

**San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership
Meeting notes, 1/17/14**

attending: Aaron Kimple, Bill Trimarco, Jerry Archuleta, JR Ford, Bev Warburton, Marcie Demmy Bidwell, Thurman Wilson, Dana Hayward, Kent Grant, Noah Schultz (VISTA volunteer for MSI), Mary Jo Coulehan, Jimbo Buickerood, Steve Hartvigsen.

Action Items:

<i>who</i>	<i>what</i>	<i>when</i>
Aaron/ Jimbo	contact Nature Conservancy rep in Colorado (Laura McCarthy) to discuss current wildfire risk effort	By February 7
Steve	contact RGNF staff re: West Fork Fire tour events	By February 21
Steve	see Kevin Khung re: Fire Event Planning Workshop	DONE By January 31
Steve	send to Aaron notice of March ASCC workshop; Aaron to forward to group	DONE , By January 31
Noah	work on monitoring field guide	By February 7
Bill	outreach to community; coordinate w/ Noah, on citizen science monitoring effort	By February 7
JR/Steve	meet w/ Town re: DNR grant for treatment of Reservoir Hill	DONE , already, by JR – see notes above
JR	Will purchase super sacks	By March 1

Decisions Made:

- Steve agreed to help Bev with budget review until Bob returns
- Expenditures approved

Notes and Action Items (from 11/15/13 meeting:

- Aaron moved materials to new website;
- work continues on watershed assessment, w/ Thurman as lead (see update below);
- SWCD was notified of delay in assessment (mostly due to gov't shutdown);
- Aaron – has had initial conversations with JD about work with school but has not yet arranged to talk with the school board;
- Steve and Tom did speak about Joint Fire Science Program – will not put in for grant this year;
- JR did speak w/ Tom (multiple times!) about chip composition;
- Aaron – is working with JD and Noah (MSI Vista) to develop a school program;
- Aaron took part in recent Chama Peak Alliance meeting, status of our group and work.

Update on Projects:

- Website: up, running, in good shape; check it out!
- Chama Peak Land Alliance meeting: several partnership members attended (Kent, Aaron, Jimbo) Nature Conservancy is assisting Alliance w/ a similar watershed/fire risk assessment. We could compare our results (see below) with their outputs once complete (though they are just getting started). A suggestion was made to have members from each group interchange between group meetings to foster communication and provide opportunities for cooperative efforts.
- Watershed Assessment: (Thurman) Work delayed due to furlough and continued emphasis on field work by SJNF/Pagosa RD employees prior to assessment commitment. Fire Risk Working team met multiple times in

December; good progress. Group has some up with process for working to results. Group meets again on 1/24. Watershed Effects team will be meeting again soon. [Jerry posed question as to whether we are consulting w/ Bureau of Reclamation on this assessment. Have not, as of this time. Also noted was need to connect w/ Thad McCain, fire warden for Pagosa, as assessment work is done or initially complete. Thad might provide useful info.]

- Cloman Park: Data has been collected; the monitoring report should be completed by end of January.

- CSFS grant: Negotiations continue w/ CSFS grant director for Fourmile project grant effort. JR is already operating on private land portion of grant project; making good progress. Federal side of project was reduced (in acres) significantly since most of ground did not lend itself to JR's operation. SJNF continues to pursue funding for mastication of rest of Fourmile federal portion.

- NFF grants: One grant helping to cover monitoring program costs; another being used to cover partnership coordination/administration. For monitoring we need to ensure we collect control-site data in order to compare against treated ground results.

Business:

- Current Budget: Budget shows negative balance due to grants that have been approved but funding has not yet come to group. (NFF \$\$ based on other matching funds, including CSFS grant funds.) Expenditures (handout) were discussed; Jimbo moved, Mary Jo seconded, and approved by group (i.e., \$10,812.64 payment to MSI).

- Steve will assist Bev on budget oversight until Frye returns from AZ.

- Future Grant Opportunities:

Colo DNR – need project ideas; grant proposal due in March. A subcommittee will meet to discuss (Bill, Kent, Bev, and JR, and Jerry, matching funds from NRCS). Some potential areas are Aspen Springs, Fourmile, Reservoir Hill, Pagosa Lakes, Stollsteimer. [Note: JR approached Town and they support Partnership assisting w/ grant effort for Reservoir Hill. Steve & Kent will assist in silvi Rx's and design.]

LPEA – request to Roundup, from \$2-5K. LPEA takes requests either monthly or quarterly. Aaron will put together letter; Mary Jo, Steve (others) will help review.

Secure Rural Schools Act – Jimbo, on RAC committee, will research available funding/timing of grant funding.

- Fundraising:

JR has some secured some donations and will get them to Aaron.

Gateway funding – Marcie, Mary Jo, & Aaron will discuss the potential.

Rural Philanthropy Days – coming June 11-14, Mary Jo connection. Listening Tour, in advance of RP Days, will be in Ignacio on Feb 5, with a presentation by Archuleta County.

Pay Pal – Some might use to donate funds to our group. Other thoughts were donators using credit card means to donate to group (MSI has system in place). Marcie will followup with Mary Jo on tips to make this happen for our group.

Super sacks of chips (see below, under Earth Day).

Upcoming Events:

- West Fork Fire Tour – talked about informal tour for Partnership members, early in summer, with followup late summer/early fall tour for publics; Gloria Edwards/Southern Rockies Fire Science Network want to be involved. Steve will take lead & contact RGNF staff.
- Fire Event Planning Workshop – Kevin Khung had offered to do incident scenario for Partnership; Steve & Aaron to discuss w/ Kevin.
- Water Assessment Presentation – Expect to take place in April or May. TBD.
- Earth Day (April 22nd) – possible tour of JR's facility site & raffle (or purchase) of super sacks of chips; JR will order sacks; we need to work on outreach for this effort.

Citizen Science:

- NFF grant serving to help fund monitoring effort. This grant ends in Sept; we should reapply. Noah will be working on manual (aka field guide). Cloman results will be presented in spring. Training will take place in May, with data collection during summer. Group agreed with approach to mix informative sessions for data collectors with the field work (e.g., talks by experts on birds, other interpretive efforts) – want to mix some fun and other stuff with the fieldwork. Bill will liaison with community and coordinate w/ Noah on this effort. Some help could come from interpretive specialist for Pagosa RD (Brandon Caley, Visitor Information Specialist). Brandon could help connect interpreters with monitoring efforts. San Juan Mtns Association & MSI folks could also help.

Miscellaneous: (Steve) SJNF will be taking part in long-term climate change monitoring effort (“Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change”). Workshop to take place in Pagosa on March 4-6th. Partnership members encouraged to attend first day to become acquainted with project. Steve will send notice to Aaron, to distribute.

- Jimbo suggested that our group might write letters of support when legislation is pending for efforts in line with our Partnership's goals.
- JR will be hiring individual to video his operations in the woods. Would like some help on narrative to support video footage. Steve, Kent, Jimbo, Marcie offered to assist w/ narrative.
- Marcie resurfaced a former suggestion for our Partnership to pursue some video effort to promote our group's work. A Pagosa HS video course, and instructor, might be persuaded to work closely w/ JD Kurz's class and come up with product. A topic for future.
- Next month's meeting planned for 2/21/14, at Chamber of Commerce meeting room.
- Some items for meeting agenda
 - a discussion re: the management agreement between Partnership and MSI;
 - Earth Day event plans;
 - watershed assessment status;