

## **FORMAT FOR FRACKING FORUM**

### **Goals**

The purpose of this forum is to provide a venue for the exploration of the various aspects of fracking in a neutral venue. It is important that the panel members be able to express their views in a respectful manner. It is critical that the behaviors of panel members and the audience contribute to creating an atmosphere where honest beliefs and disagreements can be expressed and received in a respectful manner.

### **Purpose of Opening Remarks**

The opening to the recent meeting where Jefferson County School Board issues were discussed established a respectful atmosphere in which the issues were discussed frankly in a very civil environment. Recent School Board meetings have been attended by over 200 people who proceeded to disrupt the meeting and shout down some School Board Members. Establishing a civil atmosphere for our meeting was no small task. The atmosphere at our meeting was established in large part by the opening remarks by the moderator. There was only one incident where a participant deviated from the desired respectful behavior. The moderator, in a kind but firm way, brought the individual back in line.

Fracking is currently a very controversial and emotion-packed issue in Colorado. We should follow procedure similar to the one used for the School Board to establish the desired atmosphere for the Fracking Forum, with one exception. In the case of the School Board meeting, the moderator had no expertise in any of the issues being discussed and served as a very neutral questioner. In the case of the Fracking Forum, the moderator has significant knowledge and expertise in the subject matter, and may serve as a “fact checker” or participate in the discussion in other ways. For that reason, the moderator should not participate in opening remarks to avoid the appearance of a biased meeting structure. The task of maintaining a respectful atmosphere should also be left to someone other than the moderator.

### **Opening Remarks**

The opening remarks should include the following items:

- 1) Extend welcome to the participants and audience.
- 2) State the purpose of the meeting, and what the audience should gain from attending the forum.
- 3) Give administrative details, such as meeting length, restroom location, etc.
- 4) Explain the origin of and read the “Covenant of Respectful Relationships”. The explanation should include the fact that we use that covenant for all of our meetings

and people who are guests at our meetings, by their continued presence, agree to follow our covenant.

- 5) Read biographical information for each speaker (in alphabetical order) and then for the moderator. We should ask all three of these individuals to submit the information they would like read prior to, or before the beginning of the meeting. The length of the submittals should be limited to 150 words or less.
- 6) Light the Chalice. We should explain that this is something we do before each of our meetings at JUC. It should also be noted that, in the context of a meeting, the Chalice lighting is not considered a religious activity.
- 7) Turn the meeting over to the moderator.

Ken Richards will deliver the opening remarks

#### Presenter Responsibilities

- 1) The presenters should arrive not later than 6:15 PM to coordinate with the Sound and Light Team (SALT) person. Each presenter should bring his projection material on a thumb (flash) drive. The moderator will find out each presenter's AV requirements two weeks in advance so proper coordination can be made with the SALT person. If a presenter chooses to use his own computer, he must know how to hook it up to a projector.

#### Suggested Procedures

Here are some suggestions we feel will help in making the meeting successful. They are designed to maintain order and to be as even and neutral as possible to avoid either "side" believing that we favored the other "side". We should discuss these as a group and come to a final consensus. The moderator should explain these procedures to the participants and to the audience immediately after the meeting is turned over to him.

Ken is working with Keith Arnold, the new head of the Sound and Light Team (SALT), to get sound and projection support for the sanctuary. Currently, we can have mics and slide projection. Keith is looking into video projection with sound, but as of now that can't be guaranteed. Keith is also looking into the possibility of streaming the proceedings in the sanctuary into the chapel, which we have reserved for spillover.

- 1) Before the beginning of the actual program, the moderator should explain the procedures we will follow.
- 2) Giving equal time to both participants is very important to maintain a fair discussion. Ken and Mary have a large darkroom timer in which they can put a red light which will come on at the end of the allotted time. It also has buzzer capability. It is suggested that

this timer be used to enforce time limits. The moderator should be firm in enforcing allotted times to preserve fairness.

- 3) The moderator will notify the audience that written questions will be collected from the audience following the presenters' initial talks. The audience members should write their questions on the back of the "Covenant of Respectful Relations" sheets so they will be ready to submit their questions quickly when the time comes. Baskets will be passed to collect the questions.
- 4) The session will begin with the moderator describing the scope of this meeting and summarizing areas of disagreement between industry and environmentalists. These remarks will take five to eight minutes. Then each side will give a 20 minute presentation. The order of presentations should be determined by a coin toss prior to the beginning of the meeting to permit the SALT person to make preparations if slides are to be used. The winner of the coin toss chooses whether he wants to be the first or second presenter.
- 5) At the end of the second presentation, the second presenter has the opportunity to ask a question of the first presenter. The question must be asked in 1 minute or less. The first presenter has a maximum of 3 minutes to answer the question. Each panelist will then have 2 minutes for a rebuttal, if desired. The first presenter can then ask a question of the second presenter. The same time limits apply. This process can continue for a total of five complete cycles if time permits. During these interchanges, the moderator may perform a "fact checking" function if he feels it is required, or he can ask for additional clarification. If fact checking is unresolved, the moderator will attempt to resolve uncertainties and post the resolution under the fracking tab at <http://denverclimatesstudygroup.com/>.
- 6) The questions will be sorted by a small team of people, who will eliminate those questions that may contain comments contrary to the spirit of the meeting. They will select questions to be given to the moderator to ask. An equal number of questions will be selected for each presenter. Questions may also be directed to the moderator, or directed to both panel members. Four stacks of questions will be provided: one stack for each panel member, one stack for questions to both panel members, and one stack for questions to the moderator. Each stack of questions will be clipped together to keep them in the proper order within each group. The questions will be given to the moderator. Priority will be given to similar questions which have been submitted by multiple attendees.
- 7) During the time the questions are being sorted, the moderator will ask questions of each presenter, with the same time limits as above. The questions should emphasize "fact checking" and should be alternated between presenters. The moderator may also make remarks and/or express his opinions, being careful to distribute them equally

between the positions of the presenters. The moderator may also bring up issues which have not yet been considered and direct relevant questions to the presenters.

- 8) The panel members and moderator will each have three minutes to make closing remarks.
- 9) The moderator will project the <http://denverclimatestudygroup.com> website address, noting that further comments/posting/fact checking will be ongoing there. The moderator will also project website addresses provided by other panel members at their request.

### Conclusion

Three minutes prior to the end time for the meeting, the meeting will be turned over to the person who made the opening remarks. That person will thank people for coming and dismiss the meeting.