

Upper Yampa River Watershed Group Technical Committee Meeting
February 14th, 2013

In attendance: Kevin McBride, Mike Zopf, Jean Ray, Brian Hodge, Marsha Daughenbaugh, Geoff Blakeslee, Lyn Halliday, Ben Beall, Kelly Heaney, Jackie Brown

Guests: Jody Patten, Jonathon Stauffer

Ben proposed that the TC review the Watershed Plan budget every 6 months; the TC agreed.

Project updates

Trout Unlimited:

- Armstrong Creek (Routt): Restoration
- Milk Creek (Rio Blanco): CRCT habitat restoration
- Poose Creek (Routt): Fish ladder

Community Ag Alliance:

- Yampa White Roundtable Education: 3 year grant proposal as stated in the IBCC's Public Education Participation and Outreach (PEPO) mission.

The Nature Conservancy:

- Alternative Transfer Methods (ATMs): Funded by CWCB and supporting different techniques of making agriculture water available while keeping ag in business. Includes water banking; a potential option to meet a future compact call.
- Tamerisk Coalition: BLM Moffat county mapping removal and restoration in riparian areas.
- Morgan Bottom Irrigators Group: finding solutions to deal with headgate access in a changing river channel.

Routt County:

- Monitoring on-site wastewater system for protection of groundwater for homes constructed outside sewer areas.
- Surface & groundwater study: USGS proposed a multi-year project for 210K, County hesitant because of cost. It would update the study from 35 years ago and recognize the underground aquifer.
- COGA Groundwater Testing: Dedicated groundwater monitoring.

Shell:

- Milk Creek (Rio Blanco): CRCT habitat improvement
- Shell is still in the exploration phase; SWAN (Socio Economic Study?)
- Looking for opportunities to contribute

Lyn Halliday:

- Water Conservation Plan with Steamboat II, Mt. Werner Water, City of SBS
- Construction Industry Erosion Control w/ City of Steamboat Springs
- Sustainable Business Program
- CDOT Bridge replacement project in Elk River watershed

Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District:

- Master Plan: Will model river during administration. Using dendrochronology to assist with monthly timesteps. Heavy on the legal aspect as well.
- Kevin spoke to UYWCD's relation with the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Study and portfolio tool and as well as the Compact Compliance Study.

City of Steamboat Springs:

- Stormwater Master Plan: Forming committee
- MS-4 updates: City hopes to have targeted HOAs by the end of June 2013.

US Forest Service (not present, update provided via email):

- The Forest Service is working with CDOT on a conceptual sediment control plan for Rabbit Ears Pass. CDOT has a draft conceptual plan for reducing sediment loading, and are meeting with them next week to discuss, provide comments etc. CDOT will begin implementing as funding becomes available. The majority of the projects will be a benefit to the Yampa River basin, although there will also be benefits to the Colorado River basin and N. Platte.

State of the Watershed Report: Changes were suggested and recorded. The group discussed why the public would read this and what the implications of water quality were to the public. Jackie and TC to send in suggestions. Will review another draft at the March meeting.