

Meeting November 8th, 2012

Stakeholders Present:

Mark Sovine	GWSSA
Laurel Hagen	Canyonlands Watershed Council
John Weisheit	Living Rivers/Canyonlands Watershed Council
Dave Erley	Town of Castle Valley
Geoff Freethey	Grand Co. Trail Mix
Rock Smith	BLM
Krissie Braun	Grand County
Bob Davidson	USFS
Jan Curtis-Tollestrup	USFS
Amy Dickey	UDWQ
Mike Allred	UDWQ
Mike Johnson	USU Extension

Others Present:

Tessa Groff                      Watershed Coordinator

Actions

1. *October minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.*
2. *Tessa Groff announced that she is resigning from her position as Watershed Coordinator in order to pursue other opportunities outside of the Moab area.*
3. *Mike Allred announced that UDWQ has approximately \$95,000 available for shovel ready projects.*
4. *The next meeting was set for January 10th, 2013 at 8:30 AM. Location to be determined.*

Discussion Items

**Item One: Approval of Minutes.** Mark asked the partnership to review and approve the minutes from October 2012. There were no comments on the minutes.

*Conclusion/Action: Without objection, the minutes from October 2012 were approved as presented.*

**Item Two: Website Update (standing agenda item).** There were no changes to the website in October/November. Tessa reminded the group that if they want to post links and/or watershed related information to the website they need to send it to her so she can present it to the group for approval.

*Conclusion/Action: This will remain a standing agenda item.*

**Item Three: MAWP Report Card.** Tessa presented a “report card” document she drafted for MAWP. The document organizes and separates achievements MAWP has made thus far from objectives/tasks that still need to be completed in order to reach the Goals set by MAWP in 2011.

Tessa identified the partnership agreement as the highest priority on the report card because MAWP is still waiting on changes and approval from the USFS before signatures can be acquired. Jan Curtis-Tollestrup and Bob Davidson said they would bring the issue up to Mike Diem as well as the “Grants and Agreement” person in the USFS State office to try and determine the status of the Partnership Agreement.

The group then went on to review the rest of the unfinished tasks on the report card, most of which involved drafting the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). At the last meeting, a January deadline was set for all sections of the watershed inventory part of the WMP and the group reiterated their desires for this deadline to be met. Everyone present who had volunteered to draft sections felt this was an achievable deadline. John Weisheit volunteered to take on the topography section, which was unassigned, and complete it by January as well.

*Conclusion/Action: All those who have volunteered to write sections of the watershed inventory need to complete them by January. John Weisheit volunteered to draft the topography section of the watershed inventory. Bob and Jan will follow up with Mike Diem and the USFS "Grants and Agreements" department about the status of the watershed inventory. The report card will be updated as progress is made on the WMP.*

**Item Four: Projects and Potential Funding.** Mike Allred informed MAWP that UDWQ has \$95,000 in funding left over from grants expended in the West Colorado River Watershed that can potentially be used projects in the Moab area. This funding cannot be used for planning, studies and/or staff. The funding must be put into "shovel ready" on-the-ground projects that have direct impacts to water quality by summer 2013. Proposals would need to be completed by February 2013. The group brainstormed a variety of potential projects and Mike asked that a list be compiled and presented at the January meeting so that MAWP can prioritize and/or endorse specific projects. Ideally, he would like to see multiple demonstration projects that can be used to gain stakeholder interest in project implementation for the upcoming targeted basin funding in 2015.

Dave Erley suggested contacting the USFS range-con to see if the funding could be used as match to fence springs on the mountain. He is also interested in finding funding for 'second piping' and decommissioning abandoned wells.

John Weisheit mentioned that he is going to Denver and asked permission to speak (on behalf of MAWP) to Avra Morgan at the Bureau of Reclamation about the WATERSMART grant process. There were no objections to him doing so. He will report back to MAWP in the new year.

Dave also briefly spoke about the upcoming USFS Wildland-Urban Interface project that will be taking place in the watershed and the need for better collaboration on this project.

*Conclusion/Action: A list of shovel ready projects needs to be compiled and distributed by the January MAWP meeting. More information about the USFS Wildland-Urban Interface Project should be made available to all MAWP partners. John Weisheit will speak to Avra Morgan on behalf of MAWP and report back in 2013.*

**Item Five: Watershed Coordinator Resignation.** Tessa Groff announced that she will be moving out of the Moab area the first week of December and is resigning as Southeastern Colorado River Watershed Coordinator. She will be working up until her departure and (depending on supervisor approval) may work remotely through the remainder of the year. No decisions regarding the future of this position and/or hiring a replacement have been made yet. Mike Johnson and Mike Allred will discuss the needs of the group and the future of this position and inform MAWP of any decisions they make at the next meeting.

*Conclusion/Action: Tessa will send out an email confirming her final date of employment after a decision has been made. Mike Allred and Mike Johnson will come up with solutions for hiring/managing a new watershed coordinator.*

**Item Six: Watershed Plan Section Review.** Laurel presented the section she drafted on Water Rights for the watershed inventory. The group agreed that it was very informative and concise and requested no changes. If necessary it can be edited during the final review once a draft plan is complete. Laurel said she was willing to upload this to Google Doc's so people can spend more time reviewing it as necessary. She also suggested starting a Glossary of Terms document on Google Doc's so that people can edit and contribute definitions of things that may not be understood by all stakeholders.

*Conclusion/Action: Laurel will upload her section to Google Doc's and then Tessa will distribute the link to MAWP.*

**Item Six: Kiosk Map Review.** Laurel Hagen presented a graphic representation of Moab's watershed that she designed. This 'watershed map' will be placed on a kiosk near the Youth Garden to be used as an educational tool. The group offered feedback on some of the design elements. Laurel will make the suggested changes and present it again in January. The Kiosk is a result of a Utah Watershed Coordinating Council grant that Tessa put together this spring and the funds must be spent out by March 2013. The group requested an approval deadline be set in January.

*Conclusion/Action: Laurel will make design changes and present a revised version at the January meeting where a date for final approval will be set. In addition, Laurel will send a PDF and/or JPEG of the graphic to Tessa and she will distribute it via email and Google Doc's.*

**Item Six: Items to Address at Next Meeting.** A December meeting will not be held. Mike Johnson and Mike Allred will need to inform the group on their decision regarding the watershed coordinator position. Potential projects need to be prioritized and MAWP should identify which project(s) they are willing to endorse so that proposals can be developed. Nominations for Executive Committee positions (Chair and Vice Chair) need to be reviewed. MAWP will reevaluate the need to meet every month and discuss options for going to an every other month or quarterly schedule (this may include the creation of working groups and/or subcommittee meetings). Meeting location has not yet been determined.

*Conclusion/Action: Tessa will contact the Grand Center to reserve the conference room for January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and draft an agenda before her departure. Anyone with shovel ready projects should come prepared to present them at the January meeting. The next meeting will be held **January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 8:30 AM.***