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Oil Shale RPC

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ACCOUNT OF EXPENDITURES

of

701 FUNDS

December 1, 1971 - May 31, 1972

THE OIL SHALE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION •

INTRODUCTION

The following report is an account of the expenditures of the 701 Funds contracted to the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission by the Colorado Division of Planning under Contract No. Colo. P-44 (R), Project No. Colo. P-99, Region No. 11. The contract period began December 1, 1971 and terminated May 31, 1972.

The initial sum contracted was \$5,000 which was matched by \$2,500 of local funds. In the beginning of May, 1972, it became apparent that additional funds would be required to finance the necessary activities until the beginning of the next fiscal funding year. At this time a sum of \$858 was added to the contracted sum and was matched by \$429 of money contributed by Rio Blanco County.

The general duties required by the contract are as follows:

- Coordinate and assist local governmental units in meeting the needs of an oil shale industry through a planning program.
- Act as liaison between local, state and federal governments, and the oil shale industry concerning the socio-economic impact study of oil shale development.
- Provide an educational program to aid local understanding of oil shale development.
- Develop a planning program with budget for the regional commission and carry out other appropriate administrative responsibilities.

The Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission came into existence in July of 1971. In December of the same year they acquired funds and a Planning Coordinator, Miss Barbara Bowes, to administer their planning program. In March of 1972 they acquired a full-time secretary, Mrs. Connie Hill. It should be noted that during the six month period between December and May, the Commission had available for its use only the \$8787 of 701 matching funds. No other monies were acquired. This, obviously, limited the breadth and depth of the work accomplished.

It should also be noted that a disproportionate amount of the staff time was devoted to getting underway a Land Use/Socio-Economic Study. This is one of the four studies on the impact of oil shale development requested by the Governor of Colorado for which the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission was designated contracting agent. Although the results of the study will help assess the impact of oil shale development, its primary value to the Commission is that the information that will be collected and analyzed for the study lays the necessary groundwork for developing a Master Development Plan for the tri-county area, hence the value for spending so many man-hours on the initiation of this project.

Finally, it should be noted that the Commission does not intend to concentrate a disproportionate amount of its time and resources on oil shale development in the future; there are other forces at play in the tri-county region which demand equal and immediate attention. The Work Program outlined in Appendix A will reflect this in greater detail.

Barbara Bowes
Planning Coordinator

COORDINATE AND ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS
IN MEETING THE IMPACT OF AN OIL SHALE INDUSTRY
THROUGH A PLANNING PROGRAM

- Assisted Garfield in acquiring \$5,000 of Land Use Commission funds. These funds were used to hire Jerry Brown, a local consultant, to map and zone the balance of the county and update subdivision regulation.
- Assisted Rio Blanco County in acquiring \$1,330 of Land Use Commission funds in coordination with Moffat County. These funds were used to hire a staff planner, Jim Peterson, for the two county area.
- Assisted Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties in developing a criteria for, and the selection of a staff planner.
- Meetings with the Eagle County Planning Commission on coordinating their efforts with those of Garfield County.
- Meetings with Moffat County to explore the possibility of their participation in the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission.
- Established periodical meetings of the professional planners from Garfield, Rio Blanco, and Mesa Counties to (a) provide orientation for Jim Peterson, (b) discuss legislation that had occurred in the recent months, (c) disseminate information that had come into the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission office that was useful to the counties, (d) coordinate the planning efforts in the three counties.
- Established meetings with the Resource Conservation and Development Boards in Region 11 and 12 to examine roles in the local planning process.
- Established meetings of the nine County Commissioners to discuss the activities of the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission and to generate discussion among them regarding the coordination of planning efforts in the tri-county area.
- Attended and participated in hearings on the Rio Blanco nuclear shot and the alignment of Interstate 70.

- Attended hearings in the individual counties on the updated Subdivision Regulations and the Planned Unit Development Regulations

- Meeting with the Colorado Housing Incorporated on the housing needs for the tri-county area.

ASSESSMENT

A great deal more work is needed in this area. The counties are at three very different levels of planning sophistication. Garfield County is in need of hiring a staff planner and engineer, as well as completing the zoning of the western end of the county and adopting mobile home regulations. The coordination of the three-county planning efforts almost constitutes a full-time job.

ACT AS LAISON BETWEEN LOCAL, STATE AND
FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE OIL SHALE INDUSTRY
CONCERNING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY.

- Acquired the county contributions (\$1,666 each) for the study funding.
- Attended meetings of the Governor's Subcommittee for designing the study.
- Attended meetings and interviews with representatives of the Federal, State governments, and with private industry regarding the details of the study.
- Gathered the necessary information and composing the Request For Proposal.
- Established a list of and having interviews with seventeen potential consultants.
- Examined the possibility of the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission developing its own in-house team to conduct the study.
- Held proposal readings of the ten final consultants.
- Reviewed proposal readings and determined the final consultant team to undertake the study.
- Negotiations and coordination with the three members of the consultant team. (six meetings)
- Drawing up and approving the contract between The Department of Natural Resources and The Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission.
- Drawing up and approving the contract between the Consultant and the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission, including developing the work program for the study.
- Attended and/or called meetings of the Study Monitoring Committee (four to five meetings).

ASSESSMENT

To date this responsibility has demanded heavy concentrations of time and attention, due primarily to the complicated system of coordination and checks and balances involved in letting the contract. The process should be well enough under way by June, 1972, to reduce the time spent on the study substantially.

PROVIDE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO AID LOCAL UNDERSTANDING OF OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT.

- Met with County Commissioners to explain Land Use Study.
- Spoke to the Tri-County Women's Clubs to explain Land Use Study.
- Discussed with planning commissions and the local citizens and interested groups in the tri-county area to determine their wants and needs from the planning process.
- Educational process within the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission. Many of the functions which might have been carried more expeditiously through small committee action such as the hiring of a director and the hearing of the ten consultants' study proposals, were done by involving the entire Commission. Although this required substantially more time, it has helped to establish a valuable foundation of awareness and sophistication of the planning process on the part of the Commissioners. In addition, the content of the meetings has been designed with at least one item of each agenda providing some form of planning education.
- Develop a community education work program
 - Met with local educators and League of Women Voters to determine how such a program might coordinate with their programs.
 - Met with a group of local citizens in Mesa County to get their ideas on a community education program. This group will be used as a control group for some of the educational experiments.
 - Met with the Department of Behavioral Sciences at the University of Colorado on developing a planning game to be used in the tri-county area.

ASSESSMENT

Much more work is needed in this area in the immediate future. The Commission feels it should be a

work item for the coming year and a staff member should spend a majority of his time on it.

The program should not necessarily devote itself to oil shale development, but should be concerned with planning in general. For instance many mistaken comments have been voiced recently about who the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission is and what their function in the tri-county area might be. The education program should include clearing up of such misconceptions. It should attempt to make the citizens of the tri-county area aware of the forces at play, give them tools to cope with the situations, explain the extent of their roles, and allow them to question, experiment with and become involved in the planning process.

Some aspects of the program will include: a publication describing the Oil Shale Regional Planning Commission; slide show presentations, conventional talks to the community interests groups, development of a directory describing speakers with specific fields of expertise that would be available to speak in the tri-county area; a gaming process; development of a curriculum on planning for the public schools. Emphases will be put on involvement types of education as opposed to one-way types of communications.

**DEVELOP A PLANNING PROGRAM AND BUDGET
AND CARRY OUT OTHER APPROPRIATE
ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- Attended and participated in the Land Use Commission Meetings in the four-county area where the local people were determining their planning needs.

- Met with the three county planners, the Chairman of the Western Regional Planning Commission, and members of the Region 11 and Region 12 Resource Conservation and Development groups to coordinate the Commission's work program with their needs and programs.

- The Work Program and Budget are included as Appendix A.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Acquired office space.
- Acquired office furniture.
- Acquired office equipment.
- Established and carried out the bookkeeping responsibilities.
- Developed long range staff needs.
- Hired and funded a staff secretary.
- In the process of hiring a staff director.
- Arrange all Commission regular meetings and committee meetings.
- Conferences
 - Club 20
 - Color Colorado 2050 - Interdepartmental federal conference
 - County Commissioners Conference

ASSESSMENT

At least three staff members in addition to the secretary are needed to meet even the minimum requirements of the projected work program for the coming year. Immediate attention should be given to hiring a director. The office space which is presently located in the Rifle City Hall, rent free, must be moved to accomodate the growing staff needs and the needs of the consultants working on the Land Use Study. This will require a change of buildings and will most likely involve paying rent for the new office space. The office furniture must also be expanded.

