

The other side of the story...

End the Consultant Nightmare

We live in a small mountain community. We talk with each other and know what others are thinking. Do we really need outside consultants telling us what we think?

Local government has hired an unending series of consultants for over a decade now. Why? Why spend all the money? Is government really that out of touch?

Other communities don't do this. They have competent managers, administrators, planners, and staff. They have competent elected officials that know what's going on. When they need more input they have a meeting and gather it themselves. They don't call a consultant.

A decade of reliance on consultants is a sign something isn't right with local government. Maybe it's fear of being wrong, or incompetence, or manipulation... But let's not pretend relying on consultants is normal. It isn't.

When key information is outsourced, and that information is used to back-up big decisions, manipulation is always a concern. It happens way too often.

Consider the Comp Plan, the Housing Action Plan, the Integrated Transportation Plan, Engage 2017, etc. Do they reflect the will of the people, or are they all a charade?

Were they even necessary? Or, were they just an undercover effort to make Jackson Hole Bigger and Grander? Did the public really need them, or did they mostly benefit local politicians?

Did any of them ever focus on a livable Jackson Hole? Or what residents think of overcrowding? Or how fed up we are with traffic?

Engage 2017 is a consultant survey that's

going on right now. Are you aware of it? Have you participated? Probably not. Yet it's going to have major impact on Jackson Hole.

The survey has now entered Phase IV. It's part of the 2017 Annual Indicator Report and the FY17-18 Implementation Work Plan. Confused yet? That's the point. There's too much nonsense. Too much unessential planner-speak reporting.

Engage 2017 has held eight public events, five different online surveys, and nearly a year of 'studying.' But the lengthy process has still produced no results. \$75,000 has been spent; another \$75,000 is being spent now, and many more \$\$\$ may be needed.

Are citizens being railroaded? Has the planning process been hijacked? Have years of manipulation already shaped our overcrowded community? We suspect the answer is yes.

But until something changes, more consultant help is on the way. It's a sickness.

Luckily, some are beginning to see through the façade. One recent Engage 2017 survey taker commented, "Who is in charge of this city? What are you trying to engineer?"

What would it look like if we had competent government leaders who could make decisions based on the will of the people? And if they're not sure, get a low-cost telephone survey.

We need competent local government that isn't dependent on the consultant-crutch. And we need elected officials who know the voters and want to serve them.

Elected officials: Please stop wasting our time and money on consultants. The farce has gone on way too long.

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