

**Train Smoke Task Force Meeting Notes  
February 8, 2007**

**Next Meeting: March 8, 2007**

**Attendees**

Al Harper		
Andrea Seid	aseid@durangotrain.com,	259-0274
Bob Ledger	ledgerrf@ci.durango.co.us,	375-5005
Brett Francois	brett@sjbhd.org,	
Chad Engelhardt	chad@sjbhd.org,	
Ed Morlan	ed@scan.org	247-9621
Evan Buchanan	ebuchanan@durangotrain.com	259-0274
Jerry Swingle	jerswing@hotmail.com	247-5797
Jessey Tase	jessey_tase@yahoo.com,	375-7918
Jim Evans		
Julie Levy	julie@scan.org	247-9621
Lisa	Ken Salazar's office	
Michael Scannell	scannellmk@co.laplata.co.us	382-6210
Paul Schranck	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

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**Minutes from last meeting were approved.**

**Task Force Organization**

The Task Force will be responsible for making recommendations to DSNR. These will be the recommended priorities on how to use the committed funds from the train plus any leveraged funds or additional contributions. Al said that it is important to him that the funds are used for smoke reduction. Ed said that the train cannot be forced into anything by the Task Force. Paul stated they will have the ability to decline our recommendations.

The Task Force will use Parliamentary Procedure during all its meetings. Three voting organizations are needed for a quorum.

There was discussion regarding who should vote. The voting members are:

1. South Side citizens
2. City
3. County
4. Region 9 EDD
5. San Juan Basin Health Dept.

Each organization will receive one vote. Paul suggested that the train not have a vote since the Task Force is making recommendations to the train. Ed moved to approve the above list of voting members. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

### **Funding Options**

Ed reviewed the current structure of the CHFA loan. Currently the City of Durango subsidizes the interest at 2% by making a yearly cash payment. There are other creative refinance options that may leverage the committed funds from the train. Ed suggested that the Task Force might approach the La Plata County Commissioners for support in bringing the interest rate down on an additional loan. He also noted that a CHFA loan would require capital expense so there is something to secure the loan.

Congressman John Salazar sent a letter requesting funding options to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Labs. A copy of the letter was passed out.

### **Update from Steve Marple**

The original scrubber vendor is still willing to do business with us. Base estimates of equipment for one more scrubber are \$60,000. This does not include duct work or installation costs. This could bring it to \$120,000.

There are multiple issues with expanding the scrubber system. These include:

- A need for noise reduction
- Exterior scrubbers have never been designed before (that we know of).
- A need for a tight fit to the smoke stacks
- “Snorkels” would be about \$10,000 not including installation, and the design would need to be improved.
- When scrubbers are operating there is about a \$10,000-15,000 spike in electricity bills per month.
- Wintertime operations are currently not addressed.
  - Wet scrubbers do not work well in the cold
  - Heating costs cause problems

Jerry asked if Steve had addressed these limitations with the vendor. Steve stated a building could be built around the scrubber and climate controlled. But Steve felt that the big issue is for the engines to be stoked regularly. This affects everything else.

Jerry has had an on-going correspondence with Ron Keagle. Jerry handed out a review of Wasatch report from Keagle, who has skepticism towards WRC’s recommendations. He provided reasons for this and recommendations for what he thought might be a better solution.

Steve Jackson also stated he is skeptical that WRC's suggestions will show such significant improvements as they have stated. Before any improvements are undertaken we need to be absolutely sure they will not negatively affect in-service conditions.

Paul will forward WRC's design cost estimates that Steve received.

Jerry asked that additional discussion of the scrubber system and Keagle's suggestions be a topic for the march meeting.

### **Steve's Recommendation:**

Move the current two scrubbers to the far right side of the roundhouse, and put a new "super scrubber" on the side near the ash pit. This new "super scrubber" will have duct work out to the ash pit and will also cover this area. This system would be very sophisticated, and would need a series of valves, variable frequencies, duct work and hoods to exterior locations.

Julie asked if Steve could put together his list of recommendations, scrubbers or otherwise for the next meeting. Al said the train would cover Steve's costs. Steve agreed to present his ideas at the March meeting.

Al urged we move forward with the wood pellets and the ash pit improvements.

Paul stated that if the wood pellets are a success then the scrubbers may not be as necessary, and how do you design for what you don't know?

### **Benchmarks**

There was discussion regarding how to measure any improvements. At the February meeting the Task Force discussed possibilities for benchmarking. The Task Force feels the need to establish a baseline in order to properly quantify any improvements in emissions from efforts we are currently making. SJBHD stated there were 10 Particulate Matter (PM) monitoring stations in the area that have been decommissioned due to funding cuts. They will look into re-using these decommissioned stations, and moving them to better locations or into purchasing one for this project. Jim Evans also offered to look into help from the Air Quality Control Commission. SJBHD will research costs and options and bring that back to the next meeting.

### **Task Force Recommendations**

Bob moved to recommend overnight use of wood pellets during the 2007 summer season and to vigorously pursue monitoring systems. Ed seconded. Julie shared information regarding the possibility of free building materials (piece on piece) for a storage shed. She will email more information. There was brief discussion regarding segregation of the wood pellets from coal. Motion passed. *Task Force's first recommendation.*

Bob moved to continue with the ash pit improvements, including installing an ash pit in Silverton. He noted that the recommendation is subject to an inspection by SJBHD and their recommendations. Julie updated the group about her conversations with the Town of Silverton's Manager Devin Granberry, Town Trustee Jan Brookshire, and San Juan County Commissioner Pete McKay. There were some concerns that people raised regarding an ash pit in Silverton, however ultimately the Town Manager explained the process the town went through and the outcome of meetings from about a year ago. Julie passed around the information Devin faxed to her, including a letter from the Town Manager which states that the Town has approved an ash pit. Jerry seconded. Motion passed. *Task Force's second recommendation.*