said that they did an environment impact study for the Caja del Rio area. She agreed that there will need to be defined areas for appropriate use and that this would also require the help and support from BLM and the Forest Service. Even though the map handed out was focused on horse trails, Diedre stated that it is important that the trail be constructed for multi-use purposes – including bicyclists, runners and hikers. She added that it is also important to address the issues of illegal dumping, illegal shooting, and graffiti on these trail systems. She said in her experience, having a recreational presence tends to run out or reduces these activities.

Levi asked in regards to proposed improvements for these trails and their connectors, what would she like to happen? Diedre said that she would like to have the trails marked, have a parking area, possibly outhouses and picnic areas, and have more accurate mapping to occur for these trail sites.

David O. said that probably the use that takes place right now is a couple miles of San Ildefonso land, but the serious trespassing that occurs and needs to be dealt with is with the ATVs in the area. San Ildefonso has already stated that they would put up gates for the runners to get through that would block the ATVs from entering their land.

Allan Lockridge, head cross-country coach at the Pojoaque Valley High School came to the meeting to discuss the current status of the trails they use and access issues. He praised this area for great training for the kids, indicating that Los Alamos, McCurdy and Española cross-country teams also utilize the trails in this area to train. Walkers and hikers also use the trails, and unfortunately he runs across ATVs. ATVs are the biggest problem – the runners' are very careful to stay on trails and are conscious of the sensitivity of the lands they run on.

Allan also said they have a great turnout of a students from grades 7-12<sup>th</sup> going out for the cross-country team, which usually brings in a diverse group of youth from the area. The cross-country team has earned 13 State trophies since 1964. This year, four kids are on scholarship at Highlands University and five kids are running on scholarship for the University of New Mexico.

Levi asked how the committee and County could help the school and the team. Allan said that they could secure permission and access to use the trails, and mark it for runners and hikers. Jack added that with the help of Allan and the runners, we could design the most ideal course for training and competition by picking the best routes without focusing on boundaries and trespassing. Then we can figure out what would be feasible and work for all stakeholders affected. The committee agreed that we should pursue legal easements, at least ask if these are possible, and also make sure that we do not disturb sacred sites and/or fragile environmental landscapes.

Levi added that the Pojoaque Pueblo currently gives recreational permits at no charge. Depending on where the course is laid out, we should be able to work together on this project. Don added that the most important part would also be to involve the youth in this project, not only for the pre-planning support, but also throughout the process.

David O. said that we should try to do both – one trail that connects to the Caja del Rio and then another that would be specific to runners and hikers.

The committee decided that the rest of the action plans that need to be done for each of the elements that will be part of the plan, need to be completed on a weekend day for at least 4 hours. County staff will propose a date and an alternate for this working session day soon.