

UWFP Meeting April 12, 2012

USFS Regional Office – 740 Simms Street 80401

Welcome and Meeting Orientation

Welcome from Regional Forester, Dan Jiron. Personal experience with water issues. Critically important to the West. Water and the issues will transcend politics/administrative changes, etc.

Polly - Brief review of last meeting

Nancy – agenda overview and facilitation guidance.

Good news! Updates on Funded Projects

Stacey Eriksen, EPA. Foundations may be interested in funding Urban Waters work Stacey is compiling a list of unfunded projects, so keep that in mind as the day progresses. Please provide as soon as possible any project ideas you would like put forward for possible foundation funding to Stacey at: eriksen.stacey@epa.gov. She will submit to EPA Headquarters all projects sent to her and they will be provided to private foundations.

Mapping project from EPA (possible additional funding). Details still being worked out.

Urban Waters Small Grants projects:

Earth Force – (~~Donny Roush – gave an update~~) KicNet (Keep it Clean, Neighborhood Environmental Trios

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir, – Amy Conklin – Watershed group coordination within South Platte, educational programming, public outreach campaign. Partnered with OWOW, Water 2012.

Darcy will be project officer on these grants.

There may be more funding next year for this type of Urban Waters grant

Hometown funding from National EPA Administrator – This will be announced next week. Jim Martin worked with the City and County of Denver, added to Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant, Denver Parks department (Sun Valley/Weir Gulch, Johnson/Habitat Park), plus Urban Drainage – green infrastructure design River North area.

Alan Ragins, NPS. – Bring unfunded projects to the group, so people can see needs, potential opportunities.

Darcy Campbell, EPA. – funding available for source water protection. Source water protection plan? Watershed plan? Or other work we would rather do now? Pretty broad or open-ended. Could hold

stakeholder meetings, start planning process. \$15 – \$45 K potentially available. Could move downstream starting in headwaters.

Susan Ford, USFS/Keith Wood, CSFS. Background of Urban and Community Forestry Program. Authorizations to use funds more flexibly. Coordination and community outreach. Leveraging, technical backstopping. State Forest Service as key partner. Funded 4 out of 6 projects (\$100,000 available , \$185,000 in needs). Tree planting and habitat restoration component, also invasives removal, especially woody invasives.

Bluff Lake Nature Center; Denver Parks and Rec; Institute for Environmental Solutions (Wheatridge greenbelt); South suburban Parks and Rec.) Projects will be implemented in 2012 -2013.

Round Robin Announcements

Another CSFS opportunity is the National Urban and Community Advisory Council grants, up to \$280K. Grant opportunity usually comes in the fall, may be an opportunity this year, requires a 1:1 match.

Claire Harper (USFS). Potential opportunity – purchase of forested land or conservation easement by a non-profit or local government to establish community forest/educational opportunity. Up to \$400K and a 1:1 match. Contact Claire for more information.

Alan Ragins (National Park Service). There is a connection between Urban Waters, AGO, and Blueways.

AGO includes Rocky Mountain Greenways projects, trails connecting Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Three Ponds, and Rocky Flats. There is talk of connecting Rocky Mountain National Park with the South Platte Greenway. Salazar will be visiting Denver in May regarding this.

Blueways – This is a new program just starting up, designating National Water Trails (companion to National Recreation Trails). Interest for looking into that for the South Platte. Information and technical assistance (like for greenways around rivers). May be more of a toolbox, how to manage and take care of the river. The web site will go live next week. Google “National Water Trails” and check out “best practices.” The project has no funding right now. Pilot conservation projects may be proposed.

Kate Kramer mentioned that the Sand Creek connector will be completed this fall.

Dave Bennetts (Urban Drainage and Flood Control). Working on partner efforts with The Greenway Foundation, Denver Parks. Work from C470 to Brighton. \$2 million yearly budget for South Platte for restoration and routine maintenance. This year invested \$1 million in construction projects along Platte, including South Platte Park, etc. Have ideas about other potential partners, including South Suburban Parks and Rec. They will spend \$5 million on S Platte River Park in the next 5 years. As map gets developed, bring in some additional partners. South Platte River Coordination group has a meeting next week. Expand scope of this group to include.

Stacey Eriksen, (EPA). Working on the Westerly Creek project with Denver. River North green infrastructure design 31st-38th,

Brian Scott (Denver Public works). River North between 38th and Brighton Boulevard. Developers interest. Exploring how redevelopment can improve water quality and drainage issues. Could be a model for others. Working with Urban Drainage, CDOT, Adams County. Pilot site at 52nd and Emerson, former treatment plant. Working on hiring a staff person to work on water quality.

Stacey – Curtis watershed multipartner project around light rail station at 10th and Osage including Colfax and Auraria campus.

Marge Price (Greenway Foundation). - South Platte project with Greenway foundation, OWOW project in conjunction with River Sweep. Will be characterizing trash to identify source. 1200 volunteers for Earth Day event.

David Marquardt (Denver Parks) – just submitted \$8 million GOCO grant for South Platte – grant Frontier/Overland Park area – trail improvements – focus on Johnson-Habitat park, as well as River North.

Janelle Smith (USFS) – Update on Peaks to Prairie Children’s Forest Corridor project. This will be on the Pike National Forest and along the South Platte. Next week is the first guiding partners meeting.

Shane Wright (Groundwork Denver). Bear Creek project. Example of what needs to be done. What made you want to do watershed work? What’s your personal connection to water? What’s your personal connection to Colorado? Would like to see mindset shift to focus on urban water quality.

Tom Cech (OWOW). New One World One Water Center at Metro State with undergraduate water major; college Water Festival May 1st and 2nd on Auraria campus. May 2nd is sculpture dedication. Justice Hobbs and Rik Sargent will organize Water and the Arts seminar this winter.

Kristin Maharg (CFWE). Colorado Water 2012 is the year of water. Go to water2012.org. More entry points for people to care about water, with over 500 partners. Specific Event: Urban Waters Bike Tour – explore South Platte River corridor, May 3 and 17. Can sign up, free and open to the public, there is room for about 30 people. Purpose is to show what’s going on, on the ground, between Overland Park and Confluence Park. Water in your home, on the river, etc. If successful, would like to take this on the road.

Kaitlin Fischer (Americorps volunteer, Jefferson Conservation District). Would like to continue to propose a Systems Network Mapping process. It would identify key players, and bring those people together to identify goals, stressors, etc.

Kate Kramer (Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership). Great partnership with FWS and DOI. Grant opportunity. Rocky Mountain Arsenal Settlement will happen in June or July, will impact the northern section of the South Platte from Denver to Brighton. This is a \$20 million settlement.

Brian Devine – (Jefferson Conservation District). Working with landowners on N. Fork fire. Data collection going on now. (or talk to Boyd from NRCS) Proposal in to CSFS to do work on private lands in North Fork, including source water protection related work.

Carol Ekarius (Coalition for the Upper South Platte) 10th anniversary year of Hayman Fire. Multimillion dollar restoration project going on this summer in Trail Creek, then will move into Horse Creek. June 21st /22nd science symposium. June 21st is at REI in Denver, followed by field day.

Go to: Hayman10th.org web site.

Chris Poulet (ATSDR). Funding opportunity, ATSDR Brownfields program, July deadline, fairly flexible.

BREAK

Denver Pilot Coordinator Position

Coordinator Position at Colorado State Forest Service (part of CSU). Susan Ford and Keith Wood described. This would be a 2-year full-time position, with a salary of \$40-50K. Once accounts get set up, (May/June) the position will be advertised. Talked about minimum qualifications of position, preferred qualifications and experience. Down the road might be able to incorporate into CSFS priorities (which include water).

Moving the Partnership Forward:

What does Success look like?

Incremental progress – towards collaboration and coordination. Partners and public

More funding.

Measurable progress. Projects on the ground, public involvement, etc.

Meeting environmental performance measures, whatever they may be.

Improved urban water quality.

Economic and social performance measures (relevance).

Clearly defined scope of work.

Engaged and more informed public.... And a way to measure that....

More fishable, swimmable, usable waterways.

Have partnership be more melded together (evolve beyond waiting for pots of money to emerge)

Enhanced relationship between the watershed and the stream.

Economic development.

Documented mature information exchange.

Interactive platform for community input and outreach regarding the river system.

Youth/higher education voice and participation

Sustainability of group/organization.... How will it continue....

Visibility or cachet

What will the coordinator need to know to be successful?

Flip chart exercise with sticky notes - Know /See /Do - capture

Tom Cech – Have measureable metrics of accomplishment over the first two years. (so they can prioritize, a defer things that aren't a first priority). Spoke to his own experience coming into the job at the OWOW center.

Person who can engage both sides of brain.

Really understand group's vision and metrics for success.

How can this network add value and benefit the work each organization is doing now?

Develop matrix of partner information, Cliff Notes of subject matter, geography working in

Transfer technical information in this room, communicate it well, add impact

Share knowledge and success stories/lessons learned with each other and the public

Communicate our resources

Business Plan/Marketing Plan for Partnership

Wiki-Interactive site, dialogue through some portal (interactive, time efficient, simple)

What are the potential gaps that this network can identify and work on?

Rebrand the watershed, come up with a common message

Brand our organization

Could do bullet points on what we all do

Summary and Next Steps

Meet again in July/August

Random Feedback:

Meeting Planning: Start later for Headwaters folks – even 9:30 would make a difference.

Federal Partners to do: How do we put programs/funding together in one place. (Federal Partners)