

Notes from Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution (WMCI) Prison Community Partnership Committee Meeting

April 15, 2009 – Tebbett Room 131, Eastern Wyoming College

6:00 p.m.

Notes taken by Melinda Brazzale, corrected on 4/20/09

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Rick Patterson.
- Everyone introduced him/herself. The following were in attendance.
  - **PCPC Committee members:** Mike Carr, Don Dungan, Tim Ellis, Martin Gubbels, Dee Ludwig, Bob Mayor, Don Murphy, Gary Olson, Rick Patterson, Jeff Robertson, Rhonda Schulte, Karen Smith, Steve Smith; ex-officio members Bob Lampert and Leroy Schafer; (**PCPC members not present:** Doug Chamberlain, Sue Davis, Frances Dooley-Baker, Steve Fullmer, Paul Puebla, Sam Wagner, Earl Warren; ex-officio Robert Ward)
  - **Community members:** Holly Branham, EWC; Amanda Brown and Doug Brown, Layton Construction; Bev Burroughs, First State Bank; Justin Davis, Chamber Ambassador; Jim Jensen; Ashley Harpstreith, Chamber Ambassador; Lisa Johnson, Goshen County Economic Development; Gary Korell, Goshen County Road & Bridge Superintendent; Tiphonie Lofink, First National Bank; Neil Newman, Hi Plains Construction; Gilbert Servantez, Department of Workforce Services; Ray Schulte, Superintendent of Schools; Kendra Stienmetz, First National Bank; Bob Taylor, Goshen County surveyor; Cheryl Yeik
  - **WDOC staff members:** Jason Bauer, Torrington WDOC Field Services Office; Rob Branham, Wheatland WDOC Field Services Office; Melinda Brazzale, Cheyenne; Greg Davis, Wyoming State Penitentiary; Garry Halter, Wyoming Women's Center; Bernice Madvig, WMCI; Mike Murphy, WMCI; Mike Pacheco, WMCI
  - **Media:** Rachel Koon, *Torrington Telegram*; Sandra Hansen, *Scottsbluff Herald*; Melissa Allan, News Director, *KGOS/KERM*
- Minutes from January 15 2009 were passed unanimously.
- Director Bob Lampert discussed the state of the economy and how it was affecting the Department of Corrections.
  - He said that on May 1, 2009, the governor should be indicating actual impacts to our budget and hiring. The director said that there's no question but that the economy will affect our budget. At this time, it's not clear how much and where.
  - It's not expected to affect the opening of, and hiring for the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution. It may affect our hiring time lines and our first training academy for the WMCI. We may be looking at having our first training academy start at the end of August, rather than the previously announced July date.
  - Substantial completion is still scheduled to be by the end of November 2009, with inmates arriving around mid-January 2010. We may not be able to start out with our full treatment agenda; that remains to be seen. Our contracts may be affected.
  - There is a state hiring freeze in place; however, we have an ability to ask for exceptions. Our department will be putting together a request, outlining our hiring needs, including that for the WMCI. The contracts don't affect actual state employees. The director said that our core essentials will be in place, but we may have to scale down for the time

being. Also, medical and mental health staff members have to, and will be, contracted for.

- Rick Patterson discussed the need to fill the first vice chairman and second vice chairman positions for the PCPC. He said that Steve Fullmer had agreed to be first vice chair if elected, and Karen Smith had agreed to be second vice chair if elected. There being no nominations from the floor, Steve and Karen were elected unanimously. Congratulations to each of them.
- Rick introduced new Warden Mike Murphy. Mr. Murphy is leaving his post as warden at the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins to come to Torrington. He joins Mike Pacheco, who had previously been introduced as WMCI deputy warden. Mr. Murphy said his short term goal is getting the prison up and running. His longer term goal is to “set the institutional culture.” He is excited about doing this, making this institution the kind of place that other institutions around Wyoming and around the U.S. want to find out about; want to model. He said the main leadership is in place and he has excellent team members. He’ll come on board, working out of the Cheyenne office, May 4, 2009.
- Rick Patterson and Mike Pacheco discussed the year-long sabbatical that Rick will be taking from Eastern Wyoming College, starting early summer 2009, to work with the Wyoming Department of Corrections. He will be experiencing and studying the “amazing opportunity” to watch an institution start-up. Mike said that the department will be using Rick’s expertise and background in criminal justice and corrections, and both commented that Rick’s specific tasks will take form as time passes.
- Doug Brown, Layton Construction, gave a construction update. He said from this time on the numbers of construction workers will start to reduce. They are currently at about 300 workers. They’re 75% painted on the inside, working on air handling units and permanent locks, and water treatment. He said that Layton will most likely be on the job through February 2010 as WDOC transitions into the building.
- Bernice Madvig, WMCI HR Manager, added to what the director had already said about hiring. She said that WMCI has nine employees already hired and working in Cheyenne. There are ten transfers currently approved (WDOC staff moving to WMCI from other locations around the department) and they will be transitioning to WMCI in June, July and August. On Monday, April 20, 9 a.m., she’ll be at the Eastern Wyoming College, CTC, conducting correctional officer testing. They’ll be there monthly for a few months and then there more frequently. This is part of the hiring process for uniformed employees.
- Mike Pacheco talked about a “welcome wagon” idea. He said that Rick Patterson, Sue Davis, Polly Helzer, and Bernice Madvig will lead the effort. However, we will not be able to do this alone and Mike asked for volunteers who would work on a committee to make this project happen. Those who volunteered at the meeting are noted at the end of these notes. Anyone else interested in assisting, should contact Bernice Madvig, in Cheyenne, at 777-3647, or e-mail [BMADVI@wdoc.state.wy.us](mailto:BMADVI@wdoc.state.wy.us)

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 15 at Eastern Wyoming College, 3200 W. “C” – **Tebbett 131**. Possibly included on the next agenda would be explanation of procurement and centralized buying and the state vendor list.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteer sheet for Welcome Wagon

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact #</b>
Cheryl Yeik	575-2472
Dee Ludwig	532-8221 (PCPC member and Eastern Wyoming College)
Justin Davis	575-4591 (Chamber Ambassador)
Ashley Harpstreith	532-3090 (Chamber Ambassador)
Tim Ellis	532-8820 (PCPC member)
Bev Burroughs	532-5600 (First State Bank)
Rhonda Schulte	532-3879 (Chamber exec)
Jason L. Bauer	532-7244 (Torrington WDOC Field Services office)
Holly Branham	532-8303 (Eastern Wyoming College)
Gary Olson	532-7515 (PCPC member and T.D.S.)
Neil Newman	532-0069 (or 532-2269?) – Hi Plains Construction
Kendra Stienmetz	532-2173 (First National Bank)
Tiphonie Lofink	532-2173 (First National Bank)

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