

December 17, 2010

To: Board of Teton County Commissioners, Mayor Barron and Jackson Town Council  
CC: Jeff Daugherty and Tyler Sinclair  
Re: Dec. 20 & 21 Discussions regarding Subcommittee Recommendation for the draft Comprehensive Plan  
Submitted via email

Dear Commissioners, Mayor and Council,

Given the Conservation Alliance's work to ensure responsible land stewardship in Jackson Hole, we are writing in regard to your December 20 & 21 discussions on your review process for the draft Comprehensive Plan. As our community nears the beginning of the fifth year of this "update" process, the Alliance looks forward to continuing our active participation as you move into your discussions and review of the latest draft plan.

While we understand that you do not intend to make a final decision on hiring a facilitator until January 3, we respectfully request that you keep the following comments in mind during your continuing discussions.

*Initial Objectives of the Process*

As we stated at the December JIM meeting, we believe that considerable attention should be given to creating consensus on whether the original objectives of this "update" process are still your objectives. If so, how will you work with the facilitator to ensure these objectives are addressed within a six-month timeline? (See the original RFP from January 2007, as well as earlier published materials from Clarion and Associates.)

*Future Land Use Plan (FLUP)*

Is there still a 65-page section (the FLUP) of the draft on the table that you envision being adopted as part of the plan within the six-month timeframe? If so, how will the public be involved in reviewing it? This section of the plan was initially designed to be an essential part of the final product - and not an addendum. In order to make meaningful comments on the draft, the public must understand whether you envision that only the "Themes and Policies" (without an associated FLUP) would be an acceptable replacement of our existing plan. This is a key point moving forward - and one that the public, as well as a potential facilitator, would need to understand, particularly when considering anticipated timelines for public participation, plan review and adoption.

*Subcommittee Meetings*

As a public participant in all aspects of the "update" process, the Conservation Alliance would like to make specific, constructive comments regarding the nature of your upcoming review - including establishing opportunities for effective public engagement. However, given the brevity of discussions on the Comprehensive Plan at JIM meetings, and given that meetings of the subcommittee have not been open to the public, it is difficult to provide comments in a manner that is specific enough to be helpful. In the future, because *key* discussions occur and recommendations are formulated via subcommittee, it would be helpful to clarify which meetings of certain subcommittees should be open to the public for observation. That way, it would be clearer for the public to understand how significant decisions and recommendations are made. (For one example, the public was able to observe the in-person interviews for the planning consultant finalists at the onset of this "update" process. Recent interviews were not open to the public.)

Thank you very much for your consideration, open communication, and all your efforts with this important planning process for our community.

Happy Holidays!

Kristy Bruner, Community Planning Director & Becky Tillson, Community Planning Associate