

## Elbert County Environmental Alliance (ECEA) Update January 10, 2022

A meeting was held January 8, 2022, at the Once Upon a Time Events Center. Approximately 40 people attended. Many others expressed interest in attending, but were unable to because they were ill.

### Here are the top three things we need:

1. Somebody who can create a website similar to [this](#)
2. People to speak at each County Commissioner Meeting during the Public Comment portion. [Sign up here](#). Reach out to the group for talking points.
3. People to help develop a petition

### Notes from the meeting:

- An overview was given of Xcel's Colorado Power Pathway project
- A slide show presented specific facts about the project, concerns of the group, and an organizational model ([click here for slides](#))
- The name Elbert County Environmental Alliance was adopted with the mission of protecting our community by minimizing the environmental and economic degradation from Segment 5 of the Colorado Power Pathway in Elbert County. Specific objectives include:
  - Maintain healthy lifestyles for our families
  - Protect wildlife
  - Protect our local economy
  - Protect the beauty of our county
  - Protect the historic Bijou Basin
  - Maintain property values
  - Limit the spread of big city resource requirements being built within our small county
- Commissioner Thayer shared his discussion with and Xcel representative (Tom Henley) and lobbyist (Greg Brophy)
  - wind and solar farms tend to be built within 500 feet of transmission lines
  - Fire mitigation is a big issue
  - Residents are able to speak at County Commissioner meetings during the public comment section (2nd and 4th Wednesdays)
- Contact has been made with the Department of Wildlife
  - Bijou Basin is most pristine area. Filled with wildlife
  - There are many waterways within the proposed route
  - Lines will interfere with animal migration patterns
  - Federal subsidies are involved - check into rules and regulations
  - Research alternatives with current infrastructure
  - Have commissioners call for public meetings
- Xcel has planned upcoming "Open Houses" ([click here](#) for schedule of events). Revised routes will be available then.
  - The first open house will be in Platteville on Jan. 24
  - The Kiowa open house will be March 1st
- Subcommittees were formed:
  - Membership - generate new members, community outreach
  - Communication- website, newsletters, social media, local media

- Research-track Xcel plan and PUC, identify environmental impacts, fact checking
- Operations-events, lobby, tasks, alternatives
- Logistics-fundraisers, flyers, signs, coordinate meetings
- Key Tasks
  - Get the word out
  - Grow membership
  - Petition
  - Environmental impact study
  - Lobby politicians/political groups
  - Seek legal counsel

WE NEED YOU!! If you were unable to attend the meeting or have not joined one of our subcommittees, please decide how you can best support our efforts and contact us.

Do you know how to set up a webpage?

Can you spend some time researching county and state regulations?

Can you attend some of Xcel's Open Houses?

Can you design a logo for the group?

Are you able to speak at a County Commissioner meeting?

Do you have contacts within political/environmental groups?

Can you help write a petition?

Can you help get a petition signed?

Can you help us set up as a non-profit?

Please reach out to the group to let us know how YOU can help!!