

Berthoud Area Meeting Notes

2/24/2014

About 25 community members in attendance

What do you like?

- Doing great job of taking care of County Road 8. The snow plows do a great job!
- At the state land and County Road 8, someone put up some trees as a wind break to make the road safer.
- Atta boy for the County—consistently maintaining the roads.

What do you want?

- Neighbors of agricultural uses complain. Can we make the regulations any stronger than the right-to-farm policy? We are going to start having more issues with people moving here from out of state.
- Can we force people to sign-off that they have read and received a copy of the Code of the West document when buying property or issuing a building permit? Prefer to have them sign off on it at closing and agree to abide by it.
- How do people get the right-to-farm policy? If we don't send it out somehow, people may not know about it or that it exists.
- Educate the real estate agents about the right-to-farm policies or change the language of how it is communicated. Can we create a form similar to the "lead-based paint form" that people have to sign when buying a lot?
- Possibly provide more education to homeowners' associations about the right-to-farm policy.
- Do we have any say regarding trucks associated with oil & gas? Want more restrictions on noise, light and county road use for trucks associated with drilling for oil & gas. There are many impacts on the surrounding areas from oil & gas drilling, particularly the traffic associated with the use. Can you restrict what roads they use? It will only get busier.
- Does the County have input into visual barriers for oil & gas drilling?
- Want more noxious weed education from the Weed District. Need more outreach in this area.
- Would like to see more patrols on County Roads.
- Keep Berthoud rural. Rural to us is: Open fields, county roads remaining dirt roads—not paving any more roads, preserved views without rooftops—minimize urban sprawl, being able to see cows/horses every ¼ mile and it being ok to have goats, want to see farmland and tractors, limit development density.
- How do we keep Berthoud rural if we can't control our boundaries. How do we help do that when the Town of Berthoud annexes? How do we keep them from doing that? Is this issue covered by State law? Want a solid agreement between the Town and the County and a much stronger intergovernmental agreement with agreed upon growth management areas. Would like more than a single Commissioner advocate for annexation vote.

- What rights do County citizens have to direct the town and the growth management area? We have no representation on the Town board. Answer: Best way is to communicate your desires to the Board of County Commissioners.
- What would be an example of when the County would say no to an annexation? Answer: The County can disagree but nothing prohibits towns from doing it?
- Coleman Reservoir is an eyesore. Can anyone look at that? Answer from ditch rider: Owners (houses surrounding the lake) don't want to pay money to put water into it. Seepage versus storage.
- Would like to see larger cash crops allowed, such as hemp/marijuana. There is an event in Windsor on April 5 from 11-6 at Ricky B's Sports Bar to learn about the topic.
- If marijuana grows start up, would hope to have regulations about odors from these operations.
- Who plans the stop lights on State highways? I would like to see the stop lights be treated like railroad crossings, where there is a limit to the number of them allowed. If one is put up, one should have to come down.
- Would like to start up a farmers' market again. What resources are available? Previous one failed due to organizational and tax issues.

What needs to be improved or changed?

- Bicycle race permits need to be modified that requires bicyclists to share the road with the community. Can't even get out of the house sometimes. Particularly on County Roads 21 and 23.
- Bicycles ride in groups that are 2 to 3 abreast. It is difficult to drive around them. Even though they can ride side by side, the law states they are not to impede traffic. This information needs to be communicated to this bicycle community. Could there be signs posted for them or public service announcements about it?
- Enforcement could be not to allow bike races any more if bikers don't follow the rules. Maybe the Sherriff could start writing tickets. They could get lots of money on County Road 23.
- Plus there are still roads damaged by the floods with no shoulders and bikes still ride on those roads causing problems. Can bike lanes be added/widened or shoulders added they can ride on?
- There are many drain tiles in the area that are vital to the overall drainage in the area. If ground is being developed for residential purposes, is there any consideration for those existing drainage lines? Are they identified? If not, this can affect others' irrigation and can create water backing up on other's properties. Would like to see these located when development occurs. Mr. Lempka indicated he might be a resource to help locate them.
- The County should pay the contractors that are fixing the flooded roads.

Anything else you want us to know?

- Not many farmers left in the southern part of the County. Needed infrastructure is lacking. Implement dealers not even close. Can't really farm here anymore—it is impractical. We can't burn ditches, can't buy water, can't apply chemicals, aerial applicators won't come—all because of frivolous lawsuits.

- There is a meeting coming up regarding the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration. The Big Thompson Conservation District is leading it. This meeting is scheduled for March 8th at 9:00 am in the Berthoud Community Center. Affiliated parties or any property owners near the river should attend. You can find information on the website at <http://www.bigthompson.org/>
- Concerned Berthoud won't be able to maintain roads as well as the County if land is annexed.
- If the community would like to stop fracking, we should get involved in water law. Their use of water is a misnomer. Technically, they are not using the water legally. There are three types of water: municipal use, agricultural use and industrial use. By law, they can't buy water from town as they are doing now.