

Action Committee Meeting Notes  
February 27, 2006

**Next meeting:** Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 PM, Roundhouse Museum

Attendees: Michael Scannell; scannellmk@co.laplata.co.us  
Bob Ledger; ledgerrf@ci.durango.co.us  
Jeff Jackson; JeffJackson@durangotrain.com; 259-6505  
Ed Morlan;  
Julie Levy; juliemlevy@yahoo.com  
Jessey Tase; jessey\_tase@yahoo.com; 375-7918  
Jerry Swingle; jerswing@hotmail.com; 247-5797  
Paul Schrank; pschranck@durangotrain.com; 259-0274  
Sarah Wright; sarah@animas.net; 259-1544  
Steve Jackson; sjackson@durangotrain.com; 247-1491  
Steve Marple; marple@sprynet.com; 884-0515  
Evan Buchanan; ebuchanan@durangotrain.com; 259-0274  
Andrea Seid

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### **Organizational Structure:**

The organizational structure of the action committee was reviewed to determine if there was a need for officers. It was determined there was, and the nominations/acceptances are as follows:

Chairperson: Jeff Jackson  
Vice Chair: Jerry Swingle  
Treasurer: Ed Morlan  
Secretary: Jessey Tase and someone else. Who?

### **Technical Recommendations:**

Three documents were handed out regarding this topic:

- A memo from Steve Marple to Jeff Jackson, dated 2/27/2006  
This memo outlined the recent discussions, and his list of 10 prioritized items for smoke mitigation with brief discussions of each item.
- A Request for Quotation from the 1997-98? process to begin smoke mitigation, which resulted in scrubber design and installation.
- Steve Marple's review of the bids submitted from the Request for Quotation.

Further discussion of the current scrubber system determined that:

- The current system is very substantial and has lasted for 7 Years.  
Steve stated it seemed most efficient to work with the equipment that is currently available [the scrubbers].

- The current system does not require special disposal methods (for most of the waste). The sludge? goes to a holding tank, then the oil-water separator and from there to the water treatment plant.
- **Discussions of Steve Marple's suggestion of running the scrubbers year round rather than just the summer months lead to Jeff Jackson's commitment to present the operational costs of the current system at the next meeting.**

Further discussion of other potential technologies included:

- Wet scrubbers vs. a baghouse system.... Which is better?
- Could there be a system of wet scrubber -> baghouse -> electrostatic precipitator?
- In discussion of the baghouse alternative Steve Marple expressed his concern that coal dust is extremely flammable. Steve also stated he would like to discuss several other safety issues with Kevin Milliman in order to determine the best long term solution.
- Many of these issues were said to be covered in Steve M.'s documents mentioned above.
- Bob Ledger indicated that the technologies really needed a comprehensive evaluation. One group/firm should evaluate the entire problem and give us a holistic approach to remedying the situation. This would prevent problems of different people/groups evaluating certain aspects and then trying to put it all together at the end. Could also be most cost effective.
- A discussion of the selection of an independent expert/engineer was scheduled for the meeting but due to time and priorities it was postponed.

### **Grant Discussion:**

Because DSNRR is a private/for profit entity, they are not eligible for many grants, therefore it is very important that other entities can apply for these grants and filter the money through appropriate avenues to fund research/design/implementation. San Juan Basin Health dept. volunteered to write an EPA grant but because they are a regulatory agency it was determined that Region 9 Economic Development would be the best grant recipient. Because of their status there are also some grants that only they are eligible for.

Julie, Region 9 Economic Development) had written the bulk of a CDGB feasibility grant from the state (due 2/28/06). The grant could provide up to \$20,000 with a required 1-1 match, resulting in up to \$40,000 to be used for a technical overview and a recommendation of the best technology to use. Discussion of this grant included:

- Clarification was needed on certain items for this grant proposal to be finished.
- The money should be used to:
  - fund Steve Marple to investigate "Phase II" of the scrubber installation
  - fund Kevin Milliman of EarthTech Inc., to further study the use of alternative fuels for overnight operations, including (but not limited to) graduated transitions between various fuel sources back to coal.

- Can Kevin and Steve work together on these issues?
- Hired consultants would be working for the task force.
- Leave the description open in terms of research rather than specific so we are not limited in our options.
- **Letters of support are needed from:**
  - City
  - County
  - San Juan Basin Health Dept.
  - Senators, Congressmen
  - South Side Group
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Historical Group - Potentially, Sarah will pursue.
    - **Julie is to email sample letter to Sarah.**

Grant matching was deemed an important topic. Who is going to match these grants, and with what percentages? Potential contributors are the City, County, BP and DSNGRR. Michael Scannell strongly cautioned that it would be much harder to get the County to match a grant if the train was not also contributing matching funds.

### **State Health Dept.:**

The possibility of the State imposing stricter regulations than the Federal government was briefly discussed. DSNGRR have discussed their concerns with local legislators.

A case currently in court in California may be setting precedent for this.

- DSNGRR has been following this case.
- Could updates of this also be presented at these meetings?

### **Other involvement:**

Jerry had spoken with Greg Schnacke of Colorado Oil and Gas Assoc. (COGA). The resulting information included:

- potential involvement from the Colorado School of Mines for technical expertise and support.
- Greg suggested Colorado Energy impact monies.
- Recommendations to stay in touch with Christi Zeller (coordinates oil/gas folks locally) and Sam King (BP).
- DSNGRR has a meeting scheduled with Sam King and Dan Larson regarding potential funding from BP.
- BP is to work with the task force and communicate with COGA.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 PM at the Roundhouse Museum.

- DSNGRR is going to try to bring in Don Bonk from the DOE to discuss alternative energies (wood/paper pellets) and their respective exhaust components

- This meeting is hopefully going to be in conjunction with The National Renewable Energies Lab (NREL).