

# **Buckeye Area Meeting Notes**

## **10/23/2013**

Approximately 8 citizens in attendance

### **What do you like?**

- Rural feel of area

### **What do you want?**

- Conserve/protect rural area by protecting crop farming and ranching
- Not too restrictive rules—more common sense applied
- No roundabouts up here. Heard they are putting one at County Road 70 and County Road 19. Is that true?

### **What needs to be improved or changed?**

- There is a lot of government owned land in the area. Don't like to see the government surround my ranch. No opportunities left to expand ranch. County leasing their land also created some conflict. When leasing from county open space, have a whole other set of issues—such as public deciding how we can ranch, the watering holes were fenced off, public seeing ranchers on land where they are not suppose to be and trying to find ways to get to it, etc. It just isn't the same as renting from another rancher. Also created the public trespassing on ranch land.
- Zoning regulations too much/too many layers.
- Government doesn't make it easy to have farm help. Too many regulations. Need more common sense applied in rural areas. Currently have property with 3 old homes. Just want to tear one down and clean up property, but if do, will lose non-conforming status and concerned will have difficult time rebuilding it later. Shouldn't be required to divide up the farm to have a farm help house. Setbacks also a problem.
- Need easier process for burning wood piles. Can't even burn a pile of wood. Used to be able to go to fire department to get a permit. Now have all these layers to go through. Leaves us no choice but to leave it lay.
- Building code regulations too restrictive, time consuming, expensive and not clear. Building permits for ag buildings are an issue. Don't want to contact County for loafing sheds so everyone puts them on skids. Had to go through a lot of hoops to get a shed that wasn't on skids. Too many layers and very awkward. Loosen up regulations for agricultural buildings—too many regulations/steps/inspections, process too long. Use checklists for inspections to cover more items with fewer visits and less required dollars. Too much of: do this, then next visit do that. Catch all items at one inspection instead of multiple inspections which require multiple corrections. Would be helpful to call to schedule time if don't hear from owners.
- More flexibility for businesses
- Make it easier to subdivide—more options/fewer steps.

- Animal regulations are not right but not sure how could be changed. The guidelines in the Code are misleading to those not familiar with the area landscape. More realistic guidelines for number of animals per acre might help. Need more education opportunities available. However, need to be careful not to cross line with ranches—they manage different with larger parcels versus smaller parcels.
- Can't build new reservoirs—but yet want us to keep farming. Could have collected a lot of water over the last few weeks. Enough water has been lost to downstream over the last few years that the storage could have made a large impact on agriculture in the County.
- If the County wants to keep agriculture viable in the County, the County has to help us with water. City owns all the water and doesn't rent it back.
- Extension of the weight limits on County roads during harvest might help. Nebraska does this.
- Have a problem with the residences on farmland and the rate of taxation for them. A lot of things we don't have out here that we have to pay for ourselves but yet we are taxed like a city residence.
- Wonder if County could contract more of the road work out—seems like high cost to maintain equipment and purchase it.
- The County can't control everything and can't make everyone safe.
- Let us have more options and less rules and regulations.
- Dust regulations alone were almost a problem for us.
- Farming like we know it won't be in County for long if water issue isn't dealt with. The money the County and City spent on the open space and water creates competition for farmers and makes it even harder to keep farming. All water going to municipalities. How many years can we sustain the costs when can't get the needed water.

### **Anything else you want us to know?**

- Traffic to Red Mountain open space is too much in a rural area
- Barking dogs and loud/dog kennels are problematic/not wanted.
- 35 and 40-acre development just spreads out the development
- Is the County going to oil any roads anytime soon, if so, what roads.
- Owl Canyon bypass—why is it happening? Why is it a priority? Seems like an unnecessary expense.
- How did the residents of Rawhide Flats get their road designated as a County Road? How does it work that the City maintains it?
- Are they going to use the landfill up at county Road 9?
- Rural residents get out voted by urban residents. We get what others don't want.
- Keep Wellington in Wellington. Proposed growth management area too large.
- When the work was done on County Road 80 last year, they banked it up so much that it is dangerous. Not sure of reason and seems narrower. Why?
- Probably don't need anymore signage on the road—getting carried away.
- Concerns with heavy haul trucks (4-5 a day) on County Road 80

- Have real concerns for future generations and having the ability to feed ourselves.
- Somehow need to help educate on how everyone is tied to agriculture—everyone eats. Today, people don't see the social fabric of agriculture and how we are all connected to it.
- New creative ideas need to be allowed and open in agricultural areas. Need diversity of food/ag available. Need to encourage this within specialty crops and businesses.
- Can have all these wonderful ideas but without water, doesn't do much good. Not being able to harvest water off roof is ridiculous.