

Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership Stakeholder Meeting

August 25, 2010

Minutes

Attendance of tonight's meeting was 24 people strong: Barbara Hawke, Bill Brueggeman, Bonie Pate, Camille Price, Don Orcutt, J/W, Jeff Litteral, Jennifer Moore, Jesse Smith, Jim Free, Larry Hudnall, Lynn Hoyt, Mark Lane, Marshall, Paul Van Ryzin, Ralph Files, Ron Mabry, Sheena Broussard, Sue McIntosh, Tony Chelf, Wayne Julian, Wayne Quade, and Rein Van West.

5:10p – Meeting started. Sarah Sauter introduced herself as the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership coordinator and explained that we are here tonight to begin formalizing as a watershed group. We need accountability and decision making structure to be effective at developing a watershed plan and addressing river issues. Sarah also gave a brief project and financial update (See attachments).

5:35p – Rachel Boothy introduced herself as an AmeriCorps OSM/VISTA volunteer with the Western Hardrock Watershed Team. Rachel is helping out with outreach activities such as Lake Appreciation Day and is working on a “Lessons Learned from the Animas” workshop

5:40p – Sarah introduces the talking points for the second half of meeting: Intent, Who, Structure, and When/Where.

5:50p – INTENT – participants were split into two groups to discuss the purpose and mission of an Uncompahgre River Watershed citizen-led stakeholder group. Ideas included:

- Evaluate the water quality from the forest of the headwaters to the river
- Include an education component that is accurate and informative for all ages
- Outreach to the public via newspaper
- Understand that water quality and water quantity are married
- Foster intelligent conversation
- Model the Animas Stakeholder format of creating an umbrella over three smaller geographic groups (Headwaters, midwaters, tailwaters)
- Representation of people with broad and multiple interests to identify current conditions to create desirable future conditions
- Extend vision beyond “just the river” – increases funding opportunities
- “Restore and Protect”
- Avoid the word “problem”: that is a value judgment that may not consider the different angles and complexity of the situation. Focus on what we want to see *improve*
- Be sensitive to possible butterfly effects of restoration projects, protect equilibrium
- Protect the waters supply of the Western Slope
- Learn from each other

6:30p – WHO – Sarah and Rachel passed out a list of potential stakeholders and asked for help identifying missing names/organizations/interest groups. Feedback showed an interest to invite more members of the agriculture community, ie. Conservation groups, as well as water attorneys, landowners & landowner associations, local youth, school teachers, and other community organizations, ie. WCC.

6:40p – STRUCTURE – the two groups were asked to discuss what a stakeholder groups looks like and how it would function:

- Umbrella group with a core team that meets regularly and hosts geographic specific meetings across the watershed
- The Eagle River Watershed Council was mentioned for their upper and lower watershed groups that meet on Wednesdays to discuss ‘water wise’ topics. A core group of 10 people meet each week and all others are welcome to attend when the topic interests them.
- Consensus-based decisions
- There could be a core team that has the power to represent the others to take initiative on issues
- Communication is hugely important is the executive committee is not a defined board
- Committees can be topic/technical or geographic
- Everyone is invited to every meeting
- Proposal was made to create a board - to act on behalf of the group, to be responsible, and to be accountable.

Some questions to pursue ... Should we divide the watershed? Will we loose the strength of looking at the watershed holistically? Or is it more important to harness the passion one has for their backyard, and indeed allow separate entities to form?

6:50p – WHEN/WHERE - Weekday evenings around 5-7p seem to work for most people. Later in the month is good. Wednesdays are good. Alternating the location will relieve people from long commutes.

*** ACTION ITEM: Schedule a small ad-hoc “incorporators” meeting in about two weeks to review structure of other watershed groups and make a proposal to the larger group at the next meeting. *Volunteers for this meeting include: Rein Van West, Paul Van Ryzin, Bill Brueggeman, Don Orcutt, and a member of FORU.* Rachel will send out an announcement of date/location of this meeting next week. Anyone is welcome to attend.

*** ACTION ITEM: Schedule a larger stakeholder meeting for one month from now (tentatively September 22)

7:10p – Meeting ended