

**Galisteo Watershed Partnership meeting in Galisteo August 4, 2006**  
**Notes from Question and Answer Session**

Q: How can pedestrian and bikeway priorities that are being identified through the Galisteo Village Plan (GVP) be funded by DOT or County transportation programs?

A: *Pedestrian and bikeway issues are under County jurisdiction. Work through Phil Gallegos (County) to ensure priorities are placed into the 5-year STIP.*

Q: Could the DOT use highway signs to encourage use of US 285 as an alternate to traveling through Galisteo?

A: *Yes. Work through regional planning efforts to ensure such ideas make it into the STIP.*

Q: Who has responsibility for traffic control and management along highway?

A: *Santa Fe County.*

Q: How do we keep informed about DOT and County Transportation projects and project schedules?

A: *The NM Department of Transportation (DOT) web site posts project schedules. See [www.nmshtd.state.nm.us](http://www.nmshtd.state.nm.us). You may also contact David Quintana of DOT: [david.quintana@state.nm.us](mailto:david.quintana@state.nm.us), 827-1635. Also David Martinez??*

Phil Gallegos and Robert Martinez are the County contacts.

Q: What can be done about protecting the historic bridge in Galisteo?

A: *The DOT works with the State Historic Preservation Office to protect historic bridges.*

Q: Should the GVP target priority areas for conservation?

A: *Yes. Beth Mills of County Planning will bring this topic into the GVP discussion.*

Q: What about protecting large areas of the Galisteo Basin with Conservation Easements? Can laws be passed to force large landowners to preserve land when they develop?

A: *Individuals must choose to act. The issue becomes how to communicate with landowners to inform them of their options and the conservation values on their property. It is also important to understand how much can be asked of private landowners in the name of conservation.*

Q: Should the GVP identify priority areas for Conservation Easements?

A: *at this time, it's impossible to know whether the GVP committee will be ready to make recommendations.*

Q: What is Earth Works Institute's timetable for restoring wetlands in the Galisteo Watershed?

A: *We are ready now and are scheduling a planning meeting soon. The process will include site assessment, a preliminary plan, and a design before implementation and will involve DOT, Cerro Pelon Ranch, Vista Clara, other upstream owners. Long-*

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*term protection of wetlands will be examined. It's possible that there may be a design by late December and that implementation will take place in spring 2007.*

**Q:** What is the best way to communicate effectively with developers?

*A: (Warren Thompson): Developers tend to feel as though they're under siege and are regarded as the answer to everyone else's problems. To communicate effectively with developers, see things from their point of view. Find the economic return for every suggestion, or no communication will be possible. Extreme viewpoints are expressed by the public, but moderate positions are more functional. Recognize that developers have owned and cared for the land for a long time but are still regarded as targets.*

*CE's offer economic benefits to landowners only when owners have large tracts that make a tax break attractive. Developers do not fall into that category; alternative ways of raising and allocating funds is needed. Mitigation projects are an alternative but require both vision and funding.*

*Warren is willing to engage in mutual learning dialogue but it takes time. He has the same conversation every time and he's worn out. He fears the GIS-based conservation mapping project and would like to see the conversation shift to benefit both conservation and development.*

*(Ted Harrison's response):*

*I've been both a conservation organization professional and a developer now, so I see both sides of the issue. Handling these issues is tough and requires stamina. Please contact me; I'll always participate in community planning and discussions. Defensive postures can be avoided by dialogue. Developers have little obligation to engage with the public under current code, but they should always be active, transparent, and available. It takes faith and vision. Clarity of results is essential before they will begin a process of engagement; community support can be developed via a transparent, honest dialogue.*

**Q:** Are there things the County or State can do—through legislation, funding, and so on—to support conservation easements and restoration?

*The Land and Water Conservation Act is in legislative process. It will support grants and loans for conservation easements. In 2005, \$19 million annual funding was being proposed for this program.*

*Also, the Western Governor's Association has recognized the importance of supporting the restoration economy in the West. Additionally, the WGA also expressed the need to manage water and landscape resources on a watershed scale, and therefore manage watersheds. In June 2006, the WGA issued a report on the restoration economy and a report on water and watershed conservation. The WGA supports conservation via regional initiatives to create watershed protection bills and a restoration economy in the West.*

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Announcement from X of Ojo de la Vaca: The village of Ojo de la Vaca is concerned about a private airstrip being constructed in a floodplain on Rowe Mesa. We have learned that there are essentially no County codes restricting airstrip development and that the permitting process takes only five days, with no public notice period. The current construction activity has been stopped because the owner failed to pull a permit but is expected to resume soon. The owner wishes to subdivide his property and is expected to build a “fly-in” community.

Neighbors are organizing to seek a code change at the County level that will correct this oversight. Mike Anaya is working to get the issue on the BCC agenda. Concerned GWP members are encouraged to ask their constituents to attend the BCC meeting to support this effort. GWP members may also wish to reach out to other planning groups about this code issue and alert communities to potential problems with airstrip development.