



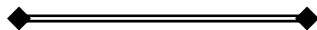
Rico will celebrate its first 125 years at the Saturday, September 25th Quasquicentennial

AUGUST NEWSLETTER - TOWN OF RICO - 2004

Quasquicentennial – Rico’s 125th Birthday celebration is on! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 25th**. The festivities officially begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Rico Town Park and will include a potluck picnic, live band, group photo, guest speakers, children’s games, historic presentations and fireworks. All of Rico’s community organizations are helping to organize this event and lots of volunteers are needed, so contact anyone from the Rico Women’s Club, Rico Historic Society, Fire Protection District or Alpine Society to help out. You don’t want to miss this celebration!



New Info on Town’s Website: A lot of new information has been added to the Town’s website at www.ricocolorado.org. Under the Town Hall page, information has been added about pending Town projects, including soil health risks and studies, sewer and watershed planning. The Town will include more information for Town Board and Planning Commission meetings on the website prior to meetings, so take some time to browse the website and learn about Town business.



Sewer Site Studies: The Board of Trustees has scheduled a follow-up community meeting on **Monday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m.** at the Rico

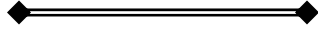
Town Hall to present information from additional studies of alternative sewer sites. The alternative sewer sites being studied include the commercial site on the south side of the Sundial Development, the Colorado Bell placer claim (Rico Ball Park area), and an area just north of the cemetery between Highway 145 and the Dolores River. Additional studies include floodplain analysis; engineering analysis for extending collection lines, elevations, and lift stations; and, an overview of condemnation authority. Study information will be posted on the Town’s website prior to the meeting.



Town Manager Vacancy: Ashton Harrison finished his last day as Rico’s Town Manager on July 30th. Ashton has accepted a town manager’s position in Kremmling, which is located between Summit County and Steamboat. Ashton accomplished quite a lot as Rico’s first full-time manager, including obtaining funding for the sewer project, courthouse renovations, and the playground in the Town Park.

The Town Board discussed options for filling the vacancy at a work session on July 28th. The Town of Rico currently offers the lowest known salary in Colorado for the Town Manager position (\$35,000), which creates challenges for finding someone with experience and long term employment goals. An option discussed was to

focus on hiring a public works director who has experience managing utility construction projects. Recruitment materials are being prepared for review and action by the Board of Trustees at the August 18th regular meeting.

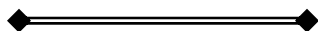


Public Hearing to Adopt Revised Master Plan:

The Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing on August 18th concerning the adoption of the revised Rico Regional Master Plan. A copy is available at the Rico Town Hall for review and is also available on the Town's website. These revisions update the past Rico Regional Master Plan, which was adopted in 1996. Article IX addresses the Rico Renaissance/Rico Properties land holdings, which was adopted previously in March of 2003. Comments on the Rico Regional Master Plan can be e-mailed to ericheil@frontier.net, faxed to (970) 967-5551, or mailed to E.J.Heil, P.C. at P.O. Box 189, Rico, CO 81332. Written comments received before August 12th will be included in Town Board packets for their review prior to the public hearing.



The Rico Center: Dolores County voters passed a property tax increase last November to fund three community organizations, including The Rico Center. The Rico Center will receive 1/3 of this new tax revenue, which is approximately \$40,000 per year. The Rico Center mission statement is: "The Rico Center is a nonprofit, community Rico Center committed to preserving and enriching the quality of life of the residents, visitors and workforce of Rico, Colorado. To this end, The Rico Center awards grants to local non-profit organizations, governmental entities and individuals involved in community development and/or community based efforts." Grant application forms and guidelines will be available soon and the grant application deadline for this year will be October 1st. The Board of Directors members Donovan Spitzman, President, Deb Hefley, Barb Turrin, Katherine Hurtley, and Erin Sweet. Look for the grant application and guidelines on the Town website in the next week.



Rico Planning Commission: The Rico Planning Commission reviewed and adopted a work plan for the remainder of 2004 at its regular meeting in July. The complete 2004 Work Plan is available for review on the Town website.



Rico Soils VCUP: Atlantic Richfield Company has received 280 Access Agreements from a total of 524 properties in Rico (53%). Crews are scheduled to begin soil sampling in Rico during the week of August 16th. Atlantic Richfield Company will bring additional Access Agreements and knock on doors when sampling begins to allow any other property owners to have their property sampled. The EPA and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have approved the Sampling and Analysis Plan proposed by Atlantic Richfield Company. A complete list of the Access Agreements received by Atlantic Richfield Company will be posted on the Town's website so that interested property owners can verify that their property will be sampled.



Watershed Planning: The Town applied for funding through the EPA to begin comprehensive watershed planning. The EPA has indicated that they will approve \$30,000.00 for watershed planning and \$15,000 for wetlands mapping. Also, Colorado Water Conservation Board has provided funding to hire Matrix Design Group to conduct a geomorphic analysis of the river corridor in the Rico area. A geomorphic analysis involves studying the water flow volume, velocity, gradient and constrictions to determine erosion and sedimentation behavior.

An initial Stakeholders meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on August 24th where various consultants and interested agencies will be able to meet each other. A comprehensive list of some 28 Stakeholders has been prepared which includes the Forest Service, DWCD, local governments, community organizations, non-profits, state and federal agencies and property owners.

Matrix Design Group will present their studies to the Rico Planning Commission and the public at 6:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to participate at this meeting.



The Town is pursuing watershed planning for two reasons. First, the Town's long standing plan for a river corridor 'green-belt' park will benefit by having a comprehensive analysis of present conditions and impacts to the river, and a plan for preservation, restoration and enhancement of the river corridor. Second, restoration and enhancement of the River Corridor will help Town's efforts to change the point of diversion of the Town's water system to the Dolores River. More information will be provided on the Town's website for this project.



Downtown Development Authority: Region 9 Economic Development has awarded the Town \$10,000.00 to assist with the costs of forming a Downtown Development Authority ("DDA"). The proposed DDA includes the commercial properties on main street and portions of the river corridor. By state statute, DDAs do not have condemnation authority, but can retain all the additional property tax revenues that result from increases in assessed valuation in the DDA area. This revenue can be used to finance projects. Potential projects include constructing a municipal hot springs, building sidewalks for main street, promoting a light industrial park north of Town and building a new street maintenance facility in order to relocate that use out of the river corridor.

The formation of the DDA is planned to be referred to an election this year. This is a special election where only residents and property owners within the proposed DDA area vote on question of forming a DDA. Preparation of a plan for DDA projects is scheduled for 2005.



Historic Firehouse Assessment: The Town of Rico has submitted an architectural assessment grant application to the State Historic Society for the historic fire house building on main street. An architectural assessment is the first step in the process to obtain grant funds for restoration of this building. The Town and Rico Historic Society are discussing the potential to use this building for a Rico museum.



DWCD Petitions: Town has received 77 petitions to join Dolores Water Conservancy District out of 327 property owners in Rico (23%). The statutory process to join a water district requires a minimum of 5% of property owners to submit a petition. The petitions have been submitted to DWCD who will file them in District Court in the next week. The District Court then schedules a hearing, probably by early November, to consider the petitions. If no petition protesting the inclusion of the Town of Rico is submitted to the District Court, it is likely that the District Court will approve the inclusion of the Town of Rico in the Dolores Water Conservancy District. DWCD levies a 4.7 mill property tax on all property in the District. This additional property will be assessed on properties in the Town of Rico beginning next year.

The Town is joining DWCD because Rico's water rights are too junior and DWCD has sufficiently senior water rights. Rico has entered into 3 temporary agreements to purchase water from DWCD during the last few drought years to avoid legal action against the Town in water court. The Town and DWCD are also partnering to study the north Rico alluvium as a new primary drinking water source.

