



Meeting Summary Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership

Organizational Board/Stakeholder Meeting
August. 3rd, 2022, 12:00 - 1:30 PM MT

Meeting Attendees

Kelly Cline, Brian Tracy, Diane Kielty, Ryan Gilliom, Kerry Major, Jeremy Jones, Lauren Duncan, Rob Addington, Audrey Miles-Cherney, Steve Germaine, Suresh Niraula, Suzanne Boccia, Melissa, Mike McHugh

Agenda

12:00 PM Welcome, introduction of new attendees

12:10 PM [Upper South Platte Partnership](#) – Rob Addington & Audrey Miles Cherney
Presentation on eight county watershed area priorities. In 2020 selected as Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI) priority watershed creating access to greater funding options. Goals are aligned with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Prioritization and Zones of Concern map was shared for discussion of project prioritization. Their goal is to be operating at landscape scale. Different partners take lead on grants as the administrator. The other partners support as appropriate. They have a funding team that will look at project budgets and then look at available funding from the different funding sources and how to match funding. Provided a Rapid Assessment document from NRCS showing township, ranges, demographics, topography specific to the South Platte Watershed and shows overlap of counties. They have the grant cycles dialed in and partner entities already have their priority projects queued in a central location with the goal of landscape effectiveness.

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12:10 PM Member & Partnership updates

- MOU Signatures and next steps update – Jefferson County has signed. The Jeffco BOCC assigned a signatory.

- Signed by: City of Arvada, Clear Creek Fire Authority, Town of Empire, City of Golden, Gilpin County
- Currently awaiting signature at: Jefferson County, then onto: Clear Creek County, Black Hawk, and Westminster
- Bylaws Committee update (Brian) – The committee has not met yet.
- Members update (meetings/webinars/projects)
 - There is a wildfire tour on Friday, August 5th. It will begin at 8:30 am at the Poudre River Coalition on Vine Street in Old Town. Will go up to see sites that have been damaged and treated.
 - TU did go out with CSM last week. More data was collected in the Missouri Creek watershed and discussed recommendations. There will be more meetings in the fall and conceptual design put in place. Social media blurbs were sent out on field session and can be found at these links - [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
 - There is a community mitigation team meeting in Evergreen tomorrow.
 - Seminars will be taking place with the U.S. Forest Service on funding availability.
- We are looking for a speaker for the next meeting

12:50 PM Contract Update Outreach Efforts (Diane)

- CWCB- WSRF grant was July 15,
- **Attended July 27th** Environment & Recreation Joint South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtables meeting. Three speakers discussed wildfire and watershed preparedness.
- Christina Burri – Denver Water watershed scientist. CO Forest Health Council engagement opportunities. How RTs align with forest health needs.
[Colorado Forest Health Council | Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#)
 - Forestry treatment of pile burning has become an issue. Groups are not able to get insurance due to insurance price increases. A blog on this issue - <https://nocofreshed.org/prescribed-fire-liability-insurance-unavailable-unaffordable-and-vital/>. How to utilize slash product to avoid piles on landscapes is being considered.
- Megan Maiolo - Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Cameron Peak Fire presentation on impacts. Altered watershed processes, excess sediment, WQ issues, etc. Conducted mapping to prioritize post-fire projects using a composite of factors. Provided update on status of projects. Two lives were lost in recent flooding. The mulch treatments are holding up through this monsoon season. The county is looking into additional funding for projects.
 - **Colorado Wildland Conference 4/11-4/14, 2023, in Fort Collins**
- Laura Quattrini – Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (Forestry Program). BTWC formed in 2013 after major flood. Discussed the long-term aftereffects of fire. Recovery efforts and costs of the recovery is proof of need for pre-fire actions. Working with private

landowners requires a great deal of effort. They are learning lessons and must build in more staff time for the community outreach. Shared upcoming forest project opportunities with priority on wildfire mitigation.

Limiting factors: Interest of landowners, workforce development – not enough contractors to do the work, what to do with woody material, terrain (slope, rocky, etc.), funding limitations

Biochar has been considered, but the material from treatment varies and doesn't always fit within the parameters of what can be accepted for biochar. Cost offsets differ and is not always financially viable. There is promise.

Next Actions:

- **August 10** - Meet with Jeremy Jones with the Clear Creek Fire Authority – FM1 and FM43 status and site visit to next up – Idaho Springs
- **August 10** – Meet with Lisa Leben with Clear Creek Special Projects to discuss Bakerville scoping to inform site visit and property access.
- In communication with the **Northern Front Range Fireshed Collaborative** to schedule a time to meet and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- Anticipate the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund contract execution by end of August.

1:15 PM Next Steps & Action Items

1:25 PM Adjourn.