

## **Sally Bellerue's comments on County Board of Commissioners hearing on Swift Energy MOU for exploratory drilling – 3-19-2013**

I attended Tuesday's meeting at the BOCC to listen to the meeting on the two proposed oil wells in the Mancos Shale. Elaine Slade was there, too. The Commissioners voted 3-0 in favor of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which calls for land use regs. such as noise, traffic, dust and road conditions that the county has required since Josh Joshwick was on the Bd. In addition, Swift Energy agreed to put in place the requirement of testing water wells, and will test more wells than required. The state legislation does not go into effect until May, so they voluntarily agreed to do this. Now Swift goes to the COGCC on March 25th.

The fracking agenda item started at 11 AM...and was not over until 3:20! So there was lots of interest. Most were concerned about water, water wells and testing, air quality, road concerns. There were some supporters who were happy to make the money off mineral rights. Now it will be up to Swift Energy to do a good job. They will contract out most of the work since this is their first time in Colorado, but they are responsible. I'd think that other operators will be watching closely, not only what they find but how they do. Their behavior will I believe affect the other operators.

The article in Wednesday's Herald covered the meeting well. If you have any questions or if you' like a copy of the article please ask!  
Sally