**Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership**

**MEETING NOTES**

STEERING COMMITTEE FIELD TRIP: May 8, 2019 9 am – 12 pm

Where: Multiple sites along the San Juan River near Pagosa Springs, CO

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

* + **Friday, June 14, 9-11am**, Location TBD
	+ **Proposal to continue meeting every second Friday of each month over the summer (Jul. 12, Aug. 16)**

**Attendees:** Justin Ramsey, John Taylor, Robin Young, Joni Vanderbilt, Tim Haarmann, Tobi Rowher, Jeff Hester, Al Pfister, Mely Whiting, Joes Crabb, James Dickhoff, Christ Pitcher, Aaron Kimple, Mandy Eskelson

**Action Items:**

* Add or edit any project site details in updated Project Option Table **(Steering Committee)**
* Follow up or present information to boards **(Al, Pat, Justin, Tobi, Joe, others?)**
* Email Steering Committee Existing Information Review report and example Request For Proposal (RFP) for Phase II technical assessment **(Al & Mandy)**

**Field Trip Discussions:**

* Four sites along the San Juan River, close to the town of Pagosa Springs, were visited by Steering Committee members and associated HOA board members, ditch stakeholders, and private property owners.
* Goal: share WEP efforts with community contacts and have Steering Committee members see firsthand conditions of potential project sites and discuss future processes.
* Site contacts/representatives provided the group with historical context, river-related issues/challenges, and immediate and future actions the area is considering.
* Steering Committee members discussed how multiple values (agriculture, recreation, environmental and municipal) may benefit from projects at each site, ensuring diverse water uses/users are considered in future planning.
* Benefits, challenges, resources and key contacts were identified at each site.
* Project options discussed by the group included:
* Diversion structure improvements: to protect/stabilize infrastructure; reduce maintenance, labor or costs; and increase water use efficiency.
* In-channel and bank restoration: to reduce flooding, erosion, property damage and to create low-flow channels, enhanced aquatic and riparian habitats, support fish populations.
* Public access to river corridor: to prevent trespassing or property damage and extend recreation and economic opportunities.
* Field trip sites visited are only a few of the options being considered by the Steering Committee, and this list of options will continue to grow and evolve based upon the Committee’s decisions, public feedback, technical assessments, and community buy-in.

**Watershed Enhancement Partnership future considerations:**

* If Steering Committee and public would like to continue this process into Phase II and III, funding applications can be prepared and submitted to Southwest Basin Roundtable and CWCB.
* Next meeting will discuss potential structure and steps of Phase II, including what Steering Committee may request of contractor (Request for Proposal) for technical analysis and watershed assessment needs.
* Future public meeting topic ideas discussed:
* Steering Committee updates/panel for questions
* Types of projects being considered (public access, riparian restoration, infrastructure improvements, stream gauges, etc.) by group and to include in Phase II assessment
* Present water education (path of water through watershed, CO water law, water rights, ways to improve personal impacts/efficiency)
* Steering Committee members may begin to do targeted outreach in June with community leaders, boards, property owners, councils and HOA contacts to discuss the efforts of WEP to determine if there is interest for future collaborations.