

Watershed Wildfire Protection Group Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2013; 0900-1500; US Forest Service Regional Office Auditorium

1.) Introductions

Meeting Attendance List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Brad Piehl	JW Associates
Carl Chambers	USFS Arapaho Roosevelt NF
Chris Schauder	Evergreen Metro District
Chris Sturm	Colorado Water Conservation Board
Claire Harper	USFS R2 Regional Office S&PF
Claire Riegelman	Clear Creek Land Conservancy
Donna Brosemer	City of Greeley
Eric Howell	Colorado Springs Utilities
Greg Dewey	City of Loveland
James S. Downie	Xcel Energy
John Duggan	Colorado Dept. Public Health & Environment
Jonathan Bruno	Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Joseph A. Duda	Colorado State Forest Service
Kristy Muskopf	Colorado State Forest Service
Kyle Hamilton	CH2M Hill & South Platte Enhancement Board
Lucas Mouttet	Fort Collins Utilities
Lucia Machado	Colorado Dept. Public Health & Environment
Marc Rosenberg	Evergreen Metro District
Marcus Selig	National Forest Foundation
Matt Schulz	Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Mike McHugh	Aurora Water
Paul Langowski	USFS R2 Regional Office
Randy Gustafson	City of Greeley
Rich Edwards	Colorado State Forest Service
Ron Turley	Western Area Power Administration
Russell Clayshulte	Bear Creek Association
Sally Edwards	Xcel Energy
Scott Woods	Colorado State Forest Service
Shawna Crocker	Colorado State Forest Service
Travis Warziniack	USFS Rocky Mtn. Research Station

Total Number of Participants = 30; 19 organizations

2.) Review of Mission and Vision Statements; Rich Edwards, CSFS

Mission: We promote healthy watersheds by facilitating education and awareness; and facilitating prioritization, implementation, and monitoring for people and wildlife. Fish and aquatics, for the West, mammals, next generation, public, recreationists, river and streams.

Vision: Our vision is to protect Colorado water supplies and critical infrastructure from catastrophic wildfire and other threats by maintaining healthy, resilient watersheds through collaboration, implementation, leveraging, and education.

- Discussed with group proposed change in Vision Statement by Jim Shelly, City of Boulder. Jim proposed we change “water supplies” to “water resources” since “resources is a broader reference and better incorporates everything we are trying to protect.” The group discussed the change and there was not a general consensus on the change. Therefore we will leave the Vision Statement as it is for now unless there is further discussion otherwise.

3.) Meeting Technology Update; Brad Piehl, JW Associates

- We are still having technical difficulties running the video webinar. Part of the issue is the USFS location won't allow us to have sufficient, uninterrupted internet access without proper security. We will look at having the next meeting at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife building downtown or a similar facility with allowable public access to WiFi.
- Go To Meeting format with VOIP will continue to be used to connect remotely with others throughout the state.

4). Transmission & Substation Wildfire Protection. Jim Downie, Director of Vegetation Management & Ancillary Programs, Xcel Energy

- Jim's power point presentation is available upon request if anybody would like access to it. We also supplied a You Tube link in a subsequent email to group after the meeting.

5). Overview of recent Wildfire Readiness and Response Workshop; Paul Langowski, USFS RO Branch Chief - Fuels & Fire

- Paul's power point presentation is also available upon request if anybody would like access to it. We originally supplied a pdf version of the presentation on a subsequent email to the group after the meeting.

6). Group Update; Moderator: Claire Harper, USFS RO

- Unfortunately, our tape recorder malfunctioned during this and other portions of the meeting and we are unable to provide sufficient detail here. We have purchased a new digital recorder to remedy this situation for subsequent meetings.

7). Meeting Agenda, Implementation & Funding, and Work Groups Brainstorm; Moderator: Rusty Collins, CSU Extension Service

- Rusty's report on the results from the brainstorm session were sent out in a separate email to the group following his presentation. This report is available upon request if anybody would like access to it.
- General results of the brainstorm revealed that the group would like to focus on three main issues: Outreach/Technical Transfer, Funding/Implementation, and Statewide/West Slope Involvement. There was a general consensus that the group did not want to form subcommittees and separate work groups. This was seen as inefficient and counterproductive. Rather, we would focus on an "Ad Hoc" Initiative-based approach to deal with/solve particular specific issues head-on; on an as needed basis. These would need to be dealt with in both pre-wildfire (protection) and post-wildfire (rehabilitation) bases. These could also be classed broadly as outreach/technical transfer or funding/implementation oriented. Brad Piehl volunteered to handle the west slope involvement issue.

8). Potential Effects of Wildfires on Water Quality. Dr. John Stednick, Professor, CSU, Watershed Science

- Dr. John Stednick's power point presentation is available upon request if anybody would like access to it.

9). Wrap - Up & Adjourn

- Consider inviting more public speakers outside our core group. Speakers with experience in fire, forestry, rehabilitation/restoration, and water quality.
- Potential speaker for next meeting could be Jane Lopez or Rocco Snart, DPS, about status of prescribed fire state bill that passed as legislation.
- Any Ad Hoc initiatives should be added to agenda.
- US Forest Service announced \$10M available nationally for water and energy utilities watershed partnerships.