

## Minutes of Uranium Meeting June 6, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Doran Moore at 1:02 pm. Doran thanked everyone for coming and asked that they all introduce themselves. Everyone introduced themselves and some stated where they came from. Doran then turned the meeting over to Ramon for the Invocation. Ramon Castro gave the Invocation. Doran then proceeded to give everyone an update on what is happening.

Doran stated the mailings to land owners are about 92% complete. He acknowledged and thanked CUSP for printing the brochures at cost. Doran and Ramon had a meeting with Tom Eisenman. Doran updated the position that Tom has taken with New Horizon. Doran stated that the county is determined to hold the position that mining cannot be done on residential. Doran stated that he felt there may be lawsuits to get the exploratory holes. Doran stated that there may be a difference in exploratory holes to document the mineral load versus actually mining the operation. Doran also discussed the problems of zoning changes for a mining company that owns or lease property or surface leases. Question was asked if there is anyone who had an option to buy or lease on their property. Doran discussed leased or buy options. Doran stated that the mining company would not actually pay out a lease or buy the property until the county changed the zoning to conform to their wishes. Doran stated the enormity of the number of owners who have never even been out here. One out of state owner has listed his property for sale and was told by a realtor that his property was essentially worthless until this issue of uranium mining is resolved. Ernestine stated that that the mining companies are not in the business of buying property. Dennis asked the question of the county taking the position of not mining on residential or conservation land, but has anything been done about BLM or National Forest land. Doran reiterated that the county has stated that the 1041 regulations will be enforced on all recreational and conservation land which encompasses the BLM and National Forest land. Doran then stated that there is another company, not New Horizon, which has staked on public land. Statements was then made about the claim staking process and how the companies staking claims muddy the water so it cannot be determined who is who. Doran then stated that there are probably a lot of owners who would see an advantage to having a little money up front and a long term option to lease or buy down the road as a good thing. Doran then went on to say that House Bill 1161, which specifically creates legislation for in-situ uranium mining in Colorado, was signed into law by the Governor on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Doran stated the committee for "Save our South Park Water" has notified the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mine, Land Reclamation and Safety that they are requesting standing to participate in hearings representing landowners. Doran then stated that he felt the regulations might not be very strong. Question was asked who we could contact to put pressure on them. Doran believes that unless the governor takes a firm position the regulations will be weak, but they are better than nothing. Doran urged everyone to contact Governor Ritter with concerns. Anita asked the question about contacting people. Susan stated that contacting the county commissioners was very effective as was sending concerns to our representatives. Doran then let everyone know that Anita was from Fremont County where they are fighting a similar battle. An Australian company came in and drilled exploratory holes without permission. They have now applied for a conditional use to continue exploratory drilling. Anita stated that the people of Fremont County were only allowed to talk about exploratory versus mining. Doran stated that we were ahead of the game because our commissioners view exploratory and mining as the same thing and not two separate processes. Doran then went on to state that if the uranium mill in Fremont County gets restarted or rebuilt the issue of uranium will be massive because of the value of the load. Question was asked about a section that is designated as a school zone. Doran stated that every section 6 or 36 is designated a school zone. Dennis stated that the Democratic Party has put in their platform that they are opposed to in-situ mining. Doran stated that we need to support the governor and make sure that he knows we expect him to make sure our water supply is not contaminated. Doran went on to state that the Aurora Water Board will not even answer mail. Susan stated that it is very hard to get TV coverage. One land owner stated that the first knowledge of uranium mining was the letter sent by this committee. Doran stated there might be a meeting of all the counties to get together and discuss what can be done. Doran gave a brief history of other counties where uranium is located. However, that is hard rock versus in-situ. Question was asked about the staking process. Staking can be done anywhere. Can you do a preemptive staking and claim filing? Doran stated that you can stake your own claims. Instructions are on the

web site. He also stated that the attorney he has been in contact with suggested that you pay the fee every year. Herb stated that the small group attending today was an example of complacency. Doran stated that he was pleased with the group because it is summer. Connie also stated that this is a rescheduled meeting and some people who could have attended the original date may have already had plans for this date. Herb stated that he had contacted several people personally and the first they had heard about it was this contact or the letter sent out. The discussion then went to disclosure by realtors. Discussion was held about people finding out about the proposed mining. Discussion was held about contacting local groups and how to make people aware of this issue. Discussion was held about the staking of a recognized airstrip. Discussion was held about making signs to place along the highways. A couple renting in Buena Vista have a sign the can be seen by rafters on the Arkansas and were asked to take it down or write Park County on it. Sign did not come down; Park County was added to sign. Doran showed a sample sign that Ramon had done. Doran stated that Susan had flyers made up and Prather's Market had agreed to put them into the bags of customers, however, it is not happening.

Doran then asked for volunteers to work Bailey Dayz. County commissioners will be there. Doran also asked for volunteers for Burro Days, Park County Fair, and Hartsel Days. We would have a booth and give out flyers and inform people. Get them to sign petitions. Susan will coordinate this effort. Contact her via the website. Doran then mentioned the meeting in Fairplay on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June at 1:00pm in the recreation center to give information to the group. Another meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Lake George at 1:00pm in the Community Center. Question was asked about money donations and Doran stated that starting a Non-For-Profit would be diversionary. Discussion was held about the decision to not be a Non-For-Profit. Money donations can be made to specific companies such as Kinko's. Linda stated the there is now Beryllium mining staking being done on the other side of Wilkerson near Lake George. Discussion was held about the amount and locations of claim staking being done in Colorado. Discussion was held about augmentation water for conditional use permit by the company in Fremont County. Doran stated that Black Range was able to lease water from Pueblo West to support their conditional use permit. Ramon made sure that people knew that the meetings in Fairplay and Lake George will be more informational the working meeting.

At this time Ramon discussed the free website advertising. Ramon also stated that Paul Pscholka has spent over 100 hours designing a website that we have paid for. Paul and Ramon hope to have it up and running in a couple of weeks. Question was asked about website address. Address is [www.sospw08.com](http://www.sospw08.com). Paul gave a demonstration on the website from his computer. Discussion was held about e-mailing and the volume of the lists. Old website and new website will run concurrently until all of the information is transferred.

Herb McChrystal gave an update stamps received and used. We have 18 left, need stamps. Susan stated we just got 200 stamps. Herb suggested the buying of gift cards for the groups use. Checks should be made out to companies instead of SOSPW. Ramon stated that if you donate, your donation is acknowledged on the website. Ramon stated that we still need to do a couple of thousand letters. First mailings were prioritized to contact owners who are in the high impact areas. Herb also brought up getting people to sign petitions. Hand out pamphlets. We need to get information out. Question was asked about duplicates on petitions. Herb then thanked Ernestine for her efforts in getting addresses and sorting them. Doran also thanked Ramon and Ernestine for their contribution of the website hosting for two years. Ernestine stated there are 771 signatures on the petition. Doran wants to get the new county commissioner (Lillian Wissell) to commit to our cause. A request was made to have the stamps purchased in the Hartsel Post Office. Doran said that he would put the suggestion to purchase from HPO on the website.

Doran asked for input on having meetings during the summer. Doran talked about summer being very busy. He doesn't want to have a meeting just to have a meeting. Doran talked about not wanting to overwork people and since he is not sure when the hearings will start, he wants people to be energized to attend hearings. Doran also stated that we need to play a role in Park County elections. He wants to show a united stand on this issue. Questions were asked about voting in Park County. Anita stated that we need to keep up on our Electric Company. Discussion was held about how to raise the awareness of this issue. Doran stated that the next meeting will be mid-august unless something comes up. Doran also stated that we need to come away from this

meeting with the idea that we are going to write letters, to legislators, meet candidates, talk to people about this issue. Canned letters are on the website. Attend other meetings and get involved.

A brief report was given by media. Their committee is small by the list of contacts made were newspapers, TV, radio, Clubs, (hunting, fishing, and recreation). The group decided not to do Realtors. Ramon asked about responses and was told that no one has responded. Question was asked about contacting radio station in Colorado Springs that is NPR station here. Discussion was held about getting on some of these stations to do talk shows. River Rat station from Buena Vista needs to be contacted. Also sign on the Arkansas River was discussed. It was stated that Anita has been most active because of the travel distances of other members.

Discussion was held about appropriate behavior regarding the claim staking and proper channels to follow. Discussion was held about previous mining efforts and relationships of mining executives to the Colorado School of Mines.

Dennis gave brief report for Special Resources. Several people attended Water Conservation Meeting in Hartsel. Dennis feels we need to put pressure on Conservancy district and make it proactive not reactive. Dennis also feels that it will be a down and dirty fight. Anita discussed what happened in Fremont County meeting where the group was held to discussion of exploratory drilling while the attorneys for Black Range were allowed to talk about nuclear energy. Questions were raised about HASP allowing water to be bought by the mining companies as augmentation water. Lynda discussed the priority of water rights and who will receive water first. Discussion was held on current lawsuit of co-methane. Discussion was held about who would be affected if water is contaminated. Dennis reiterated that if the companies have the right to do drilling, then they will do it, regardless of what we do. He stated we need to actively get our legislators involved and maybe change the 1872 laws. Doran stated we need to get the EPA to stop injection drilling. Anita stated that Fremont County is trying to get Black Range on the issues of being inhomogeneous with the county master plan for residential and tourism. Dennis had a discussion with Jeff Parsons and his suggestion was to not use the land use regulations, but the health codes. A county in Virginia adopted a regulation regarding chemical trespass as a health regulation. Discussion was held on the 1041 regulations. Ernestine suggested that we need a concrete plan. Instead of going in too many directions we need to focus on two or three battles. Doran would like to get a DVD done that explains our positions. Dennis discussed the mining on Navajo land. He reiterated that this is a political issue and we need to get politicians involved. Discussion was held about putting up highway signs. Ernestine stated that she was doing a search for property owners along 24 and try to get permission to put up signs. Discussion was held about current realtors in the area. Ramon again stated to e-mail the commissioners running for office this year to get their position on this issue. Lynda stated that it was important to be involved in this current election. Doran stated that the current action plans ends with what we have accomplished to date.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie A Gray