

SAVE OUR SOUTH PARK WATER 08

Good Afternoon:
August 18, 2008

We have scheduled a meeting for our group on Sat., Aug. 30 at 1:30 pm in the Hartsel Community Center. We will have an update on activities, financial report, presentation of a "first draft" of our slide show/video and an open forum.

We attended the Park County Land and Water Trust Advisory Board meeting on Sat. Aug. 9. We asked for \$2100 of financial help in completing our mailing to approximately 3000 additional landowners in the surrounding area. We also requested that they recommend to the county commissioners that a notice regarding the proposed mine be sent with the property tax bills in 2009. They agreed to take both requests under advisement.

The advisory board did adopt a resolution recommending that the County Commissioners implement the 1041 review process for mining. Up to now, Park County has limited the 1041 process to water and wildlife issues. As we have mentioned here previously, the 1041 process is provided for in state statute and is essentially a hearing conducted by the commissioners acting in a quasi judicial capacity. Both proponent and opponents of a project are given an opportunity to present their case and the commissioners then render a decision.

Based upon my limited understanding, it can be a complicated and expensive process where the proponent of a project has to cover all costs for expert testimony and research presented to the commissioners. I believe this must be paid up front by the proponent and is non-refundable. We will continue to monitor the situation and support the implementation of 1041 mining regulation.

It has been about 3 months since we completed the last of our mailings to landowners. We mailed approximately 2200 pieces and received about 75 email responses and 50 stamped, self-addressed envelopes from owners without email. Many local owners have also started to attend our meetings and get updates from neighbors, the Mercantile, the Post Office and the great folks at the Hartsel Library. A few were still trickling in as late as yesterday. That constitutes about a 5% response, which is consistent with our original estimate.

We believe that all landowners in the area should be notified of the proposed mine and until Park County or some other entity takes responsibility, we should continue with our efforts.

The district 3 Republican primary election was won by Mark Dowaliby over Lillian Wissel. Mark is currently unopposed in the general election in November. We extend our congratulations to Mark and look forward to working with him for the next two years.

We hope to have some significant news to report on the 30th regarding our ongoing efforts with USGS and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. We also anticipate that the ruling making process to implement HB 1161 will get started in September.

Best regards,

Doran