

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Public Hearing at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chair person at 6:00 p.m., August 16, 2005; and she announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, and to Radio Stations, KPSA, KINN and KYEE.

Present:

Clarissa McGinn	Chair person
Doug Moore	Vice-Chairman
Michael Nivison	Member
Ruth Hooser	County Manager
Sue Ellen Cox	Department Secretary
Lynn Estrada	Deputy Clerk

DRAFT

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to begin a period of Public Hearings on Otero County's draft Comprehensive Plan. Following the Public Hearings the County Commission will hold a Work Session to consider the comments that we have received during the hearings and set priorities of our objectives in our plan. The plan was prepared by Site Southwest, both Barbara Harrington and Phyllis Taylor are present tonight. The company was hired to update the Comprehensive Plan, which has been in use since 1973. The draft was prepared using documents produced since then which address issues related to the plan. They include a land use policy plan developed by PLUAC, draft 1998 Otero County Comprehensive Plan goals in coordination with NMSU, Alamogordo and Tularosa Comprehensive Plans and the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone, Holloman Air Force Base. Otero County staff,

Otero residents, community and government agency representatives and the Steering Committee comprised of various community representatives have been involved beginning in 2004 to create this draft. ~~Commissioner McGinn would like to thank everyone that has contributed and that are here~~ tonight for their time and contributions.

Commissioner McGinn would like to recognize City Commissioner Don Cooper.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to prepare a document of general goals and recommended strategies regarding current and future needs of our community as defined by the citizens. Since the draft publication that came out in July, written comments were received by August 5th. The following citizens sent in their comments:

1. Johnny Wilson-Forest Service
2. Monroe Curtis-Otero County Planning Committee
3. Don Carroll-City of Alamogordo Mayor
4. Hans Steinhoff
5. Mr. Leslie Bond
6. Forest Service employees
7. Dan Abercrombie-Otero County Soil and Water
8. Pat McCourt-Alamogordo City Manager
9. Jane Schafer-Crow Flats resident
10. Jonna Lou Schafer-Crow Flats resident
11. David Wietzel
12. Bobby Jones

Commissioner Moore would like to thank Barbara and Phyllis from Site Southwest for all their help in

preparing this draft for Otero County.

The following residents made comments:

a. Bobby Jones- Pg. 2-9, has problem with changing the Commission to a 5 member Board. He would like to keep the Board at 3 members.

Pg.6-9, Water resources-future water rights. We should share our water with property owners that are running out of water.

Part 9-Allocations. State Engineer or County can't diminish the allocation of existing domestic wells.

Pg.10-2 Depletion rate. Please define and clarify existing water rights versus new in regards to depletion.

Pg.13-3 Land Use Controls. The Plan talks about special zoning districts. Mr. Jones requests that the Board be very careful with zoning.

b. Rick Baish, Otero Soil Water Conservation District. Mr. Baish would like to have more emphasis on promoting agriculture and tourism in the Plan. Pg.53-4 expand the description for "water resources are limited."

c. Dan Abercrombie- Mescalero and Chaparral should be included in this Plan. More emphasis on tourism. There are many opportunities in our County that are an asset and aren't being included. For example the Orx is an asset.

d. Don Cooper- Mr. Cooper would like to commend the Commissioners for taking on the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner McGinn stated that we need to move forward with another hearing to receive more public comment.

Barbara Harrington from Site Southwest stated that all the comments that were received by July 16th

have been incorporated into the Plan. The comments up to August 5th are on the summary sheet and will be attached to the minutes for public review.

Commissioner McGinn stated that all the comments will be compiled and considered and incorporated into the Plan for a final draft. We will have another Work Session in September. Commissioner McGinn directed staff to coordinate between the Commissioners for a date in September for another Public Hearing regarding the draft Plan. Ruth Hooser stated that the final draft has to be to the State by September 30th. That is our absolute deadline. The grant requirement is September 30th. There being no further business before the Board the Chair person adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

Clarissa McGinn, Chair person

ATTEST:

Robyn Silva, County Clerk

Public Hearing August 16, 2005