**Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership**

**Meeting Notes**

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: July 12, 2019 10 am – 12 pm

Where: Town Hall Courtroom, Pagosa Springs, CO

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

* + **Friday, August 16 10-12 pm,** Location: Town Hall Courtroom Pagosa Springs
  + **Potential joint public meeting in late August or late September** with Resilient Archuleta and Growing Water Smart.

**Attendees:** Aaron Kimple, Tobi Rowher, John Taylor, Mely Whiting, Joe Crabb, Tim Haarmann, Robin Young, James Dickhoff, Al Pfister, Mandy Eskelson, Justin Ramsey

**Action Items:**

* Include Concept Design Drawing/Preliminary Budget details into Riverbend/MSI Concept Proposal **(Chris)**
* Send Resilient Archuleta and Growing Water Smart reports to incorporate into RFP/Phase II needs **(Robin, James)**
* Revise Request for Proposal (RFP) draft for Phase II technical assessment **(Mandy)**
* Determine August or September joint public meeting date with Resilient Archuleta and Growing Water Smart **(Robin)**
* Check availability of Lotic to present to Steering Committee **(MSI)**

**10:00 – 10:10 Welcome & Introductions**

**10:10 – 11:00 Concept Design Plan Updates**

* Southwest Basin Roundtable (SWBRT) accepted group requests:

1. Letter of Support for grant applications to pursue Phase II funding this fall/winter
2. Funding for Concept Design Plan and ability to hire Riverbend, LLC as consultant/design engineer

* Presentation to SWBRT included:
* updates/reflections on Watershed Enhancement Partnership’s accomplishments
* WEP’s focus on multiple water uses (environmental, agricultural, recreation, and municipal)
* concept design plan for multi-purpose project design options on Upper San Juan
* how the concept design plan can inform and compliment Phase II steps + serve as demonstration project for WEP and watershed planning

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| Concept Design Plan Tasks & Deliverables: \*must be approved by involved parties beforehand and have appropriate river conditions (i.e. lower flow levels) |
| 1. Conduct field survey of project area locations of key project components |
| 1. Conduct gauge data analysis for San Juan River |
| 1. Assess general channel geomorphic conditions |
| 1. Create base map of project site |
| 1. Create concept design drawings, preliminary budget/cost estimate and brief narrative of improvement features |

* Request for Proposal (RFP)/Phase II steps:
* Due date for application for CWCB: November 1st for Watershed Grant-specific for this processes
* Revise RFP to advertise and draft Phase II application:
* Options: include Lotic Hydrology’s already drafted Scope of Work or advertise RFP to get a different perspective, budget, etc.
* Considerations for Lotic’s Scope of Work: could be too generic without specifics of this region, focuses on E&R mainly, looks at channel flows to serve all functions, works with American Whitewater for surveys if needed (i.e. San Miguel boating days), base flow/fisheries analysis.
* Potentially have Lotic (Seth) present on previous analysis project and to discuss what WEP wants to change and add. Potentially August 16.
* Request 2 options of broader and more specific option: Do we want broader assessment with 3 sub-basins (San Juan, Navajo, Blanco) and narrow in during phase III for project implementations? Or focus on Upper San Juan and use this to model on the Navajo and Blanco later on. Consensus to not focus on Piedra for now, but possibly bring in the future, if interested.
* Additions needed:
* Expand to include agricultural and municipal water needs
* Incorporate resilience language (drought, conservation, etc.) and strategies into scope of work
* List that WEP is working with other groups for data sharing to collaborate (i.e. Resilient Archuleta, Growing Water Smart)
* Require more on-the-ground consultation from locals and use existing data.
* Consider the Collaborative Forest work with large funding source to leverage with Navajo and Blanco. Many restoration projects exist below Chama diversion, but a lot of opportunity for this effort to make improvements in Upper Blanco & Navajo.
* List opportunities that have not been identified, short- and long- term options

**11:00 – 11:10 NRCS/SJCD Update**

* NRCS/SJCD currently conducting inventory of agricultural needs: potential to add this component to Phase II, with money to hire someone under NRCS (determine who oversees) to provide manpower to this ongoing effort.
* Talked about Four Mile, Echo, Snowball incorporated ditches
* Cynthia Purcell will discuss further specifics to see how WEP can incorporate this effort into our Phase II grant application to develop partnership. Joe, Mely, Al, Robin possibly participate in meeting. Discuss details on timeline, etc.
* SJCD applicant for NRCS federal money, which could align with this effort. WEP could write a letter of support and vice versa for our grant. Mutually beneficial. Our partners would be both NRCS and SJCD.

**11:10 –11:40 Public Meeting/Outreach**

* Public Meeting Options: Combine with Resilient Archuleta and Growing Water Smart in August or September. Provide broad update of different groups to include community on process and plant the seed for fall public meeting, which will be more detailed. Benefit of reaching tourist/snowbird audience now that may not be here in fall/winter for public presentation.
* Date options: August 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 or September 25, 26. Usually on Wednesday evenings. October option for fall public meeting
* Topics:
* Could provide Drought Contingency Plan/Demand Management updates. Could also discuss recently completed Risk Assessment that determines (19% in Southwest, not as many pre-compact water rights) where the call affects, this could be more critical to discuss.
* Presenter from CWCB for interpretation (Mely will contact Brent for availability).
* Need to advertise ASAP!
* Partner Updates:
* Growing Water Smart, most entities (6 total) have somewhat supported it. Group will reconvene after census data to review if adjustments needed every 3-5 years to see if results are tracking projection. Report concluded just under 2% a year growth projections. \*Include projections into Phase II assessment needs.
* Resilient Archuleta: currently in public education, not collecting any more data. Could discuss Compact calls and Drought Contingency Plans, Demand Management. However, much speculation at the moment, models of potential impacts, areas affected, risk assessment \*Include in Phase II assessment needs.
* Joint Public Meeting: opportunity to partner up to put out more public information and show joint communication, collaboration, progress Have a water panel, experts get out broad info, and what we can do to be resilient. Especially pertinent to discuss during a wet year in 2019.

**11:40 – 11:50 WEP presenting at Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference**

* Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Colorado Conference: focuses on human element
* Abstract accepted, presenting on Oct. 9th in Avon, CO (WEP, Growing Water Smart, and Resilient Archuleta collaboration)

**11:50 – 12:00 Conclusion/Next meeting**

* **Next meeting August 16** **10am-12pm**: flush out on public meeting messaging and structure. Determine who will speak for Watershed Enhancement Partnership.