

Meeting April 12th, 2012

Stakeholders Present:

Mark Sovine	Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency
Kirstin Peterson	Moab City
Bob Davidson	Manti-La Sal National Forest Service
Jerry McNeely	San Juan County
Laurel Hagen	Canyonlands Watershed Council
Geoff Freethey	Trail Mix
Mike Diem	USFS
Kara Dohrenwend	Grand County Conservation District
John Weisheit	Canyonlands Watershed Council
Kalen Jones	Grand County Planning Commission
Jan Curtis-Tollestrup	Manti-La Sal National Forest Service

Others Present:

Tessa Groff Watershed Coordinator

Actions

1. *Minutes for March 2012 and were approved by consensus.*
2. *Date for approval of USFS changes to by-laws and partnership agreement was set for May 10th, 2012.*
3. *MAWP decided to hold monthly meetings at Grand Center from now on, pending the Grand Center's ability to reserve the conference room for 6 months at a time.*
4. *Next meeting was set for May 10th, 2012 at 8:30 AM.*

Discussion Items

Item One: Approval of Minutes. Mark Sovine asked that the group to review and approve the minutes for March 2012.

Conclusion/Action: Without objection, the group approved the minutes for those dates.

Item Two: Update from the Website Committee. Tessa Groff suggested that MAWP display a link to the Utah Water Watch page. This would be an education and outreach tool for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer monitor and seemed to be a non-controversial item to update the site with. She also mentioned that this program has not yet received full approval from Utah State University Water Quality Extension and the Utah Division of Water Quality and Mark Sovine suggested we wait for this approval before linking it to the MAWP site. The group saw no problem with providing a link, but agreed it should only be done after the program receives full approval. There were no other suggestions for additions to the website at this time.

Conclusion/Action: Once Brian Greene, the UWW coordinator, informs Tessa that the program has been approved by USU Water Quality Extension and UDWQ she will add a link to the MAWP website directing the public to the Utah Water Watch homepage.

Item Three: Request for a presentation by representative of Integral Consulting Inc. Laurel Hagen informed the group of a meeting she attended where Kenneth Kolm, a representative of Integral Consulting Inc., spoke on the topic of putting together a GIS-based evaluation of groundwater resources for the Moab area. Laurel said that in this meeting Kenneth mentioned he had previously completed extensive research with graduate students on groundwater in the area and has data available on this topic which he is willing to provide it if a contract is put in place. Laurel also mentioned that Kenneth is willing to come to Moab and give a presentation on the abilities of his firm to MAWP and/or other decision making agencies in Grand and San Juan counties. Partners discussed in length the importance of vetting Mr. Kolm and the consulting firm. Kalen Jones spoke to the fact that if the county were to be involved it would be better for a group like MAWP or the county itself to put together a proposal on what needs to be included in a groundwater resource evaluation and allow multiple consulting firms to bid on it vs. taking the first offer at face value. MAWP partners agreed that they would like to call on the public to assist them in the consideration and evaluation of this firm. Mark Sovine suggested that we solicit for dates and times for this presentation. Laurel said she was willing to contact Kenneth and see if he was available to present in May.

Conclusion/Action: Laurel Hagen will contact Kenneth Kolm to see if he is available to give a presentation in May. She will work with Tessa to schedule a date and time for this presentation. Geoff Freethey will try to identify if Kenneth has published any papers on the research he performed in the Moab area. Kara Dohrenwend will identify and invite community members with a scientific background to come and assist in the review of the consulting firm. Mark Sovine will work with Tessa to identify other important decision makers to invite to the presentation.

Item Four: USFS requested wording changes to MAWP's by-laws and partnership agreement. Mike Diem handed out a revised version of the by-laws which included the changes he is requesting on behalf of the USFS. The wording he added defines the types of decisions that must be agreed upon separately by the decision makers in each watershed and can be found in bold font text under Section 8. Decision-Making. Jan Curtis-Tollestrup then began to discuss the hydrology section of the plan and the importance of breaking the watersheds into smaller Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC's). The Hydrologic Unit system is a standardized watershed classification system developed by USGS and is used on a national scale. Watersheds can be classified in 5, 8, or 12 digit HUCs. Jan emphasized the need to break the watersheds down to the same HUC digit in order to plan for each watershed on the same scale. She said that she would work on writing a small introduction to be added into the partnership agreement explaining this further. She also recommended that this concept be emulated in the hydrology section of the plan. Tessa asked the group if they were comfortable with reviewing these changes over the next month and voting on their approval at the May meeting. It was decided that a date for approval would be set for the next meeting.

Conclusion/Action: Tessa will send out an electronic copy of the changes that Mike handed out. Jan will work on a written introduction that clarifies the size and boundaries of each watershed. Tessa and Jan will work together to make a concise paragraph that can be added into the background section of the partnership agreement identifying these watersheds and send it out to the group. Jan and Mike Diem will work to make sure that the HUC's are also clearly identified in the by-laws. A map showing these HUC's will be presented at the next meeting and attached to the by-laws as an appendix if agreed upon by the group.

Item Five: Presentation on Historical Land Use in the Moab area. Laurel Hagen put together a power point on the research she has been doing for the Historical Land Use section of the plan. She spoke to the group about options for mapping out land use patterns as well as the use of charts and timelines in the plan. After going over the research she has done thus far, she recommended forming a sub-committee to help tease out what information is the most valuable for this section of the plan. Kara mentioned that she has previously put together a similar document for the BLM. She said she has files of information and data that may be useful to the group and was willing to join a sub-committee to aid in the drafting of this section of the plan. John Weisheit offered to help Kara by digitizing data if necessary. Tessa stated that Slate Stewert had offered to put together information on the history of grazing in the Moab area and suggested that he be contacted to join the History of Land Use sub-committee.

Conclusion/Action: A sub-committee for land use patterns and historical water use was formed. Tessa will arrange a meeting between Kara, Laurel and Slate.

Item Six: Funding Needs and Opportunities. Tessa informed the group that the UWCC had approved her use of the remaining \$759.77 to build an informational kiosk along the Millcreek Pathway. She told them that Laurel is working on developing the graphics and once they are completed she will bring them to the group for input and approval. Mark Sovine asked the group if they would like to continue meeting at the Grand Center. Tessa told the group that the cost is \$12.50/hr and asked if they would like to use a portion of the \$5000 awarded to MAWP in 2011 for meeting faciliation to cover the cost. Canyonlands Watershed Council manages those funds and said they could write the check for 6 months at a time. Mark suggested that the funding committee meet before the next meeting. Kara asked to be a part of this committee too.

Conclusion/Action: Without objection it was decided that the Grand Center will become the new location for MAWP meetings (pending the availability) and that Canyonlands Watershed Council will write the check. Tessa will contact the Grand Center to find if the room is available on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 8:30-10. If the room is available, CWC will write a check to cover 6 months of meetings. Tessa will coordinate a funding committee meeting with John, Mark, Ann Marie and Laurel and Kara.

Item Seven: Next Agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10th, 2012. The next meeting will include a vote on additions to the by-laws and partnership agreement with additional agenda items to be determined.

*Conclusion/Action: The next meeting will be held at the Grand Center on **May 10th 2012, at 8:30 AM.***