



Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership

Organizational Board/Stakeholder Meeting

February 2nd, 2022, 12:00 - 1:30 PM MT

Meeting Goals:

- Review MOU draft and move forward with an agreement focused on our organizational goals and stakeholders' voluntary collaboration to address wildfire risks to Clear Creek and its communities
 - MOU continues to be stalled due to the following concerns:
 - Non-binding agreement may not be able to authorize a chair to enter the COCO affiliation agreement
 - Some partners want monetary contribution required for voting; this raises equity issues for smaller partners. Discussion of in-kind contribution
- Understand strategic planning efforts and opportunities to keep the CCWFHP growing on a sustainable and impactful path
 - Draft strategic plan for partner review this in March
- Regroup on early 2022 grant pursuits, follow-up to discussion started at Jan 5 meeting
 - Strat. Planning committee/LRE Water working on project snapshots with implementation info for the top projects. Partners will be asked to review a pdf packet of project snapshots and provide their notes on project implementation feasibility and needs.

Agenda

12:00 PM Welcome, introduction of new attendees, & member updates

- Tracking CO Legislature [bills on wildfire](#)
 - Lots of funding up in the air in these bills. Need to wait for the next versions with clear budgets. For endorsing bills, Partners are encouraged to weigh in through their advocacy groups like Colorado Water Congress, Colorado Municipal League. CWC has lots of weight with legislators.
- Public Outreach Event
 - Outreach presentations upcoming: Feb. 3 Gilpin Public Library (Kerry Major), Feb 8 Clear Creek Community Connectors (Ryan Gilliom)

Contact clearcreekpartnership@gmail.com with questions or interests.

- Upcoming transition to Mailchimp emails—all partners currently receiving Partnership emails will receive a notification that you have been subscribed to CCWFHP on MailChimp.

12:20 PM MOU/Formalized Agreement for COCO Affiliation – Update

- GOAL: MOU is geared toward starting the Partnership as an official organization with members, so that we can meet COCO’s definition of a collaborative—and then affiliate with them.
- We previously considered calling the agreement active after 3-5 signed it, but attorneys have issue with this approach if people want to change it after that. Effective date is after everyone listed signs it.
 - Need to refine list of Partners who plan to sign. Does anyone need to be removed or added?
 - People can sign on later if they’re not part of the original list. So we can be strategic about what the original list of partners is.
 - Quorum – 5-6? Don’t want it to high/too low
 - Steering Committee rather than board of directors or executive committee.
- Postponing discussion until March
 - Before March meeting, determine who is actually making the agreement with COCO. Does it work for COCO if the collaborative agreement isn’t binding? What’s the legal barrier we’re hitting here?
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Kerry Major & Evin King discuss barriers with COCO leadership.
 - Work on Values listed in MOU
 - Should dues be required to vote? Perhaps some investment in Partnership (cash/in-kind/etc) is required to vote. **If dues or any financial obligations are in the MOU, most of our government partners cannot sign it.**

12:45 PM Strategic Plan Drafting Update

- Debrief from Jan 31 Working Session
- Voting on draft purpose statements (3-5 min)
 - People like statements 3 & 4 the most

Draft Purpose statements

1. CCWFHP was organized as a way to work collaboratively as a stakeholder group that works together to increase the resilience of the clear creek watershed to the damaging effects of wildfire.
2. CCWFHP organizes stakeholder needs, values, and resources into collaborative implementation & outreach work to increase the resilience of the Clear Creek watershed to the damaging effects of wildfire.
3. Partnering to reduce catastrophic wildfire risk, increase community awareness of fire-safe neighborhood strategies, and support safe and clean water supplies throughout the Upper Clear Creek Drainage.
4. CCWFHP stewards collaborative cross-jurisdictional wildfire risk management in the Clear Creek Watershed, by providing fiscal coordination, maintenance of and updates to planning database/maps, and education/outreach capacity.

Highlights of Purpose Statement Feedback:

- describing outcomes/end states,
- Want to describe how collaboration helps achieve goals (“pooling resources”)
 - Direct, communicates to others
 - Specifically mentions water supply, which helps supplier’s rate payers understand why they’re involved
- 3 is most in line with upper watershed priorities

1:00 PM Spring Grant Pursuits

- Debrief from Mitigation/Implementation Subcommittee
 - Counties working to update CWPPs on their own (no regional as mentioned). Partnership to focus on coordinating implementation & outreach for CWPP projects and helping communities find funding for planning as needed.
- COCO AIM (Action, Implementation, Mitigation) – capacity/personnel
- Annual operating costs are estimated at ~34k/yr for baseline coordination, not including project-specific costs
- What are the things that we need money to do?
 - Our purpose is to get our money’s worth out of the pre-wildfire planning report and implement those projects. We need to be operational to implement risk mitigation projects—grants will fund the majority of work we do, with some match.
 - Funding a position will help us do everything, coordinate grants funding, etc.—our County partners have named the need for wildfire coordination capacity, which we can support by hiring a coordinator for the Partnership.
 - **Our binding component is the need to get this work done, not any binding legal documents.** Note that in-kind contributions of work you do in subcommittees for the Partnership can be tracked and used as grant match.

Contact clearcreekpartnership@gmail.com with questions or interests.

1:15 PM Next Steps & Action Items

1:20 PM Comments & Discussion

1:25 PM Adjourn.