**Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership**

**MEETING NOTES**

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** April 9, 2021

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT MEETING:** April 20, 2021

**Note:** In Phase II, Steering Committee meetings usually occurred every other month on the second Friday of the month, while Project Management meets occurred every third Tuesday. In Phase III, starting June 2021, these meetings will be combined and occur on the same day each month, with option to cancel or change as determined by Steering Committee members and project partners.

**Majority voted to move Phase III meetings to 1st Wednesday every month from 10 am – 12 pm**. Mandy will send out calendar invites shortly with Zoom info, though these may shift to in-person meetings, depending on COVID guidelines and project needs.

**Updates & Partner Check-In**

* CWCW Environmental & Recreation Workshop: collaborative workshop to discuss how local and statewide Environmental and Recreational interests might be incorporated in the Colorado Water Plan update. Workshop covered:
* Focus Area mapping and work on Basin Implementation Plans to date
* Other tools to analyze stream health and prioritize actions
* Stream Management Plans and Fluvial Hazard Zone Mapping
* Watershed health
* Recreational interests
* Breakout Sessions for each Basin to review updated draft focus area maps, identify what else should be included, and a discussion of how a future decision support tool could be helpful.
* Unfortunately no recording of workshop found, but Story Map to review:

<https://cwcb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=880753ceb13d43e3bc89e2259247aafa>

* Potential for WEP focus areas/projects to be incorporated in this list and map in the future.
* CWCB Forest Health Workshop: multiple committee members observed continued interest from the state and partnerships in exploring research and projects connecting forest health, water, wildfire.
* Projects of priority interest for CWCB: catchment areas for sediment and debris, buffer areas to help mitigate flooding and debris flows.
* Action items: CWCB encouraging identification of catchment areas that: 1) protect property and 2) are properly functioning. These areas are viewed as ideal settings to support all water uses. Funding available and this type of area/project could be an ideal demonstration project for WEP in future.
* Mesa Canyon takeout project: Congratulations on receiving full funding! Project received approval of Tourism Board grant mid-April.
* Banded Peak Ranch research project:
* Exciting new proposal with Ryan Webb from University of New Mexico and Bureau of Reclamation to research water storage and snow sublimation rates in different forest types, modeling for optimal forest treatments for snow/water retention. Also looking at pre- and post-fire treatments in Valles Caldera.
* Goal: Use model results and apply on-the-ground forest treatments at Banded Peak.
* Scale: couple hundred acres of treatment, with control sites, sites with regular industry treatments, and those proposed by model results.
* Budget/Timeline: ~$500k over three year period, with the first year costing ~$100k. Hoping to use deployed instrumentation in Valles Caldera and start summer 2021.
* Implications: Data, treatments, recommendations to apply in other watersheds or areas. Question of whether this modeling and treatment work would be similar and/or comparable to work being done on Jackson Mountain. Good questions to follow up with USFS and San Juan Forest Health Partnership.

**Public Meeting Debrief**

* What worked, what did not?
* Pros: Thorough, well-rounded presentations covering broad spectrum of water topics. Although still technical heavy topics, the content presented in an approachable and understandable way for general public. Benefit of being able to have recording/documentation to share with partners and community members not able to attend and as future reference.
* Cons/Ways to Improve: Need to build more time for input and potential breakout sessions if continuing to use virtual platform/ Zoom.
* Stakeholder questions and public comments:
* Due to limited time and capacity to quickly respond to every editorial, comment, or question the group voted to instead to have Mandy and Al gather stakeholder questions, send in batches to project partners and steering committee members to respond, whether directly, in a follow up gathering, or publicly via articles or website.
* Although some assessment/presentation information shared is still preliminary and being refined for the final report, the committee supported sharing presentation slides from Lotic and SJCD as long as project partners feel comfortable with information.
* Action item: send out a follow up article on the public meeting along with a general survey. Submit a subsequent article in May to share Phase II Final Report.
* Action item: Combine articles/PSA’s with targeted outreach presentations and meetings.
* Articles/PSAs: keep in simple and outline key takeaways.
* Survey: suggestion to maintain original survey, creates baseline, as we develop, see what may have changed transition of activity. Example questions: What aspect of the drought concerns you most? What aspect of forest fires concerns you the most?

**Wrapping Up Phase II (end date 5/31/2021)**

* Lotic will share report draft by 4/30, and Steering Committee invited to provide feedback/comments/questions one week later to Seth by 5/7
* Schedule presentations with key project partners/funders like Southwest Basin Roundtable, Southwestern Water Conservation District, Archuleta County, Town of Pagosa Springs Town Council, Tourism Board, etc.

**Phase III Scheduling (see WEP Project Management Meeting notes)**

**Next Meetings**

* Friday May 7th, WEP “moving meeting”/float trip on San Juan River from Yamaguchi Park to Mesa Canyon takeout
* Wednesday June 2nd – First Phase III meeting

**WEP Project Management Meeting--4/20/21 (**Name in red indicates action item tied to that person)

* **Public Meeting/Stakeholder Question Strategy**
* Available on WEP website: slides, video and option to contact the WEP to set up a call or follow up meeting
* AL-Contact Terry about potential general survey in local paper to request feedback and drive attention to accompanying article. Mandy draft questions/survey
* AL-Submit follow up article to the Sun
* Southwest Basin Roundtable & SWCD board presentations, ideally with Seth and Cynthia presenting as well
* MELY-SWBRT ask to be on agenda at next meeting,
* MELY-SWCD ask to be on board meeting in early June , around 2nd/3rd week. Meetings usually occur Wed. or Thurs.
* Other targeted outreach/presentations for group to consider instead of holding larger public meeting in next 2-3 months.

AL-determine schedule/date for each of these project partners. MANDY to help present/coordinate.

* Town Council
* Tourism Board
* County
* Resilient Archuleta & Growing WaterSmart
* Weminuche Audubon/Pagosa Wetland Partners-monthly
* Friends of the San Juan, San Juan Forest Health Partnership, San Juan Water Conservancy District, etc.
* Phase III ag inventory outreach needs?
* MANDY/AL-Robin Young recommends putting out cardboard signs throughout neighborhoods in Blanco watershed. Perhaps use old flyer ag inventory flyer from 2020, but better to create short/simple poster referring folks to website for more information.
* CYNTHIA/SJCD-currently analyzing which Blanco ditches/properties to contact and reaching out directly. Will touch base with Sterling about his timeline and outreach assistance needs.
* Major ditch companies part of Phase II inventory? Wait until SJCD able to contact ditch reps before broader board meeting.
* **Phase II Reporting**
* SETH-**Lotic report draft by 4/30, Steering Committee feedback/comments/questions sent to Seth by 5/7**
* SETH-Create map of “hot areas” to help steering committee determine where to target outreach, ensure stakeholder input and representation from for future workshops
* MANDY- draft CWCB report available to steering committee and partners by 5/13/21
* MANDY-send invoice tracking/funds left in Phase II to Lotic and WW by 4/23, along with subcontractor agreements.
* **Phase III Subcontractor Agreements**
* SJCD contract starts 5/1 to ensure ready to begin field work whenever appropriate
* WW & Lotic contract starts 6/1 since funds still available in Phase II through 5/31
* MANDY-Contract Agreement drafts to be sent by Friday 4/23
* **SWCD Letters of Match**
* MANDY-Waiting on Tourism Board, then ready to send to Southwestern Water Conservation District to receive grant funds. Send to Mely ASAP.
* **May 7th Float Trip**
* **9 confirmed participants**

70 min shuttle (if leaving vehicle at takeout, 35 min to takeout + 35 min back to Pagosa)

3 h 30 min float

35 min back to Pagosa or back home

**5/5.5 hour trip**

**MANDY-**send calendar invite and float schedule/timeline by 4/21

* **Phase III Schedule, Milestones, Tools**
* **MANDY-**send out calendar invites for every 1st Wednesday each month from 10 am – 12 pm
* 1st hour - Steering Committee, Lotic, SJCD
* 2nd hour - Steering Committee (Lotic & SJCD welcome to stay)

Phase III only budgeted for 9 project management/steering committee meetings

**Rough draft/broad proposal for Phase III schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meet #** | **Phase II** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **BREAK** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| **Task** | **May 7** | **June 2** | **July 7** | **Aug 4** | **Sep 1** | **Oct 6** | **Nov-Jan** | **Feb 2** | **Mar2** | **Apr 6** | **May 4** |
|  |  |  |  | Workshop | Workshop | Prelim list to stakeholders | **Holidays** |  | Public Meeting? | Public Meeting? |  |
| **1****MSI/****WW/ WEP** | Float trip + draft/ finalize Final Report | Phase III Milestones | workshop plan, IWMP  | workshop outreach, IWMP | IWMP | StoryMap resources |  | Public meet & long term plan | Long term plan | Finalize IWMP  |
| **2****SJCD** | Start P3 field? | Field, Outreach | Field, Outreach  | Field, Outreach | Project ID | Project refinement-Phase II project discussions | **Grant Proposals** | Project alternatives, cost estimates | Project prioritize & funding  | Report draft | Final report  |
| **3****Lotic** | Float trip, final report review | IWMP process | Seth out 2 weeks in July | Stakeholder goals & objectives |  | ID high priority reaches, issues | Alternative effective., ranking | IPP cutsheets | Report draft | Final report |

\*Pulled deliverables from CWRP & WSRF grants for each task/partner. This schedule will need to be filled in with details and adjusted as needed based on partner and project needs.

**Funding to track**

* Sen. Michael Bennet’s [Outdoor Restoration Force Act](https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/0/3/0393c552-ef88-47d3-a3ec-b7024280e30f/24C1A49BDCE2950B79A3E0A95C9C10BB.outdoor-restoration-force-act-one-pager.pdf), [press release](https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2020/12/bennet-unveils-bill-to-dramatically-scale-up-forest-and-watershed-restoration-across-the-west)
* Special releases of [Colorado Watershed Restoration Program](https://cwcb.colorado.gov/focus-areas/ecosystem-health/watershed-protection-and-restoration) related to wildfire, flooding, mitigation, planning
* [Regional Conservation Partnership Program (](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/co/programs/farmbill/rcpp/)RCPP)-Annual invitation through an Announcement for Program Funding (APF) for 3 funding pools (Critical Conservation Areas, National, State). RCPP grant is due May 28. Do not need to have all projects outlined/refined to apply for the grant, just areas of work, type of work and expected funding needs.

**SMP Peer Call-Stakeholder Survey/Mapping Tools**

After participating in River Network’s SMP Peer Call, MSI is currently investigating tools to spatially map and visualize stakeholder input and values, with the goal to better analyze stakeholder feedback, project identification, and priority areas. Possibility of creating a layer to overlay on a stream assessment or priority reaches to help identify alignment/overlap of multiple values/benefits.

* **Survey 123** – (MSIs preference so far) MSI has multiple Esri licenses and used Survey 123 (more form focus, points, survey questions). Survey 123 considered a better option than Arc Collector (more map focused, polygons, attributes).

Example River Basin Stakeholder Survey: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/aed6ad18d35b477f9a0669ee869a23fa>

Survey 123 Instructions from Maine Lakes project: <https://mainelakes.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/publication.pdf> (includes how to set up survey, analyze, results, etc.)

Trainings: <https://learn.arcgis.com/en/projects/get-started-with-arcgis-survey123/>

* **Tableau--** Map and analyze stakeholder surveys. Yampa group paid $10k to hire contractor, after conducting individual interviews/surveys, to guide the group in how add in surveys/interview data into Tableau. Question if this would be cheaper for WEP if MSI or project partners knew how to set up databases and set up questionnaires beforehand rather than retroactively figuring out how to add data into the software.

Tableau Public <https://public.tableau.com/en-us/s/about>

Cost: supposedly free, but not sure if there are hidden fees.

Contact: Nicole Seltzer nseltzer@rivernetwork.org (Used with Yampa IWMP)

Videos on how to connect to spatial, excel, PDF and other files/sources: <https://public.tableau.com/en-us/s/resources>

Examples-Stakeholder Surveys & Interviews: <https://sites.google.com/view/ywgroundtable/stakeholder-surveys-interviews?authuser=0>

Stakeholder Summary: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fHWEaaLvYeImKCGpKvs02rdFQW67zX4I/view>

Demographics: <https://sites.google.com/view/ywgroundtable/stakeholder-surveys-interviews/demographics?authuser=0>

* **Maptionnaire** <https://maptionnaire.com/>

Example survey: <https://app.maptionnaire.com/en/8324/>. Survey is now closed/no longer collecting data, but you can take survey/see questions and options to drop pins on maps of locations of value/interest. Pricey!

Contact: will.davis@bigthompson.co (Director of Big Thompson Watershed Coalition that utilized this platform)