# September 3rd 2015 Mancos River restoration Group Meeting Notes

*Attendees: Chris Rasmussen, Colin Larrick, Esmé Cadiente, Paul Morey, Jack Burke, Ann Oliver and Rachel (Vista volunteer), Steve Monroe.*

Pete Stacey – travel on Oct 1, arrive here around noon.

Allison Jones with Wild Utah is interested in coming also? Pending on her schedule.

## Meeting structure ideas:

Have a summary of data to begin with that we can hand out. Summarize the dropbox.

Divide the data by agency? organize the agencies to present their data at the meeting. Topic areas during the meeting and put what exists from each agency under those topics to make an inventory of information. The meeting can guide the structure of the dropbox.

## Goals of Oct 1 meeting –

* Oct 1: Smaller group of immediate stakeholders (larger meeting in Dec to bring in community)
* Find out what science is out there, data gaps, talk about what we would like to work towards in the future.
* The ultimate objective in the meeting is to present the information we have to find the gaps in order to assess what path we want to take going forward
* Here is where we were 10 years ago, here is where we are now, where do we want to go forward
* Scope the meeting in a climate change context. This whole effort should be planning for climate change resilience. Restoring habitat now may be a waste of time in 20 years if we are not thinking about climate change
  + Chronicle the work that has been done
* Where do we go from here?
  + The group can narrow down through the top interests with the lens of climate change to tackleable interests

## Tentative agenda:

MSI – facilitate the meeting

1. Paul – short introduction
2. MSI open the meeting with an overview of climate data and climate predictions – MSI climate scenarios
3. Overview of data, what we have to work with. Guiding questions like ‘what’s the current status of riparian system on the Mancos?’ etc, corralling everybody’s information and what has been done to date on restoration.
   1. Have each organization present their data:
      1. MSI – climate scenarios and species vulnerability assessment
      2. Ann or someone from the District: present chronology
      3. Mt Ute: Colin – overview of monitoring program on the Mancos
      4. MEVE:
         1. Steve– present what has been done in MEVE
         2. Paul to present ideas for going forward
      5. CPW: Paul Jones or Jim White- cold water and warm water fisheries
      6. USFS: Shauna Jenson
      7. Kirstin Brown from Colorado Division of Mining Reclamation and Safety
4. Field lunch with Pete Stacey to talk about RSRA’s
   1. Field portion: Pete can present what he did, what the results were, discuss methods.
   2. What has he learned about RSRAs as a tool? Is it useful? Get his perspective on whether RSRA is a tool that can be used moving forward. Does RSRA capture sufficient detail?
5. After lunch: Talk about resiliency into the future with Chris R.
6. Come back together to devote time to develop a draft plan of what we want to do, maybe using climate SMART for an example of how we can scope

## To Bring :

Projector – **Jack Burke, MSI**

Camp chairs - **everyone**

## Field site ideas

Ann’s sites are difficult to get to, time consuming. Excelsior has a diversion structure but hard to park at. Cottonwood park is 2 blocks from the grange and might be the best field location to visit for a field trip.

## Questions for Pete:

Questions for Pete Stacey:

1. Please share your thinking on the utility and role of RSRA protocol in context of climate change
2. Can you update us with information regarding what you have learned from the RSRA database and how these surveys are being used?
3. Examples of RSRA’s being used for prioritizing restoration sites/projects and for pre/post project monitoring
4. How can RSRA be used to prescribe restoration needs?
5. Can RSRA be used for climate change resilience planning?
6. Does your protocol inform projection?
7. Ask him about applying his technique and how he thinks it has changed and if it is applicable for us moving forward?
8. Talk to him about his efforts with other groups.

Are we thinking about applying his technique?

Does his protocol inform projection? Ask him about applying his technique and how he thinks it has changed and if it is applicable for us moving forward. Talk to him about his efforts with other groups.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Finalize Agenda - ESME
2. Invite to Mancos River Group list - ESME
3. Contact to ask about presenting data:
   1. Shawna Jensen, USFS – who can do this?
   2. Kirsten Brown, DRMS who can do this?
   3. CPW-? who can do this?
4. Direct the groups to present a short summary. Give directions to speakers- what has been done, data overview, what plans or needs are – MARCIE or PAUL?
5. Provide a summary of what is in the drop box- abbreviated list or #s -ESME
6. Objectives for the Meeting-
   1. Focus on the list of topics, which priorities to go forward towards future
   2. Public presentation key messages- what we found in the data, needs for more work
   3. Develop Discussion guide for the afternoon session
7. Funding
   1. Change assessment-
      1. Target species, target reaches
      2. Climate change assessment-
      3. Preparing for an update plan
      4. Social assessment- Emily Thorne

## Random notes from Sep 3 meeting:

Steve: separate field trip on another day for those that are interested to go to the park and the Mt Ute reservation. Colin: may be planning a full tour with Tamarisk coalition and CWCB at the end of Oct which may be an opportunity for a full day tour through the canyon. Limited space – 20 people, maybe some of the MRR group can go on this tour if it happens.

Are we looking at restoration in a static sense or looking forward to climate change?

One example of a project would be: Round tailed chub – Find out what habitat we have for roundtailed chub, fish habitat

Beavers is a big topic, bird species, etc.

We need to focus our efforts, maybe sub groups to work on specific species? Take a realistic look at where we can make it better, in some areas we cant. What can we do now? 10 year horizon on it maybe.

Check on progress with Emily Thorn – she is making a social science survey to hand out to stakeholders. We would want this before Dec meeting so that we go into the meeting with an idea of what people want.

there is already massive water struggles for water users in our present circumstance, flow wont increase so lets plan with the realities: reconciliation ecology. Lets get real about restoration and realize that we might not be restoring anything. Lets call it resilience planning, because that is the reality.

We need to be thinking differently about what we plant in the context of climate change because if we plant cottonwoods now, in 20 years when it is hotter, the cottonwoods cant live.

Ann has done resurveys, there has been follow up actions at some of the sites Ann resurveyed. Pete has the largest body of available information on the River.

Steve talked to Felicity about sharing her resources, someone needs to pick these boxes up in Santa fe.

Email list from Felicity – check with Ann about this.

Have a note taker to take notes from the day and capture the topics hat we can carry on.