

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership meeting minutes – 2/17/2017

Introductions:

Aaron Kimple - MSI

Matt Tuten – District Timber [program manager out of Pagosa

Jeremy May – MSI

Matt Ford – Clean forest energy (back after missing 6 meetings)

Becky Herman– president of Weminuche Audubon society

John Porco -

Kent Grant– Colorado State Forest Service out of Durango

Bev Warburton - Backcountry horsemen

Michael Netzer– Windrock International – runs a GIS remote sensing unit. Counts trees for carbon counting and water resource management. Works remotely here.

Al Pfister – San Juan Water Conservancy District + Audubon + other affiliation.

Jerry Archuleta – Natural Resource

Roberta Tolan – CSU extension office

Tim Harman – Board of Chama Peak Land Alliance

Doug Secrist - San Juan Water Conservancy District

Bill Trimarco – Fire wise

Ben Bailey– Audobon Society

Kevin Khung – United States Forest Service

Steve Hartvigsen -

Rod Profit – San Juan Water Conservancy District

Updates:

Kevin reports that USFS received ‘region 2 supplemental fuels’ dollars – funds need to be obligated significantly before September 30th. Some of this will be for long term stewardship, some immediate.

Jerry – New opportunity: CAFA grant - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – private landowners can get help with forest management. \$3.5 million to be used over a maximum of 5 years, ideally 2-3 years.

Bill T – Aspen Springs and Twin Peak village Pagosa Highlands are big fire hazard risks that threaten utilities, so they have put together a grant to fund free mitigation for low income residents in these subdivisions. These three subdivisions were picked in part because of the high concentration of low income households. This grant is submitted and in the running. Bill thinks there is enough interest in these neighborhoods that the program will be successful. There have been phone calls from a brief add run and from a sign that is up at a sample site.

Matt T and Aaron K – Are pleased with the area covered in this grant. It covers the gaps that had existed. This will provide an example of what forest health work can look like, so hopefully it will drum up interest amongst people who don’t initially sign up.

Stream Management Plan Discussion:

The idea is to have thought about and be prepared in the event of a fire to protect our water resources (ie. Streams).

Rod Proffit – It has been on the radar for years to come up with a stream management plan for the area. Have been waiting for the window of opportunity to address this. The state is looking to come up with a management plan for about 80% of the major streams in the state by 2030, so this seems like a good opportunity to start this because there is money behind it.

Al Pfister – There is a 1-1 match with this grant. Applications due in Oct/Nov -> decision in January -> money available for that fiscal year. It seems like this group is well poised to take this on, partly because of the prep work that has already been done and the partnerships it has. Also, forest health and water resource management are tied together. They go hand in hand. So the idea is to utilize the efforts this group has done over the years as a baseline for whoever takes on this stream management plan: identify risks and concerns for our streams and some work that we could do now.

There are effort for a reservoir (Dry Gulch) East of town and Al would like for this to go together with a stream management plan in order to look at the big picture. The plan would encompass from the headwaters down to Navajo Reservoir.

Chris Sterm is in charge of grant program with CWCB– has offered to come down and talk to this group about this management plan and how to go about it

Question: Is this group interested in being part of this stream management plan?

Question - Kevin C brings up that this could be contentious and polarizing and asks what other groups or stakeholders have been informed of this opportunity.

Answer- This is the first outreach/ announcement of this opportunity. It was decided to bring this topic to this group first because it does incorporate a lot of interested groups.

Matt T – proposes getting an example of one of these plans as well as some of the potential benefits of such a plan.

Committees: The reason for the committees is that with so much work to do in 2017 and more and more things falling on Aaron's shoulders, it was determined that we can be more effective and get more done by having committees to address more specifics. Also, as the group has gotten large, it can be more efficient to work in small groups.

Finance: Steve/Bev – committee contacts

Bev = accounting expertise

Steve = secretarial duties

Goals – secure sustainable funding.

- Propose having a sort of tax that (ex. \$5/mo on a bill would bring in over \$3k/ year)
- Maintain visual presence so people don't forget about the group
- Are going to try to setup a 5 year plan.

Action Items:

2017-2022 finance plan

Identify current funding

Identify funding gaps

Will achieve goals through monitoring and evaluation of efforts

Planning Treatment and proposal evaluation: Contact person = Kent

Goal: Project development. Identifying priorities. Identifying potential areas of collaboration. Getting ahead of the game so that the funding and marketing (outreach) will be in place long *before* we are on the ground doing the work. There are a lot of efforts in the USFS – a goal is to assess what efforts are out there to plan cooperatively.

Would like spatial information: what efforts are going on *where (on state, federal, private land)*.

Action Items:

Set up a template for what we need.

Identify potential contributors and who has shape files and who will manage them once we have them.

Legislation and Permitting: Contact person = Jimbo

Action Items: Monitor and see if there is anything that needs to be modified or addressed

Coordinating permitting better. Meet with county and sheriff to get on the same page. Permits are in place but the implementation of the permits has not been ideal.

Events and Outreach: Contact person = Bill T

Goal: Promote efforts to engage the public in watershed health issues. Watershed health involves, forest, streams, community, everything

Action Items: Develop list of events going on. Develop calendar of said events.

Roberta - Develop target audience matrix to analyze gaps in who is reached by the events.

Bill - EVENT: Movie night in May (Wildfire Preparedness month). A few short videos and Q/A panels between the films. Hopefully donated door prizes.

MSI - Create Google account to be able to share docs and calendar and have a functional listserve.

General Action Items:

Al Pfister: Get an example of a stream management plan and a description of the potential benefits of such a plan and how it can be used

Aaron K: Get Chris S. to come down and talk to the group, ideally on March 17th. We are willing to be flexible on the meeting dates.

Acquiring the book written locally? Don't have more details on this or who will do it.

Reservoir Hill Signs

Next meeting:

- Hopefully presentation from Chris Stern
- Breakout session of committees