

*Jackson Town Council and Teton Board of County Commissioners joint information meeting, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, verbal public comments regarding next steps in the process of the continuing Comprehensive Plan review.*

Kristy Bruner, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance. Thank you for the opportunity to make a brief comment and request. Overall, we're pleased to see that you are not moving forward with a specific decision today on a facilitator given that there are still many outstanding questions about the expected scope of work.

Within the finalists' responses to the Request for Qualifications, there is considerable mention of being in the final decision-making phase of this process. While in some respects this may be relatively true, it's not the whole picture. Specifically, before suggesting that we are in final phase, the public needs clarification on your intentions regarding the 65-page portion of the plan known as the Future Land Use Plan. Because of the way the Themes and Policies segment is currently framed in the draft plan, it wouldn't be a stand-alone document capable of providing clear guidance on major issues, and therefore shouldn't stand alone as our new comprehensive plan. Specifically, **is there still a 65-page section (the FLUP) 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?** Whatever direction you're heading with this portion of the plan, which was clearly designed to be a vital part of the final product – and not an addendum or a next step – it would be helpful to clarify intentions to the public. That way, the anticipated process is more understandable for everyone – including potential facilitators.

We'd also like to make a specific request as you review and discuss your potential contract work, if that is the direction you take. It's more in regard to the process as a whole – and the need to address some fundamentals before initiating your review of the latest draft. If it hasn't already been done, before contracting with a new firm for a “public process design” component, **we believe it would be beneficial to review the original Request for Proposals for consultants that was released in January 2007.** This document provides a great summary of the community's “wish list of questions and concepts to address in the update,” describing the input for why we needed to undertake the update process in the first place.

While we recognize that the process may have changed over time, the fundamental goals should still be fundamental – not lost. So, instead of a starting point of focusing on what's right and what's wrong with the latest draft, **first take the time to step back and clarify your original hopes for a new plan. It's quite interesting to review what was actually done over the last several years versus what our community first set out to do.** The past aside, creating consensus about the specific questions you want the new plan to answer – in other words, a refined “wish list” at the onset of your review – could help you proceed more efficiently.

We appreciate your close attention to this process, to strong public involvement and to the final document, given its importance to the community for many years ahead.

Thank you.