

*Verbal comments made by Kristy Bruner, Conservation Alliance community planning director, during the Jackson Town Council and Teton Board of County Commissioners joint information meeting on Jan. 4, 2011, regarding hiring a facilitator to help with the remaining review of the draft Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan.*

We would like to make a brief comment today. Based on the information that was included in the staff report, we have a number of questions and comments regarding the proposed scope of work (particularly some of the later steps) that we will submit to you in written form. Without getting into the details today, we would just note that the statement on page 3, under task 1-5, which says “further discussion will be needed with elected officials on both the amount and timing of public input and the treatment of the Future Land Use Plan” sums up the lingering – but key – concerns, which have not yet been addressed. It seems like it would be very difficult to sign on to a 6-month timeline, including all five steps, before adequately addressing and/or gaining consensus on these two critical issues: 1) sufficient opportunities for public input and 2) the potential for the “Themes and Policies” to stand alone as a new comprehensive plan without the accompanying Land Use Plan.

Meeting dates, including content of discussion topics, etc., should be available to the public well in advance of opportunities for public input.

As it stands today, the public remains unclear as to what they should be commenting on. Specifically, the public is not aware of whether the Future Land Use Plan will be a part of the adopted plan. The answer to this would dramatically change the nature of our comments on the plan, including the extent to which modifications to the draft are needed. The sooner this issue is clarified for the public, the better. In response to some of the comments made earlier in this meeting, we would assert that the Future Land Use Plan is not as simplistic as described. This section of the plan includes considerable narrative and prioritizes the varying themes among different land use districts. The public should be allowed to actively participate in the Future Land Use Plan’s review – it is an important component of the overall plan.

Also, as we have stated before, because the process has veered so far away from the initial objective to simply update our existing plan – and as a result has caused a lot of confusion for the public – it seems quite optimistic to assume that a complete, comprehensive document will be ready for adoption in six months.