



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance  
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*Below is an outline of comments that Alliance Executive Director Trevor Stevenson presented at the Teton Board of County Commissioners and Jackson Town Council joint information meeting on July 11, 2011.*

## **Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Comments on Character District Mapping**

Honorable public officials of Jackson Hole:

### **Public Participation**

1. Emphasize importance of public participation: It produces data, and brings community together around a common vision
2. My training and experience in Participatory Community Mapping methodology
3. I would like to work with AECOM and staff to incorporate more participatory methods into this next phase, based on proven techniques

### **Highlighting a few major concerns with the current public participation proposal before you:**

1. Overall, the process looks more like “informing” the public rather than involving the public, which would violate key principles of the approaches I have studied and worked with. Since this plan is supposed to reflect the community’s vision, it is very important that the public be meaningfully involved, especially during the community mapping.
2. For example, on page 5 of AECOM’s scope of work, it explains that neighborhood meetings “will include drop-in options... for neighbors to review materials and **observe the ongoing work session.**” An opportunity to observe is not sufficient at this stage of the process. I’d like to offer some alternative methodologies to AECOM and staff for this, but elected officials would need to clearly state agreement that observation is not what you are looking for in terms of participation.
3. Second, I would recommend at least two rounds of meetings be physically held in each neighborhood. The current proposal includes one “observe” meeting in each neighborhood, and a second “open house drop-in” held in a central location. Both should be held on-site, and should include more meaningful participation.

### **Public Notice**

1. Please develop the overall schedule of events as soon as possible, and publish it.
2. Please make sure you release all relevant documents at least two weeks before each meeting, so the public has time to review the materials and discuss this with their friends and neighbors.

### **Data-Driven Mapping**

1. “Appropriate areas for development” need to be identified by data, not opinions
2. Planning expert Roger Millar recently gave a presentation on how data was used to develop a mapping framework for where development should be concentrated, which was used to guide residents as they made decisions about their individual neighborhoods.
3. I would encourage you to compile all existing data and develop overlay maps as a starting point for the Character District Mapping.
  - a. This should include the most up-to-date data available from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, for example
  - b. It should also include the Natural Resources Overlay and Scenic Resources Overlay maps, bearing in mind we will be updating the NRO soon and will need to adjust plans accordingly.

Action Plan

1. I appreciate your strong commitment to making an action plan
2. I ask that you develop a draft Action Plan by the August joint information meeting
  - a. In particular, this should include detail on how to initiate tasks that will inform the mapping phase of the Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan.
    - i. You committed to forming a Transfer Task Force for example, so let's work to get that task force and other urgent studies clearly designed by August, and figure out what data we need to have available for that phase.

The Alliance will continue to work hard to assist the community in developing a Comprehensive Plan that achieves our shared vision for the future of Jackson Hole. We would particularly welcome suggestions for how we can be most helpful in this exciting new planning phase.

Thank you.



Trevor Stevenson  
Executive Director