

Draft Meeting Notes

Urban Waters Meeting #3

Metro State University of Denver

8/23/12

Note: Many headwaters partners missing due to overlap with Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable Meeting.

Barr-Milton Urban Waters Outreach Grant, short presentation/discussion-Amy Conklin. Amy and Laurie Rink presented information on this water messaging Urban Waters grant (see attached pdf of presentation). Amy talked about coordination with the "Value of Water" campaign and invited those interested to get in touch with her if they know of other campaigns or would like to give input to this project. Amy.conklin@comcast.net

Announcements and Updates

Earth Force Urban Waters Grant-Donny Roush. Donny discussed pilot sites for the KIC-NET project, a partnership between Denver Public Schools, Denver Parks and Recreation, and Denver Public Works and Earth Force.

Bear Creek Watershed, Key Connections-Wendy Hawthorne, Groundwork Denver. The Bear Creek work involves an 8-9 mile section in the urban area. Partnership with Colorado Mountain Bike Association. Service and bike riding connection.

Ambassador/Coordinator position-Keith Woods, Colorado State Forest Service. This position closes Sept. 4th, posted on Colorado State Forest Service website.

Update on forestry projects-Keith Woods, Colorado State Forest Service. South Suburban Parks and Rec grant completed, Bluff Lake tree planting, Wheatridge greenbelt, City and County of Denver invasives removal.

Urban Watershed Fund, Urban Waters small grants, EOY funding, R8 GI website-Stacey Eriksen, EPA

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is hoping to put out an RFP (Urban Watershed Fund.) Stay tuned. EPA recently posted a draft version of the Green Infrastructure web page. Thanks to all who contributed. All are invited to review it. The web address is:

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/greeninfrastructure.html>

If Urban Waters partners have projects that need funding that are not on Stacey's list, please send them to her, in case of other funding opportunities.

Earth Day River Sweep, Trash Survey, GOCO funding-Jolon Clark, Greenway Foundation.

The River Ranger program is coordinating with Earth Force. The River Rangers had a successful year and some internships, introduction to careers.

River Sweep. The next event will be Sept. 29th. The spring event involved 1200 volunteers. A trash inventory will be included. Looking at a social marketing campaign related to trash.

River Vision Implementation Planning. In 2013 they should be digging dirt. From GOCO and other funding they are up to over \$13 million. The work will include trails, parks, Johnson Habitat Park, river improvements.

Army Corps of Engineers funding. Corps is providing \$50,000 to develop a Project Management Plan, a six month process that starts in Sept. This may lead to additional funding of work on the Platte.

Urban Waters Bike Tours-Kristin Maharg, Colorado Foundation for Water Education. Two tours have been successful with 30 participants each time. The route is Overland Park to Confluence Park, with a number of experts speaking along the route. CFWE needs additional funding to do this programming. The flyer is on the CFWE website.

Hayman 10 Year Anniversary Symposium - Polly Hays of USFS updated the group on this event which was held in late June. A conference and field tour looked at some of what we have learned about emergency and long term restoration on the Hayman fire. Some of this knowledge will be immediately applicable to the High Park and Waldo fires.

CO Chapter of American Water Resources Association (AWRA) is planning a field trip on September 28th to look at emergency and long-term restoration on the Hayman and Waldo Fires. (<http://awracolorado.havoclite.com/>)

The Front Range Watershed Wildfire Protection Group is being reinvigorated and will have an open meeting in late Oct. or early November. Contact Polly if you would like more information once this meeting is scheduled.

Fire and Utilities Workshop-Darcy Campbell, EPA. Darcy told the group about a workshop being planned by Water Research Foundation and EPA on "Impacts of Wildfires on Water Utility Operations." It will be held in late 2012 or early 2013 in the Denver area. It is primarily for utilities. Please contact Darcy if you have questions and/or ideas of good speakers, topics, and members of the planning committee.

South Platte Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant-Tim Watkins, City and County of Denver

The South Platte Corridor Study will go to EPA at the end of Oct. Partners are Greenway Foundation and Colorado Brownfields Foundation.)

Sept. 19th is the final meeting regarding catalytic sites. It will be at REI at 6:00.

DEH 2011 Update on Water Quality in Streams in Denver-Jon Novick, DEH. This report is now out, and John will email it to all. Here is a link:

<http://www.denvergov.org/EAP/WaterQualityProgram/WaterQualityReports/StreamReports/tabid/424859/Default.aspx>. It deals with e. Coli, nutrients, metals, etc. The report shows that nutrients are starting to

decrease, likely due to greater treatment by WWTPs. E Coli shows long-term downward trend but not statistically significant.

Another trash inventory is coming up at River Sweep, register at Greenwayfoundation.org/Riversweep

EPA Water Sense Program-Sylvia Bienzle, Alica Marrs. Check out the EPA website. Alicia is available to answer questions.

Additional Updates from around the room

Tim Wohlgenant, TPL. They are hiring a landscape architect, see tpl.org

Sarah Davis, CCD. There is a new report on stormwater benefits from tree canopies.

Keith Wood, CSFS. There is an article in Colorado Water (online) on our partnership.

Systems mapping presentation-Kaitlin Fischer, Tim Wohlgenant

Kaitlin gave a presentation on systems network mapping. This is the link to view the Systems Network Mapping presentation using Prezi: <http://prezi.com/lssv6qhdad-q/systems-network-mapping/> (once you click on the link, you can click "More" in the middle right-hand side of the screen to view the presentation full-screen and navigate through it using the arrow at the bottom.)

Kaitlin used the Re-AMP Energy Network as a case study. A network works within a system. This approach can be used to help groups collaborate and target resources. It involves goals, subgoals, dreamteams, etc. The mapping is of people, processes and relationships. There are 6 key principles (see RE-AMP case study previously emailed out.) Another case study is "Foundations for Success" used by wildlife agencies.

How could our partnership use this approach? We could use it to get organized and focused and then go to funders such as Colorado Health Foundation, Gates Foundation, GOCO.

Mapping geoplatform discussion-Scott Peterson, SAIC

Scott discussed the Urban Waters Mapping Tool and asked for input on the layers.

Discussion of systems mapping vs geo mapping and the needs of the partnership.

(Note: many people left at the break prior to the last two presentations. Those that remained had a lively and productive discussion.)

People discussed the need for both types of mapping. Could they proceed on a parallel track? For example, what about a coordinated approach to public outreach by the partnership? Perhaps the new Urban Waters Coordinator could look at this idea.

Much of the data we need is available as layers already. There are some data that are secure and we may not get access to (such as public water supply intakes).

The mapping could be used for accomplishments reporting.

Maintenance of GIS maps needs to be considered.

The “Surfriders” model should be looked at as one approach (Jon Novick).

We could get data in from outside the partnership, and let anyone update.

The “My Environment” site at EPA is a place people can send info to EPA, it is reviewed by an EPA staff person and then posted.

Could we go back to GOCO for funding of the systems mapping approach? Build off of existing mapping exercise? Other possible funding sources: Metro roundtable, South Platte Roundtable.

A systems map could be helpful to get funding for projects.

What are a few baby steps we could take toward systems mapping?

- Identify funding. Look at all opportunities for systems mapping. Ask coordinator to do this?
- Narrow the priorities for the coordinator.
- Report back on projects with a common form. Project template for GIS mapping, organizational template for systems mapping

To Do List from this discussion:

Kaitlin: will put together draft templates for data entry for GIS project mapping and for system network mapping.

Darcy will send Kaitlin the list of projects and spreadsheet we put together previously.

Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Next quarterly meeting will be in early December – the new coordinator should be on board by then. Currently trying to secure space at REI for this meeting. EPA and Forest Service will plan.

Discussion: keep meetings quarterly. Many possible venues - should we keep moving around? Denver Water has space to host if we need it. There are many meetings of other groups coming up in November, e.g., Metro Roundtable, South Platte Forum, Cherry Creek Partnership Forum, etc. Let’s try to continue to network among all these groups including those that aren’t yet represented in the UWFP. Possible synergy between activities.

Use summary of what we want from the coordinator (in our notes from the last meeting) to prioritize how we want the coordinator to focus. (FS and EPA will initiate this). Could be a key item on our December agenda.