

Notes from the Town of Marble
Master Plan Committee Meeting
August 17, 2023

A. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Sue Blue, Brian Suter, Tony Treleven, Richard Wells, Jerimiah Akers, Greg Tonazzi, Connie Hendrix, Sam Smith-Wilkey, Max Gibbons, Angus Barber, Amy Rusby, Jeff Evans. Also: Mark Chain, Ron Leach, Alie Wettstein, Terry Langley.

B. Review and Approval of July 20, MPC meeting notes – no changes

Ron Leach: Comments re Marble water issues: Wild & Scenic stakeholders have met once since the last MPC meeting. Meetings are open to the public and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 21, 5 p.m. at the fire station. They are currently looking at 7 options to ensure the health and future of the Crystal River. Mark is going to invite Bill Jochems to a future MPC meeting.

Marble Water Company – MWX posted a legal notice on page 20 of the July 19 edition of the Sopris Sun regarding extending water to East Marble. They will be holding a public meeting in the fellowship hall on Sept. 13, 6 p.m., to brief the community on the plans.

There was a change in the order of agenda as reflected below.

D. Update and Committee Exercise on Marble Enforcement Ideas (Connie and Ron) – Ron asked the group to each provide one word regarding enforcement. Words tossed out included consistency, speeding, public safety, peace, parking, zoning complaints, policing, code enforcement, expense, level playing field, job description, equal justice, seasonal, where are they?, guns, priorities, noise, organization, criminal. Connie spoke to the steps toward enforcement, beginning with this committee, the planned survey, and community meetings. She suggested beginning with a simple plan as a stepping stone. The question is: what are main issues/priorities and developing a plan to deal with those. Three priorities identified were traffic, zoning/ordinances and criminal offences.

Questions were raised concerning the survey, including who will get it (the folks in Crystal would like to be included), when will it go out (the Marble Board of Trustees would like to be able to review it at the Sept. 1 meeting) and how will it be communicated (Facebook, website and direct mail).

C. Report on some Revenue Options for Town (Angus and Amy) – Angus reported that they looked at figures from the last 9 years and the difference between revenue and expenses is getting smaller. He outlined how those have changed as well as the top five revenue sources (sales tax, grants, campground, property tax and quarry lease).

They presented some revenue options. Those options (and some discussion points) include:

1. Consider increasing sales tax to compete with the other municipalities in the valley. Implementing a use tax and an occupational tax. (Doubling Marble's sales tax to 4% would mean a higher total sales tax than Aspen's – look at smaller increments. Requires a city vote.)
2. Recommend that an online purchasing/delivering to Marble campaign be considered to capture all sales tax opportunities. (Keep supporting local business, but use online for purchases from large stores/corporations)

3. Consider hiring a grant writer to tp pursue funds for projects such as the Town Administration Building. (While grants can fund projects, there will be on-going expenses that will need to be taken into consideration.)

4. Town of Marble to consider providing financial incentives to attract the opening of new businesses. (These could take the form of tax incentives. There is a need to define what the town wants to be and how much growth the town wants and can accommodate.)

5. Town of Marble to consider permit fees on new builds. (There are currently permit fees but these should be reviewed.)

6. Immediate opportunity to maximize investment income. (Look at what types of savings accounts pay the highest yield.)

7. Town of Marble initiate its own business. (Arts center, event center, employee housing were mentioned.)

Note: Any recommendations that the MPC puts in its report should consider the costs involved, i.e., enforcement, salary, vehicles, processing paperwork, etc.)

Other ideas from committee members included hydroelectric energy, increasing the quarry lease, a tourism tax, atv permits, parking charges and a use tax (particularly for building supplies).

Other possible committees – arts/cultural, permitting (Richard), water/hydroelectric (Greg),

E. General update on future growth potential (Mark) – Jeff brought up the need for a mission statement and Brian questioned why we needed information regarding the area outside of Marble. Mark is working on information regarding the growth possibilities in town and in the required 3-mile area outside of town. He spoke to the need for information on how that area might grow due to the impact it could have on the town.

F. Comments from Committee Members - There is a need for more MPC subcommittees to study issues and bring recommendations to the committee. Richard will work on ATV permitting and Greg will look into hydroelectric possibilities. Sam mentioned a question that was left off of the draft survey: do townspeople want cell service? Discussion of what the fiber optic services will mean for cell service followed.

G. Meeting Date/Location – The next meeting will be Sept 21, 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

H. Adjourn