

Animas Watershed Partnership  
Steering Committee Meeting  
October 2, 2014  
Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** Pete, Melissa, Dave, Emma, Paul, Carrie, Ann, Jon, Helen , Chuck and Pam

**Approve August Meeting Notes:** Notes have not yet been distributed

**Financials:** The reports were unavailable because of a hard drive crash.

**Review and approve invoices:** Invoices that were presented for approval included: invoices to close out the CWCB grant; invoices to be paid out of the SWCD include San Juan Soil and Water CD, Ann's invoice for mileage; invoices to be paid out of the BoR grant funding include: reimbursement for Jon's rent, office supplies, travel, Ann's invoice; invoices to be paid out of the NPS grant (Florida river project) include: the last invoice for irrigation and fencing from Keith Fassbender (part of the invoice will be in-kind), and Green Analytical.

## **Current Business**

### **Updates**

**Florida Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project:** Fences will be closed and livestock managed out of the riparian area starting in November, the irrigation system is complete. The upstream landowners have indicated interest in doing some riparian protection. They are waiting to hear back from their partner in Texas. CDPHE has extended an additional amount of NPS funds to work with the upstream land owner and Healthy Rivers granted 15K for the project. The recommendation was made to create a finance committee to pursue additional grants and keep track of current grants.

**Lower Animas Watershed Based Planning:** The San Juan Watershed Group sampled in July and will be sampling again the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>. Anthony from MSI has created a database that contained the results. The grant funding provides for a Vista volunteer. The new Vista will be starting second week of November, Tom Conn who is moving from the east coast. Tom said he found a place to live via Craig's List.

**CO and NM Soil Health Workshops Planning:** Funding is available for a series of soil health workshops in the region. One will be in CO at the local extension office, and one in NM. The workshops will be held March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The workshops will help local ag producers learn what they should be doing with their soil. Funding is available for soil testing. Participants will submit soil samples prior to the workshops, the results will be discussed at the workshop. The workshop planning committee has a list of potential speakers. The next planning meeting is in December. Sterling Moss, Gary from NRCS, Melissa from SJWG, and Jon are on the planning committee. Advertising for the workshops will start in December. Paul will send link to website that discusses soils and health to Jon, Melissa, and Carrie. Ann asked everyone to think about who to invite to the workshops. At least the first 50 soil samples will be free.

**Children's Water Festival:** More investigation has shown that San Juan Water Commission doesn't have funding to commit to promoting the festival. San Juan College might be a source for assistance. Three

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questions arise when considering a Children's Water Festival in NM: are the schools interested, is there funding, will someone organize it. Ann will talk with Denise Rue-Pastin to find out if there is still interest.

**River Rally :** is a conference put on by the River Network every year. River Network is a nation-wide non-profit that serves as networking resource for watershed groups around the county. The conference is May 1-4 in Albuquerque. River Network asked for proposals for 90 minute workshops. The list of topics include: water security and scarcity in a climate changed world, solutions and Innovations to deliver clean water, novel collaborations to expand impact and get to scale, organizational development for river groups and watershed organizations, Tribal opportunities and breakthroughs. The workshop application deadline is October 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a \$300 registration fee for participants. The workshop could be a collaborative effort between AWP and SJWG. Ann will find out more information including costs and will submit an application to offer a workshop. The steering committee will decide at the next meeting whether to commit to the workshop.

**MST and Nutrient Sampling update and discussion of analysis, and outreach:** 4 sampling days remain in the study. Data analysis will begin next. The upstream Animas site and the stateline site have been similar. Using the NM TMDL for the Animas River the results showed: at the two Animas River sites in Colorado approximately 25% of the samples were above the limit for total phosphorus, 12-13% were above the limit for total nitrogen, 5-6% were above the limit for e.coli. The Florida River results using the same concentrations were: 94% were over the limit for total phosphorus, 88% were over for total nitrogen, 71% exceed the limit for e.coli. Melissa asked that the group discuss how they would like to address the issues of public perception of a polluted river. When the analysis is ready, the group should present the issues to the public in a way that is consistent with the results. Pete suggested that once the data is available then the group should sit down and compare the results with the standards in different jurisdictions and go from there. Pete said that to access data from the Tribe the group should get together and submit a request to the Tribal Council. The Tribe has a sonde on the Nature Studies property on the Florida River. It measures DO, conductivity, pH, and temperature. Melissa asked for deer and elk poop samples. Paul suggested meeting with community leaders to ask how they would like the results presented. Ann suggested a tiered approach: first meet with partners involved in collecting the data or involved in monitoring the reaches, getting comfortable with the analysis, and understanding the data. A work group meeting will be scheduled after the data is available.

**Outreach Planning:** Jon's been working on outreach – changes were made to the website to update it. Jon is also working on a new feature for the website that will present data from DSN and StoreIt. A map will be featured on the website, all the sampling stations that we want to highlight will be clickable to display a table and/or a graph that would show what's been sampled at that location and how that is related to the thresholds for water quality. Chuck suggested adding a site that Buck samples about a mile south of Silverton. The question was posed: is there a risk in interpreting the data? And answered: make sure the graphs are dated and that there is a disclaimer that the graphs represent a point in time, and are not current.

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**Outreach committee:** Melissa, Paul, Buck, Ann and Jon: product will be the outreach plan

**Topics for December AWP meeting:** Suggestions: EPA that presented at ARSG meeting and at the City of Durango meeting; Peter Butler, a presentation about pharmaceuticals in river quality, website presentation if the map and graphs are available, someone to present historical information about water quality on the river. The suggestion was made to change the name from "Quarterly Meeting". Email ideas for speakers to the group.

Melissa will be making a presentation at the EPA NPS conference in Dallas. Some topics include: making a watershed plan, looking at state revolving loan funds, using supplemental departmental projects, BHP Billiton will contribute. The conference is primarily for state program people.

WRRRI meeting is November 17-18 in Santa Fe.

Next meeting date is November 6<sup>th</sup>.