

**MINUTES  
COMMUNITY MEETING  
NORTHEAST ARIZONA SUSTAINABILITY CONSORTIUM  
22 W. 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET, EAGAR, AZ  
MAY 17, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL PRESENT:        Kim Holaway, Mayor  
                                 James Nelson, Jr., Vice-Mayor  
                                 Byron Smith  
                                 Gary Finch  
                                 Steve Erhart  
                                 Tim Rasmussen  
                                 Debbie Rogers

Economic Development Apache County (EDAC) Director Hank Rogers made introductions of the presenter and planner Brian Cole.

Mr. Cole reported that the first meeting of the Eagar Steering Meeting for the Northeast Arizona Sustainability Consortium was held Monday, May 16, 2011 at the Eagar Town Hall. This meeting was one of the first steps in the strategic plan for the Town of Eagar. This is an opportunity for a grant to be submitted to receive funding to help communities in Apache and Navajo Counties to develop a strategic plan and a broader effort to develop a regional strategic sustainability plan.

This is a process to allow the community to set its own direction. Mr. Cole brings a process that identifies 25 options and asks the community what they want to do. This meeting tonight is to work with the leadership and citizens. Mr. Cole will show a presentation while participants complete their corresponding sheet of 25 options pertaining to wants and needs as they pertain to the creation of jobs, and improvement of local quality of life. The 25 options include:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Attracting Government Funding  | Entrepreneurial Development        |
| Attracting Government Jobs     | Environmental Restoration          |
| Attracting Lone Eagles         | Health Care                        |
| Attracting Retirees            | Infrastructure Development         |
| Bedroom Community              | Leading Edge Development           |
| Business Cultivation           | Local/Regional Tourism             |
| Business Recruitment           | Pass-through Visitor Services      |
| Business Retention & Expansion | Transportation Distribution Center |
| Cultural Tourism               | Value-added Agriculture            |
| Destination Tourism            | Value-added Fisheries              |
| Downtown Development           | Value-added Forest Products        |
| Education Development          | Value-added Mining                 |
| Energy Development             |                                    |

After the presentation (attached to these minutes) Mr. Cole opened the meeting to public comment.

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Andy Salonic commented that this sustainability plan is an example of the United Nation's Agenda 21. That the term itself "sustainability" is a key term used in Agenda 21 literatures. The grant received for this strategic sustainability plan was given by Housing for Urban Development. Any grant that is received by the U.S. Government will inevitably be a screw up. The sustainability of this community should be developed with private funding and not with government grants. Mr. Salonic is concerned that by allowing the federal government to fund plans and projects, it will allow the violation of our constitutional rights according to the fourth amendment, take away private property rights, and give local control to others. Let the community make the plan and keep the federal government out of our business.

John Bennett commented about his concerns brought up by the presentation is the inability to work with the Forest Service because of the Forest Service's lack of management of our forests over a long period of time. This community used to be busiest at 3:00 in the morning when log trucks and forest-based employees were going to work. Because of what the Forest Service has bowed to, (environmental issues) there are no longer cows on the forest, or logging allowed. Meaning no disrespect Mr. Bennett does not see why this community needs Mr. Cole from Oregon to tell us how to run our community and how to get our community back.

Vice-Mayor James Nelson, Jr. stated that the purpose of the grant is for our community to develop a plan for the future and what we have now. He agrees that we don't want the federal government to dictate to us what we need to do; we want to dictate to the federal government what is best for this community.

Mr. Bennett stated that the fact is that Apache County with the assistance of EDAC did in fact accept an \$820,000 federal grant that is paying for this meeting – it is the carrot on the stick, we already ate the carrot, expect to be beat with the stick.

Mayor Kim Holaway stated that when this planning process (put together by several citizens of Eagar) is complete, it will allow the Council to focus on the direction Eagar needs to go. If the plan dictates that Eagar applies for grant money, the Council is very careful about what is applied for and ensures that it is a match for what is needed for Eagar. Mayor Holaway stated that as long as she is Mayor she would not allow Eagar to apply for any grants that have a lot of strings tied to it. The Town has control over what grants will be and can be applied for.

Jim Finch, Jr. commented that he could support a lot of this plan as long as we can fulfill it on our own. If it is grant related he is not interested. He is concerned, as is his father, about infringement of private land rights. Every landowner has different ideas about what needs to be done with their land, and Mr. Finch is apprehensive what this plan will dictate for the land. If there is a guarantee that infringement is not going to happen, he is in support of the planning process. Leave the land alone, every time the government comes in somebody loses their land, or somebody loses their right to use their land they way they want to – that being his biggest concern. The Town of Eagar is to be commended for having a budget in the black, however, don't get greedy and decide that grants will put us above other towns. We have some things in town that have been purchased with grant funding that nobody uses – think about that.

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Laverl Ashcroft stated that he is serving on the steering committee and he has approached it with an open mind. He has heard negative things up front and is trying to explore the positive. Mr. Ashcroft stated that he is anti big government, anti federal government – it has gotten way out of hand. Mr. Ashcroft stated that he is a member of Citizens for Multiple Land Use and Access (CMLUA) and believes in those principles. Mr. Ashcroft stated that he has written a letter to Representative Gosar explaining the situation and what has gone wrong around this community in the last twenty years. Mr. Ashcroft doesn't want any more wolves, he didn't want any wolves initially and doesn't like the \$420,000 it takes to put a wolf in our forest – it's time to turn these things back. As Mr. Ashcroft has listened to things about this project and has listened to Mr. Cole, he sees nothing to fear because these 25 options are things that need to be sorted, judged and controlled by us. He fears big government and would like to see some resolutions pass with groups like the CMLUA and statewide take back local control. There are many groups that need to come together and work together as community and ultimately harvest these forests like was done all the time he was growing up. He can report that the steering committee meetings have been agreeable so far with the opportunities being placed in our hands.

Karalea Cox commented that she has also grown up in Eagar and has those special historical scenes that she gets to witness everyday from her kitchen window. She lives here because she chooses to live her with the community she has, she lives here because of these people and for who they are and what we do for each other. She lives here because of all the sacrifices that have been undertaken by those before us. She doesn't believe that this community was built without a plan and without strategies. She doesn't believe that our forefathers randomly picked spots to build dams and irrigation systems anymore than they randomly picked where the town would be and how it would be laid out – they had a plan. We really need a plan. This planning process has provided us an opportunity to get together to talk about what we want and what we need, and how we're going to go about getting that. It is very clearly that there is some avenues we don't want to pursue and there is nothing wrong with establishing that. We have to figure out what is important to us, if we don't do that we will not leave anything for those that come behind us – we can't leave something if we don't have a plan. That is what we have to do and we have to start today. Ms. Cox stated that she is the last person that likes to be told what to do. She wants to be able to voice her opinion and be able to exercise her agency. More importantly is that her children and grandchildren can do that. She guarantees that if she is told what to do with her property, that is not going to go good, and she believes that there is a better chance to protect what is ours by having a plan.

Eric Hamblin commented that he echoes everything that has been said, and that everyone in the room is in agreement that we do not need any more government control in our lives. We can trust what has been said because there will be no strings attached because we are the one that are choosing the plan. He commends those who selected the steering committee to put this plan together and he commends the committee for their service. Mr. Finch is on the steering committee and we can be the ones to see that we don't go after any government grants if we feel these things are important to us. There is nothing better than having an organized group that has a specific goal in mind. Mr. Hamblin thinks this steering committee is a great opportunity and that we can group together, state a common goal, and strive to reach that.

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David Brown commented that he works at the laminate beam plant. He orders approximately 100,000 board feet of high-grade material (lumber) every week and only about two percent comes from this area because it is not available. The lumber is manufactured into a high-grade product and shipped out. There are some things he thinks this community can do to enhance this type of industry. To open a sawmill will cost at least \$500 million dollars and an operation like that will not be opened because we do not have a rail. We need to look at ways to attract these types of big industry. With the trend in new energy development we should be able to use forest waste material, instead of shipping it out, use the waste material right here for energy development. Use the things that we already have in this community. Everything that we have used over our lifetimes are still here, we just need to think outside the box. Get some of the old industries back.

Luke Gallagher commented that the town has changed in the 28 years since he has been here. He has seen many things that have changed for the good. He is on the steering committee and there are things here that he sees as good, he agrees with the Council and the steering committee that we do not want to see anything with a bunch of strings attached. We do need something going for this community so that our children do not have to go to Phoenix or Albuquerque but stay here and see the community go forward. As the steering committee looked at different ideas, one comment stuck out and his reply is why can't we expect income opportunities to come here – we need to think outside the box in some cases. This planning process is defining the box to know if we are indeed thinking outside the box and how far outside the box we are. Mr. Gallagher is very encouraged by this planning process and very encouraged by the participation here tonight. He added that to the best of their ability the steering committee is not going to see this community with greater and greater strings attached, they want to see the community break free.

Mr. Cole thanked the steering committee and the community for their participation.

Town Manager Bill Greenwood stated that there would be another public hearing once the final draft of the planning process has been completed in about a month or so from now.

Mayor Holaway thanked the members of the steering committee for volunteering their time to serve on the committee and thanked the public for their participation tonight. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.