

## Notes and Discussion Points from Two-Day Sustainability Workshop

**Tuesday, September 30, 2008**

### **Panel Discussion – “What is Sustainability and What Challenges does it Present in a Boom/Bust Economy?”**

- Lander County – Gene Etcheverry Lander County Executive Director
  - Key piece of community vision and development strategy
  - Need to know where you have been – those are your stakeholders
  - Lander County – two stakeholders – agriculture and mining
  - 2000/2001 economics significantly impacted local counties
  - Sustainability – need to look at 10 to 20 year window, need to set that stage today
  - LEDA sets daily strategy, is a partnership of external and internal stakeholders
  - Economic development starts with a pyramid of partnerships but most important with community development
  - Partnerships, vision and taking what was learned in the past
  
- Elko County – Sheri Eklund-Brown Elko County Commission Chairman
  - Growing up in a mining family and environment
  - We are in a significant mining community and need to take the lead
  - Includes participation on BLM RAC
  - Can not solely depend on the BLM but counties should take on additional work such as social/economic studies done by Tom Harris
  - Life cycle of the mine – need to be involved throughout the process and being prepared for all parts of the cycle, from permitting through expansions
  - Recognition of ECEDA for the Railport idea
  - Government should be a partner and Nevada rural communities show an example of how to do it right
  - Local guy matters the most
  - Boom and Bust
    - Boom – also need to deal with growth impacts that come with the positive financial benefits
    - Bust – deal with fluctuations due to the decline in revenue yet must maintain the infrastructure costs
  - RMP’s – addressing changes to land use plans for post closure mine sites
  
- Humboldt County – Tom Fransway Humboldt County Commissioner
  - During tough times the county had prepared fiscally so that they were able to survive
  - Important for cities and counties to work together closely in partnership along with community and mining industry

- Closed mining operations should be evaluated for other potential industrial uses instead of completely reclaiming the property
- City and county have provided incentives to potential industries that can meet certain criteria – Carry-On an example
- Progress has been made but need to continue to work as it is an ongoing process
- Stakeholders are the people and everyone is impacted by sustainability
  
- Public Lands Representative – Reg Reid
  - Many of the ideas brought up so far were discussed at Congressional hearing that was held in Reno in early 2000's
  - BLM was looking for a state to look into sustainable development and Nevada took on the challenge
  - At Battle Mountain and Winnemucca action plans were developed
  - BLM regulators include mention of sustainability and could build on those regulations
  - RMPs need to include sustainable development criteria – government to act as a facilitator, with 5 year review an opportunity to address SD
  - Worked to develop an infrastructure in place that would allow for other opportunities or development at closed mine sites
  - Financial assistance through BLM
    - Find an RMP willing to address sustainability – Winnemucca had done scoping and the question on SD had been asked so agreed to address, should be out the end of 2008
    - We can all comment on the RMP when it comes out as it will be the first one to come out in the county
      - Website development to get the word out on sustainability
      - Do something with ?
  - Second phase
    - FIND project with Lander County
  
- Mining Representative – John Mudge Newmont Mining Corporation
  - We are pleased to be a partner in our local communities
  - Just need to be at the table communicating as to what is our business plan – a good citizen
    - Being an integral part of the community
  - Build for the future – diversification, planning efforts, etc
  - Turning the mines into something where the mines are done
    - Over \$500M in reclamation bonds
  - Community Relationship Review proposed in 2007
    - Learn how to be better socially
    - Should be out shortly

Questions?

- How far do counties look out into the budgeting process?

- Lander County has not had a five year plan but it is essential in a resource dependent county. Five years is actually not enough planning time.
- Haven't taken the hit that the urban counties in Nevada have recently taken. Most counties down 2% from 2008 to 2009. Up from 2005 however.
- Elko County has a longer range planning on capital infrastructure improvement that was not previously addressed – 20 years out.
- Humboldt County has had a five year plan before the state requested the plan. Continue to deal with at each budget cycle.
- Could the counties share their planning processes?  
Could easily learn from each other as many of the financial people were involved in the development of the state template.
  - Partnership is something that is done routinely.
  - NACO is an excellent way to share with each other. Differences do exist with the southern counties such as with water.
- Could the RMP process be speeded up?
  - Winnemucca was the first and the rest of the RMPs should move more quickly since we will learn from it.
  - The start of plans is funding driven so might impact those dates.
  - BLM is working to build collaborations so that the plans will have a long life. Takes time to build those collaborations such as the advisory committee that was done with the Winnemucca RMP.
- Bolivia has established a Minister of Sustainable Development
  - Is still being adapted as everyone learns what it means

## **Wednesday, October 1, 2008**

### **Community Business Matching and Value of Collaborations – Tom Harris, UNR and Buddy Borden, UNCE**

- Maybe you have a deal killer but maybe you don't have trained labor force but have community college for training?
  - Some may be easy fixes – Factors public policy can change – look at CBM Conceptual Model
- What states were looked at?
  - Arizona and Nevada for the Colorado Region
- Where they casino/service workers?
  - Used to be but now manufacturing moving in
- What is the funding mechanism?
  - WREC for data collection and the Montana State University data center. Actually get people on phone to take survey. Extension people and use students to conduct data collection and develop data entry to input. Grad students – get valuable experience. Starting to put manuals together to do this.

- How does EPA relate to quality of life? Ex: Reno using Lake Tahoe
  - We are adding more variable and factors to that part of survey to consider that. Environmental and quality of life can cross
- Boom and Bust cycles – trying to use mine infrastructure to attract 3<sup>rd</sup> party to come in. Can we use this to find type of companies that could use these facilities?
  - Yes, we could match. Goes to capacity issue and compatibility. We have certain kind of assets, what industry would use this? Matching, community vision was used in FIND Project.
  - Saw way to inventory and bring communities together to integrate specific talents, infrastructure that would help region. Wyoming around Big Horn Mountains (4 counties) highlighted mountains as attraction as gate way to Jackson Hole. Took them working together for this.
  - Can use internet to find compatibility

**Lander FIND Project, UNR Pilot Project and UNR/Lander/Newmont Housing Study – George Fennemore, Rodney Davis, Tony Brinkman, Tom Harris, Jon Sherve**

- All companies work together?
  - Yes, Newmont, Barrick, BLM, open door for all companies to participate
- What if you come with solution before finished with project?
  - Having thought about but always hoping for solution. Not in sense of urgency. Focus to set up project, no bias but focusing on non-mining industry.
- Why not looking at Lone Tree?
  - Lone Tree already being looked at. Opted for locations that have best chance to reach out to companies to get their information into data base
  - These are areas where companies have the best facilities
- How do possible uses for mine sites fit in with reclamation?
  - Need to reclaim to be usable. Some things such as waste rock dumps have to be reclaimed. Need to leave power lines and pumps in place for reclamation. There are some liabilities: Ground water contamination: New industry would have restrictions such as no drinking water well. Pieces could be carved out for use while mine would retain other pieces for use or reclamation.
- Where did money come from for FIND? Is it mining rec. funding,
  - It is appropriations from congress
- What is going on with the study and data base? UNR not here to present. What did they come up with, what does the data base look like, what information was

Newmont Mining Company willing to give up to put up on the internet, did they do anything with the GIS to put on web site?

- Every faculty member has an outreach responsibility and they did not show. Their dean will hear about this. The work is getting done. Slow process. A lot of grunt work done this summer. Should be able to pull up GIS to see what industry there is and what issues may come up with using a mine site. Attached documents that would show issues i.e. leach pad reclamation, violations. LT is so old that documents had to be put in manually. New grad student has been hired to do. Previous grad student left so don't have his information. Don't know how much has been billed and funded. Newmont has not agreed to post information on public web site and not ready to market LT for other industries. NMC is still looking at uses for their company. Industry looking at mine site may not have expertise and would need liaison to help with this. UNR was required to have a Fall progress report on their task list. LT study is another piece of FIND project but would be ultimately done for closed mine site or abandoned electrical plant. Charlie is on both sides so can help communicate between the two. Information is largely site specific. Information will vary mine site to mine site. All infrastructure would be already set and easy to input
- Does housing study look at what might be construed and does BLM constrict housing?
  - No, BLM was not considered in housing study. Did look at possible gaps. If we had a GIS for potential housing would help. One of interests was demographic data regarding boom and bust and who stays and who leaves. All static except for 24-31 age group. Great influence on s.d. for schools, infrastructure, what happens to trailers, does everything go back to bank?
  - Can't do it by ourselves in B.M. but need lots of help from Tom and Buddy to keep on track, show deliverables, funding, getting something usable. A lot will be contracted out to find product to market. This is a gold belt coalition project not just Lander County. Need partnership to pull off.
  - People need to look at labor share. It is a regional effect and makes regional project
- Have any studies been done on how many people have been bussed into mine in Lander County from other counties.

Would be commuter study. Very important. If driving themselves, may stop but bussed, they will not. Need separate what is being lost by people not living here.

- Would there be advantage to add Eureka and White Pine County to phases?
  - Yes with new Moly mine coming in. Will cause different growth and impact. People will be moving into county. Still going to see metal assets in our economy growing. New dynamic. New housing development between Ruby Hill and old town. Moly mine motivating due to long commute. Expect people to move in to Eureka due to mine life.

- More people bring in more retail
- In Eureka, contractors were reluctant to come out now will.
- Is General Moly developing housing for sell or rent for employees?
  - At first will be for contractors and then eventually for employees and residents but don't want to be in competition with other developers. Not sure if for sale or rent.

### **H/PSD Partnership – Sharlet Berentsen and NNP-E – Jim Collord**

- Sue Hawkins- coal mining has not bought into sustainable development; they were amazed that the BLM is working so well with the mining industry in Nevada

### **Sustainable Agriculture:**

**Kynda Curtis, UNR Agricultural Market Specialist: “Farm and Ranch Contributions to Local Economics”**

**Jay Davison, UNR Area Extension Specialist: “Alternative Crops and Their Role in Sustaining Agriculture in Nevada”**

- Kynda’s PowerPoint Presented by Tom Harris
- How do we link the ranchers with the mines better?
  - All economic sectors are related, there will be conflicts, but they have an understanding of how they are interrelated
  - Any policy etc. changes that affect the mines will affect the ranches
- What were the other sectors?
  - Casinos, mines were biggest- also tourism, restaurants, services, government, public vs. private
- Tef- cheap and pretty simple to grow. Selling as horse seed and other; 1 million pounds this year
- Can you potentially grow cool-weather grass in the winter and warm-weather grass in the summer?
  - Yes, but they are perennials so they just sit dormant for the off-season. It would be preferable to have two separate fields
- Have you done any research of using these particular grasses for fire restoration?
  - Not these particular ones, but have tried using others. Mostly on old ranching areas. Trying to find grasses that grow on these old, barren or overgrown areas. Using some shrubs as well because they are primarily shrub lands, not grass lands
- Is there access to Quinoa (sp?) seeds?
  - There is not access because the people who are selling it don't want to have competition in the market. Want to keep the market small.
- We are finding that there are a lot of things we could grow in other areas. May consider increasing the size of the program
- Are you also keeping an eye on these for their invasive nature?

- Yes, was really worried about that with Tef, so put it on an isolated field to see what happened. However, it is so cold-sensitive that the plants are wiped out in the winter. Haven't seen any plant regrowth

**Recycling – Margo Teague, Impact Evaluation & Assessment Services:  
“Foundations for Curbside Recycling in Elko, Nevada”**

- Recycling is big in the Portland area- They have started putting a surcharge on the recycling if the users do not also have recycling out. They can put out any amount of recycling with the garbage.
  - The city has been talking about this, but people will not react well if they are charged for not recycling. It will feel like a government mandate. We need to make sure there is public buy-in before the program is implemented.
- In Elko there is not really a possibility for recycling so people have to go somewhere else
  - You can recycle cans and steel in Elko now. This would be commingled and in bulk with the garbage. It wouldn't be bringing in a recycling group yet, it would be taken somewhere else for recycling
- Right now in Winnemucca it is already separated, so it would have to be a different process. How can we make this seem like it is worth my time?
  - It is difficult, but it would be curb side and fairly simple since everything is mixed.
- In Germany they can send everything through one machine and separate it by laser
- We could probably support a center in this area if someone has the financial backing

**Partnership Opportunities Panel Discussion**

- Joe Locurto- Nevada Commission on Economic Development- NCED
  - Have a bit of catching up to do on a state-wide level. It is rewarding to see and I am trying to catch myself up with you. NCED has some resources to help with bringing economic sustainability.
  - NCED celebrated 25 years in Nevada this year. In 2005, was giving funding to focus more on rural areas.
  - Big part of job is distributing grants to the 11 development authorities in the area. For half of the grant funding, each group is required to submit grant applications which are reviewed by commission board. Most of them are approved right away to keep doors open. Also have a competitive grant process. They are for projects within each group's territory. \$995,000. Last year \$430,000 were giving to projects through NCED, but with matching etc. they really received over \$4 million.
  - Suffered an 8.5% cut in funding
  - #1 export out of Nevada are precious metals, #2 agricultural products

- Global trade is the way of the future. We are looking at ways to increase this for Nevada to bring more money into the state
- Partner with many entities at the state level to get things done. Both financial and people power. Have to plan to know where you are going- need longer plans than 5 years, maybe 25 years
- Last October took an interest in a wealth-transfer study. Looking at how to fund community-driven activities and projects. Goal: How are we going to fund all of the planned projects with the current state of the economy?
  - Don't want communities to continue to rely on the same, dwindling grants and funding opportunities
- Should look into endowments to keep up the wealth-transfer. Aim to make 5% of current budget through endowment funding and then use 80+ million per year out of the interest
- Each group, community, city, organization is unique. They are all different and thus have differing needs.
- Clint Koble- Nevada Rural Development Corp. (NRDC)
  - NRDC was relatively unknown and really lacked value. It was hard to grow. Finding value was important for having a mission and appealing to rural areas of Nevada. Having that value is helping to establish future sustainability through planning and economics.
  - Look outside your comfort zone to find as many partners as you can.
  - Collaboration with your neighboring counties, states, groups- they want sustainable communities
  - Look in places you may not have already considered
  - First community assessment is in Wells next week
  - "No strategic plan has any value if it doesn't first have a mission"
    - This mission is usually found through a community assessment
  - Wyoming has a leading program for community assessment, NRDC is modeled after that
  - 29 resource team members throughout the state who donate their time
  - The assessment
    - Fairly cost-effective
    - Gives the community a chance to stand back and look at itself
    - Can be used as community development plan
    - Can be used to market community
  - Community Responsibilities- must publicize assessment, help recruit volunteers, provide meeting facilities, agenda, tour, provide profile of community demographics
  - Resources are at a minimum so projects must be thought out and planned out with direction and focus
- Shar Peterson- Newmont, External Relations
  - Community Investment Program- financial and material donations, structured process, used within our communities
  - Based on our social responsibility
  - Try to get a good review from the community to send the funds to the proper places

- Will use the CRR to improve on our community investment

### **Additional Questions or Comments**

- What is your annual schedule for applications? (Newmont)
  - We receive applications on a monthly basis
- Des Craig was supposed to be here today to discuss the Community Development Block Grant Program but he has been called away because Nevada has been issued \$73 million for our housing crisis. He is in a meeting to discuss the allocation of those funds
- If a community was interested in an assessment process and Elko wants to go through the community matching process, they would be incurring some costs for that. Would they be eligible for the grant funding? ( NCED)
  - Yes, they can apply through the Economic Development Entity of the grant process. Multiple applications will be reviewed as well, if they fit the criteria and the funds are available.

### **Wrap up- Next Steps**

- Jim Collord will put all presentations on the website
- Should email a direct link to the website to all email recipients
- Rod Davis will coordinate a little better with all of the groups in the FIND project
- We kept hearing that participation, partnerships, collaboration are all key tools- between groups and counties- Is this something to foster and take to another step?
  - Foster communications between groups
  - Develop a steering committee with reps from each group
  - Diversify each group to encourage participation, buy-in and inclusion
  - Website needs a contact person for interested participants or groups
  - Funding need to sustain website- need to find out when funding runs out
- BLM is stepping up to help with many different initiatives in each community
  - Needs help from the community with RMP review process
  - Is it appropriate or useful for this group to show special, formal recognition to the BLM for their efforts
    - It is noted on the website that it has been supported by BLM funds
  - Some of the good things that are done here do filter back to the higher ranks of the BLM
  - Would like to have a case history summary of this process so it can be modeled for other communities
  - Consider bringing public and private sectors together to increase funding and exposure
- Need to create a diverse Steering Committee, initiated out of Lander County meeting- Steering committee needs to define a message and communicate with the new RMP process and information on the sustainability partnership
- Should meet with new people in each area to inform them of our process and mission

- NCED has a place on the website for any stories or ideas or information that groups would like to see online
  - Maybe put a direct link on the website for community partnerships
- Need to bring entire story together- with sustainability group and BLM- to share with others as a “fact sheet” or package for a variety of readers. Should consider different packaging for different audiences. Need to look for a broad audience
  - Can write it as a collaborative effort but need the “skeleton” from the BLM
  - Charlie needs to find the memo from the BLM as a start
  - Discussion at Lander county meeting in November as kickoff
- The counties illustrated that they each have their separate initiatives- There is a real need and desire to come together and share their plans and procedures
  - Want to be made aware of RMP process and look at futures of mining areas
- Community business matching program is brilliant-
  - there are effectively funded tools available that the communities can take advantage of
  - generated by public taxes
  - they are tools that can be tweaked and distorted to fit each community
- FIND project-need to lay out phases and tasks with a plan and budget strategy
  - Use the plan to develop a process to go out and find funding
  - And create additional partnerships
- Need to have a summary of the meeting and share it with the attendees and the media to move forward
  - Website updated with summary of the meeting- Rough draft in 7 days with PowerPoint’s
  - Need to get these notes to someone for the bullet points
  - Create steering committee by the beginning of 2009
  - Leigh will talk with some people and get in touch with Jay Davison regarding real potential for “Grow your own fuel” concept in Nevada within 7 days
  - Take summaries to each county and discuss the next collaboration