

# The Times - News

Serving East Juab County - A Nice Place To Live!

Volume 106, No. 19 • www.nephitimesnews.com

May 7, 2008

Single Copy Price **75¢**

## Concerns voiced at Scoping meeting

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Some at the scoping meeting held to explain the proposed East Juab Water Efficiency Project, Phase 2, filled out public scoping comment submittal forms and other dictated their responses.

Sarah Sutherland, NEPA Compliance Coordinator, and Mark Breitenbach, P.E., Project Manager Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System for the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, were on hand to answer questions and, in the case of Sutherland, to manage the scoping comments.

Sutherland typed into the computer system the comment of Richard Paxman, Nephi, a former city council member.

In addition to ranchers and water users, concerned citizens and members of the Salt Creek Foundation all showed up at the meeting during the hours between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

"The proposed action is needed to conjunctively use local surface and groundwater supplies more efficiently," said Breitenbach.

The proposed action is intended to achieve the following purposes which will address the underlying need for the project to:

- Complete the EJWEP to make the system more water efficient;
- Increase on-farm water use efficiency;
- Reduce irrigation water shortages by reducing distribution or conveyance system losses;
- Restore well pumping capacity to the full existing water right;
- Provide a minimum of 25 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure to allow all water users to convert existing flood irrigation methods to sprinkler irrigation;
- Recharge local surface water supplies to augment the yield of the local ground water basin.

Based on an environmental analysis, the responsible officials for CUWCD and DOI will decide if DOI and CUWCD should assist the East Juab Water Conservancy District in funding and constructing phase 2 of the EJWEP.

The EA will describe the affected environment (baseline conditions) of resources of the human environment that would be impacted by construction and operation of the proposed Alternatives, as well as the continuation of existing conditions expected under the No Action Alternative.

It will also document the environmental consequences for the quality of the human environment. Baseline conditions are the existing physical conditions of the impacted resources in the impact area of influence. The human environment will be defined in the EA as will all of the environmental resources, including among others the socioeconomic conditions, occurring in the impact area of influence.

"Some of the aspects of the proposed project being considered include rehabilitation of several existing wells, possible development of additional wells, and development of additional

See **Scope** on page 2



**NOT A LOT OF BUZZ** • All the Spring flowering trees are in full bloom with the arrival of May temperatures and while our photographer found this moth helping itself to the nectar; not many bees were buzzing around these trees at the Jim Wilkey residence on 200 South and 100 West in Nephi. The national press are all abuzz with Colony Collapse Disorder and it looks like we haven't been spared as well.

## Western Land Services seeks Juab County Commission approval to conduct oil and gas exploration near Yuba Lake

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Is there oil in those hills or valleys, as the case may be?

A second company has asked Juab County Commissioners for approval to conduct oil and gas exploration in the area near Yuba Lake.

"The project consists of two lines extending into Juab County," said Gordon Bell, project manager for Western Land Services.

Western Land Services was established in 1974 and is a oil and gas brokerage service company providing land and regulatory services to oil and gas companies and utilities with expertise to perform all aspects of the federal permit process.

Western Land Services has assisted in the drilling of nearly 7,000 shallow shale or coal bed methane wells.

The Chris Hall project would encompass 36 square miles in Juab County. The project also will explore land in Millard County just across the county line.

"We will drill at 440-foot intervals and will go to a 70-foot depth. We will use a 22-pound charge," said Bell.

The oil deposits the seismic exploration will try to find are expected to be at the 13,00-foot level and are difficult to find.

"They are so secluded that you have to hit them on the head," said Bell. "The reservoir of oil is so deep that we have to find the overthrusts and hit the reservoir right on the head."

One such deposit was found at Sigurd, said Bell. It measured three-quarters of a mile by one-half mile. Recently, one was found near Mayfield.

"I think this is the same era of oil," said Bell.

Plans are to drill in September, he said.

Val Jones, commission chairman, told Bell that another company would also be using the 3-D method of exploration during the same time period but was going to examine 90 square miles of land.

St. Croix Seismic attended commission meeting earlier in the year seeking permission to continue searching for oil and gas in Juab. Russ Nielsen and Clark Gentry, representing St. Croix Seismic LLC, had been required to meet with the county planning commission to explain the exploration.

Glenn Greenhalgh, county planning commission director, said that the planning commission was the first place Bell would need to appear. Following that meeting, the commission would review the recommendation of the planning commission and would approve the exploration.

The company is not granted a special use permit but is given a special permit allowing the exploration in the county.

"A gel-type explosive is used," said Bell. "It is different than TNT. Water-gel explosives have almost completely displaced dynamite. At 72-feet, when the charge it set off, there would be a dull vibration if you were standing right on top."

Water Gel Explosives are high performance explosives. They tend to be less toxic and are less hazardous than dynamite to manufacture, transport, and store because they can be stored in non-explosive component form and sensitized into field-manufactured explosive as needed.

Bell said it was required that all the federal and state permits be completed and permits from private land owners be in place

before the exploration could begin. Also required was a cultural study.

Bell agreed to meet with the planning commission on Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. The county commission will then review the recommendations of the planning commission and will then agree to the special permit being issued.

Bell said the exploration was being conducted for Wolverine.

Most oil companies gave up exploring Central Utah for a time, but in December 2003, Wolverine Gas and Oil tapped into oil and now produce 3,000 to 5,000 barrels of oil a day.

The company has successfully

## It's barns vs seats in county CIB application

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A public hearing drew only four people with all but one of those in favor of submitting a CIB application.

The meeting was held by the Juab County Commission on the topic of a CIB application for replacement of the west end bleachers for the grand arena at the Juab County Fairgrounds.

In attendance was Bob Garrett, Bob Day and Todd Day, representing the Ute Stampede Committee, and Troy Cattoor, a local resident.

The Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB) provides loans and/or grants to state agencies and sub-divisions of the state which may be socially or economically impacted by mineral resource development on federal lands.

The CIB reviews applications and authorizes funding assistance on a "Trimester" basis.

The deadlines for submitting applications for each of the trimesters will be no later than the following dates: First Trimester, February 1st; Second Trimester, June 1st; Third Trimester, October 1st.

"Due to the high amount of use, the number of activities and the need to seat more people, we are in favor of the application," said Garrett.

Cattoor said that he realized that something needed to be done to improve the seating on the west side but questioned whether a project costing in the millions was the best use of funds. Perhaps, he said, a smaller project would serve and money could be used to build a new barn at the rodeo grounds.

A barn could be used year-round where the outdoor arena was only used during the summer months.

For most of the events, except for the larger ones like the Stampede and the demolition derby, he said, people choose to sit on the small, covered side of the arena, the section that the county is proposing should be replaced.

"I appreciate Troy's (Cattoor) concerns. My first desire was to build a barn," said Chad Winn, commissioner.

See **Oil** on page 2

See **CIB** on page 2



**BACK IN TIME** • Rebecca Dopp, left, presents the 2007 bound archives of The Times-News to librarian Barbara Lovell. Several bound books dating back to the 1950s can be viewed at the Nephi Public Library. Just ask the librarians for help and they will get you on your way to researching news items, weddings, obituaries, etc.

Subscribe today! Call 623-0525