



Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership

Membership & Stakeholder Meeting

November 16th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM 2022, AM

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Steve Germaine (JeffCo Open Space), Amy Saxton (Clear Creek County), Melissa Lewis (Clear Creek County OEM), Jennifer Cook (Gilpin County), Kelly Cline (Westminster), Josh Nims (Westminster), Andy Cross (Westminster), Suresh Niraula (Arvada), Evelyn Rhodes (Arvada), Sally Rush (Empire), Jeremy Jones (Clear Creek Fire Authority), Kerry Major (Golden), Sam Zrust (Golden), Brian Tracy (Golden)

Other Stakeholders & Guests: Ryan Gilliom (CCWFHP Contractor), Diane Kielty (CCWFHP Contractor), Scott Haas (USFS), Leah Fine (USFS), John White (CSFS, Golden Office), Ester Duke (COCO), Corrina Marshall (NCFC)

Meeting Goals:

- Election of 2023 Steering Committee
- Discuss different collaboration pathways with the USFS
- Review organizational support for 2023
- Vote on NCFC Charter

Minutes:

Welcome, introduction of new attendees or visitors

Member & Partnership Updates

Clear Creek County Recreation Plan has launched and the CDOT SWEEP Bakerville Interchange Project has begun. Watershed and watershed protection will involve comprehensive environmental studies. USFS Clear Creek Ranger District will be doing prescribed fires in the winter starting soon – pile burns in Clear Creek County and Gilpin County. USFS also have additional Missouri timber sale units to be cut, there will be some larger cuts with pile burning in these areas next year. Clear Creek Fire Authority will also be doing pile burns on Squaw Pass this winter. The area is next to Denver Mountain Parks and includes about 500 piles. They will also be burning piles in Silver Dale. With CDOT Floyd Hill technical review, relocation of the cuts will also support mitigation in the Floyd Hill area. They are redoing the evacuation route on Floyd Hill, probably to the west, as part of this project. Colorado School of Mines students are wrapping up their final designs for the Missouri Creek stream restoration. CCWFHP will partner with the Gilpin Extension Office to

do a public workshop for Gilpin County residents about the designs and collect input for an RFP process to hire an engineering firm for final designs using the \$20,000 CHRF grant awarded to CCWFHP earlier this year. Workshop planning will start in January.

Election of Steering Committee Offices for 2023

- Chair, nomination for Kerry Major, Golden
- Vice Chair, nomination for Jeremy Jones, Clear Creek Fire Authority
- 8 out of the 9 MOU signatories were present (absent member was Black Hawk). Golden called a vote for the steering committee offices. All present members voted 'yes' and 'yes' for the Chair and Vice Chair nominees

USFS Coordination

Boulder County MOU Example

- USFS (now that the CCWFHP is an established organization) would like to begin a new MOU process to add state and federal level coordination with our efforts. Next steps, USFS Partnership Coordinator with the ARP National Forest (Leah Fine) has CCWFHP MOU and will modify to meet USFS needs, and we will review in January. COCO could facilitate discussions between CCWFHP/USFS/CSFS help support the process of the new MOU. What is an average timeline to complete an MOU? With clear objectives and wordsmithing and dedicated effort it could take place and be completed in 3 – 6 months. This is a separate MOU with similar themes and values in the partnership MOU and will make future funding and agreements with the USFS a more streamlined. MOU could include entities not on the Partnership MOU. This could be an opportunity to bring in additional groups in the fold. We don't need the MOU to work together but it is a powerful tool. The MOU could streamline future activities, studies, and agreements and improve the timeline.

There was general agreement between all stakeholders that it makes sense to start this MOU process, but also the general agreement the process of working with lawyers from each entity can be slow. Effort now will pay off down the road on all projects going forward. COCO could take on the role of point in moving the MOU to completion. Leah Fine with USFS can help facilitate this MOU process.

Coordination Support Outlook for 2023

- COCO Affiliation – Kerry is working with COCO on the affiliate agreement. This is being reviewed by lawyers with the Cities of Golden and Westminster. COCO is making a review of the suggested revisions. There would be multiple signature lines on the agreement. The final draft will be shared out with all members for review.
- Kiely Diversified Projects – Golden and Westminster have money in their Wildfire budgets to end of year. We are still in the planning phase. Golden wants to support coordination efforts from Diane Kiely (KDP) has been approached Golden on continuing work beyond the WSRF moving into funding phase, grant writing, and outreach. Golden will also donate to COCO in a parking lot area for projects that will come up.
- LRE Water - Ryan Gilliom. Golden has a professional agreement with Ryan through March of 2023. Additional funding for Ryan was also agreed upon from Golden, Westminster, and Arvada.

Vote on [Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative Charter](#)

No vote today, Entities need to review and get internal feedback before we vote to sign. National Forest Foundation is NCFC's fiscal sponsor and will manage funding given to the USFS and the ARP National Forest specifically from federal funding allocations (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, etc.). They are working on a partnership with more formality due to money flowing through. Members will want to bring the final copy of this agreement back to their lawyers to ensure there are no conflicts. This is not a political entity or agreement to do work, so it is non-binding. Corrina Marshall will send out a final copy that members can send to their legal departments. Members would be signing as an entity of CCWFHP.

Adjourn