



JEFFERSON COUNTY
 2014 PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE
 SITE EXPLORATION SUBGROUP

May 22, 2014

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Jefferson County Open Space Office
 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100
 Golden, Colorado 80401

Working Group Member in Attendance	Organization
Mark Loye, Lead Facilitator	Jeffco Mediation Services
Tom Hoby	Jeffco Open Space & Parks
Steve Snyder	Jeffco Attorney's Office
Nancy York	Jeffco Open Space
Russ Clark	Jeffco Planning & Zoning
Rob Thayer	Jeffco Open Space, GIS Analyst
John Litz	PLAN Jeffco
Ed Sutton	Interested Citizen

Meeting Notes

Note: Official (flip chart) meeting notes appear in bold

Transcribed notes (from Nancy York) appear in italics

- **11 Sites provided to be discussed**
 - **Handouts – Spreadsheet and Map**
- **Acreage for sites? All meet the minimum acreage of six acres.**
- **Would be nice to have room to expand (shotgun sports) would be good too.**
- **Could show which sites would qualify.**
- **Timing for building? Around 5 years. This is not probably at the Rocky Flats site.**
- **Blue Stone Quarry not yet in the refuge. ¼ mile off Highway 93.**

- **Need to get more information on need for large range with shotgun sports. Ed Sutton can provide some information including information regarding ranges developed elsewhere by others.**
- **There is a 12th site – owned by Boulder County and within the Town of Superior.**
 - **100 acres**
 - **Presently just unused open space**
 - **Flat part is probably 25 acres**
 - **North of Rocky Flats**
 - **Development pressure for encroaching homes should be small.**

Ed Sutton, not having attended the first Site Exploration Subgroup meeting on March 25, 2014, was in disagreement with this group on what the scope of a facility should be. He's calling into question the intent of our efforts with what he believes the Board of County Commissioners wishes in conversations he's had with one of the Commissioners.

Mark Loye stated this will be a topic for the full group on 6/4/14 to discuss further. Ed is interested in a larger, more regional in scale, facility with large acreage that can accommodate more lanes of rifle, pistol and other shooting sports, competitive and trap and skeet. This group has identified the minimum acreage to be 6 acres. This could accommodate pistol and rifle lanes and seems the most feasible given the limited opportunities for land availability and proximity to a dense, suburban County population.

The group discussed again the "would be nice if we could accommodate" list that includes trap and skeet, which requires more acreage. More discussion will be needed on what to do with this concept in the final report.

Mark Loye: The minimum acreage turned out to be 6 acres, but if we found a site that could accommodate more shooting sports, then we could continue to pursue them. Finding the minimum acreage is a good first task and then we can go from there.

Russ Clark: on our spreadsheet, we could have a column with "room to expand": yes or no. For those properties that have yes's and no's in the column denoting basic criteria of ¼ mile from recreation amenities and ½ mile from residential and non-residential structures, the areas are so big that some areas may be possible while others may not (we should use asterisk to denote whether all or some do or don't meet).

Tom Hoby: For areas that meet basic criteria, and we want to get a shooting range built in less than 2 or 5 years, if it's within Rocky Flats, that may not happen in that time frame. Blue Stone Quarry, owned by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and planned for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge, is within 1/4 mile of Hwy 93 and decommissioning the area is an issue.

Tom Hoby: On the visual impacts evaluation criteria, the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Plan was used. This plan has been a guiding force in the

preservation of the Hogback and environs in Jefferson County for the last 20+ years. Over \$80 Million of taxpayer dollars and 15,000 acres have been preserved using this multi-county plan in Jefferson County alone. From northern to southern borders in Colorado, additional millions have been expended and thousands of acreage preserved. It is an important plan in the preservation of visual and natural resources in our County.

Ed Sutton: Shooting sports are increasing, and private ranges are being closed. Outdoor shooting opportunities are dwindling in our area. Ed mentioned close to 3 million people in the Denver metropolitan area, and although there is no easy way to estimate how many are shooters, his previous statements lead him to believe that there is great demand for a regional-scale public, outdoor shooting range in the area. County facilities across the United States to do market analyses that we could also conduct in the next phase of this effort. The methods employed are important, although the specific data won't apply to us in Jefferson County.

The charge of this group at this time is to narrow the list of potential properties to be proposed to the Board of County Commissioners. If this is too challenging, we should note in the report that no property seems to meet all criteria.

Based on the properties discussed by the group, it was decided that they would be organized in tiers 1, 2 and "needs more information."

Tier 1: Meet most of requirements and have challenges that are resolvable, but they seem to meet BCC's description of what range is going to be (based in what Ed Sutton has discussed with one Commissioner). The plenary Working Group, set to meet on June 4th, can weigh in on this approach. Tier 2: Meets some requirements, but have additional challenges that may not be resolvable. And "needs more information" requires further exploration and conversations, perhaps in the next phase of work.

Mark Loye mentioned that he will bring up the topic of minimum acreage decided on by this group and agreed upon by the plenary Working Group since Ed Sutton would like to see that happen one last time. Ed is interested in pursuing a large, regional-scale public shooting range facility. This matter needs to be decided for the final report due to the Board of County Commissioners in July 2014.