



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
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We'll be watching

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance has been deeply involved with the Comprehensive Plan revision process since the beginning. We have consistently worked to provide positive, thoughtful and well-researched comments to both the planning team and the community.

We, like many, were shocked at the turn of events that occurred at the July 9 joint Town of Jackson and Teton County Planning Commission workshop, when the County Planning Commission reversed its June 29 decision, which directed the planning staff to generate a new draft plan incorporating 35 extensive recommendations passed by a majority of commissioners and supported by the attending public. This sudden and unexplained reversal of position puts the County planning process back to dealing chapter by chapter with the April draft plan, which many of us believe to be an exceptionally difficult starting point.

This surprise reversal of position has caused a major breach in public trust for the process and for the actions of some on the Planning Commission. During the County's reversal process that included two votes, not even one second of public comment was allowed. We would have thought that such a significant action would be honored with public comment. And if the reply to this suggestion is – “We have heard from the public,” then I wonder what it is that they have heard?

For months, every public meeting and every issue of the newspaper has been dominated by one theme: We need to proceed down a new path, a path that the public thought began at the June 29 meeting. We, the public, are now left with attempting to repair a very flawed draft plan. We can only hope, as we go forward, that the same County Planning Commissioners will vigorously defend and advocate for the 35 recommendations their majority passed at the June 29 meeting, or have individuals on the commission changed their expressed values too? We will be watching.

Franz J. Camenzind, Executive Director
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance