**Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership**

February 1, 2019 Meeting Notes

**Location:** Town Council Chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd, Pagosa Springs, CO

**Time:** 9 – 11 a.m.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Feb. 22, 2019**

**Action Items:**

* Compile maps & data of historic gauges, diversions, flow rates, well permits, etc. **(Joe)**
* Schedule hydrographer presentation to explain data on 2/22 meeting **(Joe)**
* Compile report highlights for San Juan River Workgroup, Blanco & Navajo reports **(Chris will email)**, San Juan River Historical Ecology Assessment, CPW info from Ryan, and Forest group data **(Al, Chris & Mandy)**
* Print master map: with layers and points from Joe + GIS tweaks on private property boundaries in Navajo/Blanco sections **(MSI)**
* Approach CWCB about funding opportunities for stream gauge projects **(Mely)**
* Write newspaper article with public meeting findings, survey results/graphics, and example project ideas **(Al, Mely, Mandy)**

**Attendants:** Aaron Kimple,Tim Haarmann, Mely Whiting, Tobi Rowher, James Dickhoff, Joe Crabb, Chris Pitcher, Pat Bennett, Justin Ramsey, Al Pfister, Robin Young, Mandy Eskelson

1. **Public Meeting Reflection**

* **Review public meeting notes**
  1. Identify successes
     1. Breakout group discussions: community interested in watersheds & willing to discuss
  2. Identify where to improve
     1. Need more people/larger turnout: possible incentive or more social component of beer/BBQ/events
     2. Difference in participation willing to develop/plan vs. implementation/review/critique
     3. Public education/outreach events:
        + emphasize voluntary, not mandatory regulation, compliance with water rights/law, project examples/opportunities, and forest & water connection events
     4. Identify point/threshold when group needs progress from planning to acting on projects
     5. Identify tributary contributions, gauging station locations (USGS vs DNR), gauge maintenance, cost, existing structures—hydrographer presentation to group and possibly public
     6. Increase survey participation
        + Newspaper article: Include public meeting highlights AND initial survey results, include graphs, timestamp, include project examples (gauging, stream revitalization, work with ditch companies) to entice people
  3. Identify new partner contacts
     1. New county commissioner-possible presentation with Growing Water Smart, Resilient Archuleta, Watershed Enhancement Partnership
     2. Downstream users of ranchers & landowners: said they only want later involvement after we reached out
  4. Share survey results
     1. Only 29 responses, so keeping it open & hoping for more after newspaper article

1. **2019 Workplan**

* **Scope/Priorities (Map)**
  1. Up to this group to figure out focus, not restricted with CWCB funding
  2. Driven by community, which suggested Piedra is not group’s first priority, but possibly in future
  3. SWWCD Grant-Mely clarified she can approach board if we want to include Piedra back in
  4. Tim-need to adjust GIS layer on Navajo & Blanco watersheds, USFS layer outdated & needs to include private property
* **Next steps and actions to move effort forward**
  1. Review reports/resources: (those found on WEP website, Navajo/Blanco report, CPW reports, and Forest health group resources from MSI)
     + 1. Report/resources review & stream gauge info can highlight priorities, where problematic issues are occurring, especially with environmental & rec for CWCB grant deliverables.
          - Pull historic projects & issues-condense from top to bottom (helps meet grant Task 2 deliverable requirement to conduct data review)
          - Gauges for both quantity & temperature.
     1. Need to demonstrate group’s capability to accomplish projects through action, but be cautious in pushing too fast
     2. Need to address CWCB grant requirements/deliverables to ensure funding continues
     3. Generate public trust and buy-in
  2. Identify information gaps/needs:
     + 1. Generate own list of questions & concerns on quantity, locations, meeting all needs
       2. Determine what data is available to address those questions & what’s needed to fill
  3. Investigate small project options: Gauge stations & public education events
     1. Review gauge locations, costs (Maintenance and fees), funding sources. For both quantity and temperature.
        + Mely reach out about funding sources
        + Joe put together initial map with historic sites, 3-4 top spots to prioritize, consider recreation, head gate, hydrologic regime
        + Identify purpose for what the data is used for, not just to collect. Choose sites that fit all uses.
          - Benefits:

Real time data availability-for ranchers, park ditches, PAWSD

Break into steps of water efficiency: piping, water control structures, coffer dams, lining, closing ditches, then automated system

Improve agricultural efficiency & cost, rec flows, ties into forest health, etc. But need to be considerate of unintended consequences

* + - * Aaron reach out to React (West Fork) Heather Dutton & 416 Contacts
      * Steering Committee present to public: motivation to start acting now and reflect/adapt after first project—April public meeting, present project or threat areas
    1. Education events: water efficiency for users without water rights
  1. Consider long-term plan for group, after funding
     1. Consistency & longevity for group, watershed plan & projects in the future
        + Consider forming group/501c3 to continue objectives after initial funding dries up to maintain consistency, scope.
          - Develop structure for long term group, goals & objectives
          - Ex: Rio Grande group, Water Conservancy Districts, forest health groups—but this effort needs a group with broad interest representation
* **CWCB Progress Report**-review map: Suggestions to adjust outdated USFS GIS layer
* **Southwestern Water Conservation District Progress Report**-MSI has not invoiced yet, but Mely will plan on this coming later

1. **Steering Committee Meeting Schedule**

* Chose **4th Friday** each month: **2/22, 3/22, 4/26** from 9-11am
* 2nd Public meeting: **Thursday, 4/25** 6-8pm

1. **Conclusion/Next Meeting**

* Review master map (MSI) Refer back to stakeholder issues while reviewing maps
* Review maps of gauges, flows, etc. to identify initial locations of interest for multiple use/opportunistic/degraded, identify data gaps for area (Joe) 1 hr
* Hydrographer presentation on gauge type, location, cost (Joe/hydrographer) 30 min
* Discuss bullet points on data & projects (MSI) 15 min
* Long-term group structure/plan (group) 15 min