

## **Master Plan Update – ROCC Alert**

**What:** The first “Town Hall” meeting on the County Master Plan Update

**When:** Tuesday April 25 at 2:00 to 7:00 PM

**Where:** The 4H Center in Ridgway

**Why You Should Attend:** The County Planning Commission (“PC”) and the planning consultants want input on your concerns about the County and its future. They will use your input to prepare a County-wide survey to help focus the Master Plan Update process on what matters to people. This is one of the few chances we have to impact the outcome so PLEASE try to attend!

**Background:** The legally-required Master Plan is a comprehensive, long-term guide for decision-making by the County. It can cover such issues as zoning and land use, housing, agriculture, mining, recreation and tourism, water, scenic and natural resources, wildlife, etc. - most anything that affects the quality of life in Ouray County. But, the current Master Plan, adopted in 1999, is out-of-date. Hence, the current update process.

**What to Expect at the Town Hall:** There will be four main “stations” for different topic areas. At each station there will be a consultant representative, maps, handouts, information, and a questionnaire.

**Most important is your opportunity to provide additional written comments on the issues that concern you. Don’t rely on oral communications only. Your written comments will be key to making sure that the PC and the consultants hear your voice.** The four stations are listed below with some concerns that the ROCC Master Plan Update Committee has identified, but you probably have others as well. Use your own words when commenting – identically-worded comments will likely be disregarded.

### **But First, A Couple of REALLY Important General Comments to Make:**

- **THE UPDATED MASTER PLAN SHOULD BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE, NOT JUST EMPTY GENERALITIES. INCLUDE SPECIFIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS** like Ridgway’s and Ouray’s.
- Include a separate Recreation topic in the updated Master Plan and designate Alpine roads for over-the-snow access only.

### **Land Use and Built Environment:**

- Preserve the County’s low-density rural character.
- Maintain the current 35-acre zoning in Valley and Alpine areas.
- Maintain strong and effective development regulations in Alpine areas.
- Maintain strong view preservation regulations.
- Continue intergovernmental agreements that direct commercial and urban development to Ridgway and Ouray and maintain the low-density rural character of rest of County.
- A future with limited water availability is reality and development regulations should require proof of long-term supply.
- Maintain strong and effective wildfire mitigation regulations.

### **Infrastructure:**

- Address water quality and supply - for both domestic and agricultural uses – as a separate topic in the updated Master Plan. Include watershed health and abandoned mine cleanup, supply

limits on growth in both towns and rural areas, conservation measures, etc. (Did you know that an expensive diversion ditch and dam on Cow Creek are being proposed instead of ag water conservation?).

- With climate change, ongoing mega drought and conflict over water in the Colorado River Basin, an unwise amount of development will cause supply problems for everyone in the County. Our development regulations should recognize that reality. Encouraging conservation in both ag and housing is essential.

#### **Natural Environment:**

- Preserve and protect our Dark Skies with efficient exterior lighting to maintain our spectacular nighttime views, minimize impacts on wildlife, and conserve energy.
- Identify and protect critical wildlife habitat areas, migration routes and winter range in the valleys.
- Our public lands are experiencing much destruction from increased tourism and random dispersed camping. We need to encourage more commercial camping – not prohibit them as we do now.
- Invasive weed control is vital to our ecosystems.
- Encourage energy conservation and other measures to combat climate change.
- Encourage high wage businesses that cause no pollution and need limited water.

#### **Socioeconomics:**

- Encourage affordable workforce housing in appropriate areas with existing water, sewer, and other utilities.
- Should additional cannabis cultivation facilities be allowed?
- Encourage additional childcare operations for working parents.