

San Juan Watershed Forest Health Partnership

(formerly Mixed Conifer Working Group)

January 18, 2013

Present: Bev Warburton, Mary Jo Coulehan, JR Ford, Jimbo Buickerood (phone), Steve Hartvigsen, Kent Grant, Bill Trimarco, and Marcie Demmy Bidwell (facilitator), Mike Ward, Dottie George

- I. Introductions were made and the agenda was set.
- II. **New Proposal** from Kevin Khung- Kevin initiated the conversation with a proposal for the SJ Headwaters group to join the USFS in setting an aggressive agenda for joint public education campaign for 2013 fire season. He urged the group to pursue a dynamic, ready-for-press agenda and messages for public campaign. We discussed that the sessions might include:
 - a. Talks about what to expect, what to do, tools available for forest health (prescribed fire, treatment, etc).
 - b. Build in Little Sand as an opportunity to talk about lessons learned,
 - c. Involve ambassadors for HOAs, incorporate a network of people to reach out to individuals
 - d. Work with Education/Outreach Committee to prepare for education/ PR blast.
 - e. Work with Firewise for May Fire Month, Stollsteimer group, and demonstration projects
 - f. Demonstration projects- working with absentee owners as well as those less aware of fire.
 - g. JR and Kevin reminded the group that this is the year to capture outreach on Little Sand.
 - h. Ideas-
 - i. Video series for residents and tourists on outreach dollars
 - ii. Connect to values- birds, wildlife, water supplies
 - i. PAWS- Utility is educating itself. Webinar, January 23rd, 11:00 AM- 12:30. RSVP renee@paws.org. All were invited to attend. Ed was going to ask PAWS to consider:
 - i. Planning session comparing pro-active approaches to suppression/fuels reduction versus post-fire efforts
 - j. We discussed the West Fork as source water for the town. No storage, extreme hardship if lost.
 - k. Public Messages- drought and fire have some importance in the system, we need to understand how to work in that frame work of disturbance as a natural occurrence
- III. **Updates**
 - a. Firewise is preparing for active outreach for May Fire month and Stollsteimer Creek group.
 - b. JR is presenting to 125 small energy coop providers in Denver in February, asked for input into his presentation. If folks wanted to include points on how to make it happen.
 - c. JR won Colorado Best Thinker Awards- congratulations is in order!
 - d. Mark Stiles was focused in Durango Herald and Pagosa Sun as first of three series on last year's fire and this year's implications.

- e. KSJD Cortez community radio is going to do a series on climate change and impacts of warming climate. They are interested in interviewing someone from the Little Sand fire or other aspect of this group.
- f. MSI is helping to coordinate: Western Slope Bark Beetle Conference (with SJ Headwaters and Western Water Assessment)- April 10; Partnerships for Integrated Resource Management and Science which will highlight partnerships (including, hopefully this one) May 7 at Fort Lewis College for the scoping meeting and November 3-4 for full 2-day conference; and San Juan Climate Initiative Conference in September (likely 9-10, Silverton).

IV. Decisions

- V. **Group decided to hire a coordinator, ½ time for 6 months, with possible change to ¼ time if funding does not materialize for the rest of the year.** The discussion focused on the pros and cons, with the majority of the conversation being about the need for real support for the group if it were going to meet its goals. Bev suggested that the volunteers of the group felt it were a benefit to have professional support in terms of time and energy. Steve and JR also felt that the idea of the coordinator being a part of an existing group, such as MSI , was worth using, as the structure reinforces the group rather than requiring a new set up.

- VI. **Group decides to adopt fiscal sponsorship agreement.** The group decided that the financial support document was a worthy agreement. A few changes to language were suggested (edited copy to follow). The goal was to have the general coordination take up no more than ¼ of the time allocated and to integrate volunteers into helping with logistics, minutes, and other roles to keep funding available for developing the membership, new marketing pieces and other important tasks with establishing the group.

- i. Volunteer help with work:

- USFS meeting minutes, and meeting coordination
- Bev and Bob- finance management
- PAWS- might consider funding like other water districts, such as a forester for monitoring
- USFS help with printing costs, for publications

- b. **Group directs JR to investigate which local bank** would offer the best situation for the group (lowest rates), and to select or recommend for the group. MSI would then follow up with the recommendation to establish an account on behalf of the group.

- i. Bank of Colorado, Bank of the San Juans and Southwest Bank were all suggested.

- c. **Group directs MSI to initiate work (notice to proceed)** towards a formal agreement that would be signed by the group members at February board meeting.
- d. Group elected to review of contract and agreement in June and to designate July- June as the fiscal year.
- e. Group appoints Bev Wharton and Mike Wards as the Oversight group for first 6 months. MSI will work with Bev and Mike to establish the checking account and authority for signees.

VII. Planning for 2013- Projects and Goals

- a. Grants Update
- b. Proposals-
 - i. Colorado Forest Restoration Fund- Due February 27th
 - ii. Coordinate with Firewise
 - iii. Emphasize Landscape scale, cross-boundary, partnerships
 - iv. Can be used for public lands (federal projects)
 - v. Typical size of projects- \$20,000 - \$100,000, 60% of the costs.
- c. GOALS FOR 2013
 - i. Develop brochure, update to website, simple giving form, with description of the group, MSI as fiscal
 - Circulate
 - ii. Develop List of projects that would be prioritized for funding as we can
 - iii. Local outreach and funding campaign
 - iv. Three grants- El Pomar,
 - El Pomar- ask for \$5K for group and \$1K for buses
 - Community Foundation of the Southwest-
 - Future funding needs-
 - a. An outreach film: ACES- Aspen Center for Environmental Studies- wood technology film, 4.5 minutes animated short message.
 - i. Ideas: High school film class and Americana project
 - v. Communication articles- ready to go for fire season
 - vi. Public Forums
 - January/February- Cloman Park Pre-tour/thinning outreach
 - March- Firewise/PAWS- bringing into backyards and neighborhoods-
 - April- WWA Beetle and Water Resources- changing
 - May- Wildfire Prevention Month with Firewise
 - a. Field Trips- how to help your property
 - b. School field trip- May?
 - c. PAWS 5th grade field trip
 - Pagosa Open House- food, speaker,
 - a. Hook- smoke in the air, this is about your neighborhoods
 - b. Mark Shea, Waldo fire, costs and restoration
 - c. fun- beetles and water supplies
 - Restoration- John Iye and Florida Water District presentation on Missionary Ridge
 - CFRI Workshop on Little Sand- June 18-19th with an evening for public interaction
 - vii. USFS interpretive trip – to be scheduled later in the year (fall)
 - viii. Develop a monitoring program

VIII. Next Meeting- February 22, 2013- 9:00- 11:00