

**Animas Watershed Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 6, 2014
Southern Ute Environmental Programs Division Conference Room, Ignacio
Meeting Notes**

I) **Introductions:** Ann, Paul, Jon, Dave, Helen, Chuck, Gary, Pam

II) **Approve Past Meeting Notes** – The meeting notes for October 22, 2014 were distributed. Dave asked to have the Vista volunteer's name corrected: Conn Fraser.

III) **Financials:** A summary and details for each active grant was provided. Included were income and expenses for the NPS (Florida River Improvement) grant, the Bureau of Reclamation grant, funding for testing supplied by Southwestern Water Conservation District, and the final close-out of the CWCB grant. Jon will working on getting an invoice from OSM. Pam will start tracking line items in the BoR budget.

IV) **Review and approve invoices:** Ann presented two invoices: Ann's time for project administration for NPS grant, MSI invoice for monitoring (NPS grant). The invoices will have to be approved via email since there wasn't a quorum at the meeting.

Current Business

V) Updates :

Florida Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project Phase 2: CDPHE will amend the current contract to increase the funding by 36K. The funding will be dedicated to increase the riparian fencing upstream to what's been completed so far. Keith Fassbender leases the upstream property and he will be engaged to install the fencing at the same rate as the existing contract amount. The NRCS' and the Southern Utes' approved rate for fencing is \$8 per foot. Keith will install the fence for \$6 per foot and contribute \$2 as in-kind match. Ann supplied a map that showed the current project and fence line and the proposed project fencing. Ann will meet with the property owners to design the fencing.

Lower Animas Watershed Based Planning and MST Sampling: all the sampling is done. MSI sampled October 6. Melissa was doing MST, did a full nutrient protocol at the same sites including a 7 day continuous DO probes. Rain events prior to the sampling scoured all the algae off the rocks in the Animas, so the full nutrient protocol could not be conducted at the Animas sites. So far it looks like the San Juan River has higher nutrient levels than the Animas. But the San Juan is a larger river and the NMED does not have nutrient standards for a larger river as opposed to a smaller river like the Animas. San Juan WG will meet with MSI to determine what information the data is providing MST sampling: they are still trying to do a confirmation on the human analysis. They need to send in elk and deer scat for comparison and to prevent false positives. Dave will be collecting wastewater treatment plant effluent to submit for analysis too. Melissa was in the newspaper and on the ABQ news about the MST sampling. Melissa and Dave will be attending the National NPS conference in Dallas at the end of November. They will meet with representatives from the EPA about the MST data. The BHP Billiton grant has funding for public meetings including a full open house for the public plus presentations to the city council and planning commission. They hope to include the nutrient data in the presentation so there's a correlation between nutrients and bacteria.

CO and NM Soil Health Workshops planning the Workshops will take place March 17 and 18, 2015 in Durango (probably at the Extension Office) and In Farmington, NM, at the Civic Center. Materials for advertising will be available early in December. Jon is waiting for soil sample costs from Sterling. The drop-off for the samples will be Basin Coop in Durango. Jon is in the process of putting together the speakers list. The hope is for 40-50 participants at each workshop.

Lightner Creek follow-up Ann gave the report to Kevin Hall from City of Durango. They will set up a meeting to assess where they are now and ideas for moving forward. The meeting will involve AWP, MSI and the City, but hasn't been scheduled yet. Ann and Matt met and discussed ideas for what the group can do. One idea was to organize a hike to go beyond the residential area of Perrins Canyon just to get familiar with that area.

AWP has joined the Colorado Watershed Assembly which is a coalition and a support organization for watershed groups throughout the state. One of the services they offer is a conference each year in Avon. Ann and Jon attended the conference this year. One topic was the Urban Waters Learning Network. Ann will find out more about that. One presentation was a study done on the Upper Black Squirrel Creek near Colorado Springs. The study was about modeling septic vs. ag sources of e.coli and nutrients. Mike Feely is working with a lobbying group who are putting together legislation to allow for the formation of watershed authorities in Colorado.

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VI) Joining Colorado Data Sharing Network – part of the Watershed Conference was information about the Colorado Data Sharing Network. RiverWatch warehouses data contributed by groups like the Animas River Stakeholders Group. The Colorado Data Sharing Network, as compared to other river data warehousing sites like RiverWater and Storet, is more of a “one stop shop” than the others. It is also more complete and easier to access. CDSN also has a mapping function. CDSN has worked with ACZ labs to submit data in a format that is compatible with CSDN format. The next step would be to work with Green Analytical for the same data formatting. The Colorado NPS grant would like the data acquired from activities under the grant to be submitted to the CSDN. There is funding in the Bureau of Reclamation grant for the AWP to join the CDSN. The cost is \$349. There are funds in the NPS grant to enter old data into the CDSN. MSI will help input the data.

VII) Outreach Planning and “speakers bureau”. Jon has been leading the outreach committee which includes Paul, Ann, Melissa and Buck and Emma. Jon has been working on outreach, goals and strategies. An idea is to reach out to various groups and that could tie into the workshops coming up. The desire is to get on the agenda for new groups to make small presentations about the AWP to spread the word about the AWP. Ann requested ideas for groups to contact, and if anyone is interested in making a presentation to those groups. Jon is putting together a calendar of upcoming events for the AWP to attend. When presenting the workshops at a meeting, the point should be made that the workshops are a partnership with the San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District and the La Plata Conservation District and the NRCS offices. December 9, is annual meeting of the SJ Soil and Water Conservation District at San Juan College. The La Plata Conservation District Annual Meeting is November 18th at the Fairgrounds. Possible groups for outreach are: Florida Grange, Durango Water Commission, River Reach Foundation.

Four Corners Paddle Trail: The group has narrowed the trail down to the existing put-ins and take-outs in Bloomfield, Aztec, and Kirkland, but will not pursue a listing. The opposition of property owners along the river was too great to expand.

VIII) Agenda for December AWP Forum (aka Partnership Meeting) Melissa was contacted by Steve Hamner, a professor at Fort Lewis College, whose students have been doing some e.col testing on the Animas through Durango. He and his students have agreed to do presentation at the December meeting. He has done source tracking. MST type of testing. He has tested to serotype the e.coli for hemorrhagic enterovirus. The meeting will be at the Durango Library, December 4th at 6:00pm. Other ideas for presentations are Peter Butler to present on reg 85 (new nutrient standards). Jon might present the summaries of the current water qualities he has put together.

Ann asked for input for topics at Quarterly meetings.

IX) 2015 Retreat: date, place and topics: Typical steering committee retreat with a budget for a facilitator has been proposed. Topics include: finalizing a vision statement (Ann would provide a draft), a draft of the outreach plan for review and input; organization of a finance or funding committee, and a 2015 Work Plan. There would still be a March Quarterly Meeting. The proposed date is January 8th. Ann will draft an agenda.

X) Upcoming grant opportunities/possible projects. Ann received possible grant opportunity from the Intermountain Joint Venture, but it's only available to Front Range groups. NFWF grant is available called Environmental Solutions for Communities to promote sustainable ag practices, improving water quality. The only project readily available would be fencing downstream from the Fassbender property. A suggestion was made to follow up source id to build on the data that has been collected on the Animas and Florida.

Melissa has asked if a thank you party for MST sampling volunteers could be organized. Once she is back in town, Jon will discuss with it her.

Next Meetings:

December 4, 2014, Durango, AWP Meeting

January 2015, Farmington/Aztec