

## Sustainable Yellowstone Consortium Grant Kick-off February 15, 2012 Group Memory

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On Tuesday, February 15, 2012, Fremont County and the rest of the Sustainable Yellowstone Consortium hosted a kick-off meeting to provide information about the grant recently received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The meeting was held at the Roxy Theatre, 116 North Bridge and the Fremont County Planning and Building Department, 125 North Bridge, both in Downtown St. Anthony, Idaho.

### Participants

Consortium representatives, community leaders, interested organizations, media, prospective bidders, and elected officials were invited to attend. Participants included: Wanda Adams (Fremont County), Kyle Babbitt (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Rick Baldwin (Driggs Planning and Zoning), Basil Barna (Teton Area Advisory Forum), Jeremy Besbris (City of Victor), Kim Billimoria (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Garth Blanchard (Intrepid Consulting), Randy Blaugh (Harmony Design and Engineering), Jan Brown (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Phil Cameron (Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy), Joshua Chase (Private consultant), Michael Corsin (Star Moose), Lynn Davies (CRSA), Cathy Dufault (Idaho Master Naturalist), Jeff Dufault (Fremont County Smart Growth/Idaho Master Naturalist), Lee Einsweiler (Code Studio), Travis Eva (Trees R Us), Bob Foster (Teton County Business Development Center), Stacey Frisk (Valley Advocates for Responsible Development), Jim Gerber (Retired), Lila Gold (Fremont County Planning and Zoning), Pam Herdrich (High Country RC&D), Heather Higinbotham (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Shawn Hill (Town of Jackson/Teton County Wyoming), Keith Hobbs (Harriman State Park), Tom Howell (Teton View Lavendar Farm), Dave Hudacsko (RAD Recycling), Amy Hunter (Entrepreneurial Center), Charles Hutchinson (Power Engineers), Sherri Jackson (Development Workshop/Upper Valley Industries), Bill Knight (City of Victor), Ted Knowlton (The Planning Center), Dale Lish (USDA Rural Development), Joette Lookabaugh (Fremont County Prosecutor), Steve Lookabaugh (City of Island Park), Stephen Loosli (Fremont County), Rene Lusser (Driggs Planning and Zoning), Abbie Mace (Fremont County), Brent McFadden (Madison County), Owen McLaughlin (East Idaho Public Health District), Grant Mecham (North Wind), John Meyers (HUD), Lee Miller (Fremont County Commission), Greg Newkirk (Fremont County), Kelly Park (Teton County Commission), Patty Parkinson (City of St. Anthony), Kim Ragotzkie (Henry's Fork Foundation), Collette Rinehart (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Adonia Ripple (Friends of the Teton River), Jerry Royster (HUD), Angie Rutherford (Teton County Idaho), Natalie Schneider (City of Rexburg), Doug Self (City of Driggs), Zach Smith (City of Victor), Chris Staley (Idaho Falls Community Partners), Sumner Swaner (Center for Green Infrastructure Design), Andy Tyson (Creative Energies), Randy Wall (Quality of Life Consultants), and Barry Whitson (Keller Associates).

Wendy Lowe (P2 Solutions) served as the facilitator for the meeting. This document is a summary of discussions that occurred.

### Objectives

The objectives for the meeting included:

- To help participants understand how this grant will address common problems faced by the four counties in the Consortium and how the “Livability Principles” will guide the Consortium’s sustainable development plan
- To provide the opportunity for participants to:

- Help identify existing resources/efforts, information gaps, and critical areas of focus
- Discuss the best ways to engage the interested public and underserved populations
- To learn who wants to continue to be involved in the project as it moves forward.

## **Plenary Session – at the Roxy Theater**

Stephen Loosli welcomed all in attendance. He provided background on why Fremont County entered into a consortium in pursuit of a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, US Environmental Protection Agency, and US Department of Transportation. The consortium includes Fremont, Madison, and Teton counties in Idaho and Teton County Wyoming, along with municipal governments (including Ashton, Driggs, Island Park Rexburg, St. Anthony, and Victor, Idaho), the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Lands, and Yellowstone Business Partnership. The consortium is pleased to announce that it won a \$1.5 million dollar grant. A video of Stephen’s presentation is available at <http://sustainableyellowstone.org/what-is-the-sustainable-communities-grant/>

The grant is focused on problems that are shared by the four, admittedly diverse counties and “livability principles” defined by the grant opportunity, including:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods.

It was agreed by the consortium members that there is good alignment between the problems faced by the region and the livability principles in the grant.

Jan Brown described the ten grant elements, or deliverables, that will be developed using the grant funding over the next three years. The deliverables include:

1. Greater Yellowstone Framework for Sustainable Development - Certification Process and Technical Support Fund
2. Comprehensive Resource Plan and Sustainability Strategy
3. Model Development Code for Greater Yellowstone
4. Feasibility Study for Regional Recycling Infrastructure
5. Greater Yellowstone Workforce Assessment
6. Multi-Modal Transportation Assessment
7. Multi-faceted Housing Study and Inventory of Housing Stock
8. Energy Resource Assessment
9. Groundwater Protection Strategies and Demonstration
10. Regional Index of Sustainability Indicators

A video of Jan's presentation is available at <http://sustainableyellowstone.org/yellowstone-business-partnership-and-building-sustainable-communities/>

## **Listening Post Sessions – at the Planning and Building Department**

Following lunch, participants had the opportunity to participate in ten “listening post” discussions, one for each of the ten deliverables. The purpose of the listening posts was to discuss existing resources/efforts, information gaps, and critical areas of focus that should be addressed in developing the deliverables as well as interested publics and underserved populations that should be engaged and how to reach them. The results of those listening post discussions have been posted on line on the project website at: <http://sustainableyellowstone.org>.

## **Meeting Attendees Interested in Helping**

All meeting participants had the opportunity to indicate an interest in assisting with the various grant elements. Following are the list of the folks who signed up to help with each deliverable that will be developed under the HUD grant.

**Greater Yellowstone Framework for Sustainable Development:** Rick Baldwin, Driggs Planning and Zoning; Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Lynn Davies, CRSA; Jim Gerber, Retired; Pam Herdrich, High Country RC&D; Ted Knowlton, The Planning Center; Grant Mecham, North Wind; and Kim Ragotzkie, Henry's Fork Foundation.

**Comprehensive Resource Plan and Sustainability Strategy:** Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Randy Blaugh, Harmony Design and Engineering; Phil Cameron, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy; Joshua Chase, Private consultant; Lynn Davies, CRSA; Jeff Dufault, Fremont County Smart Growth/Idaho Master Naturalist; Stacey Frisk, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development; Jim Gerber, Retired; Pam Herdrich, High Country RC&D; Keith Hobbs, Harriman State Park; Charles Hutchinson, Power Engineers; Ted Knowlton, The Planning Center; Steve Lookabaugh, City of Island Park; Brent McFadden, Madison County; Grant Mecham, North Wind; Kim Ragotzkie, Henry's Fork Foundation; and Adonia Ripple, Friends of the Teton River.

**Model Development Code for Greater Yellowstone:** Rick Baldwin, Driggs Planning and Zoning; Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Jeremy Besbris, City of Victor; Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Randy Blaugh, Harmony Design and Engineering; Joshua Chase, Private consultant; Lynn Davies, CRSA; Stacey Frisk, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development; Lila Gold, Fremont County Planning and Zoning; Ted Knowlton, The Planning Center; Steve Lookabaugh, City of Island Park; Rene Lusser, Driggs Planning and Zoning; Greg Newkirk, Fremont County; Kim Ragotzkie, Henry's Fork Foundation; and Zach Smith, City of Victor.

**Feasibility Study for Regional Recycling Infrastructure:** Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Phil Cameron, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy; Cathy Dufault, Idaho Master Naturalist; Pam Herdrich, High Country RC&D; Keith Hobbs, Harriman State Park; Dave Hudacsko, RAD Recycling; Sherri Jackson, Development Workshop/Upper Valley Industries; and Steve Lookabaugh, City of Island Park

**Greater Yellowstone Workforce Assessment:** Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Jim Gerber, Retired; Sherri Jackson, Development Workshop/Upper Valley Industries; and Ted Knowlton, The Planning Center.

**Multi-Modal Transportation Assessment:** Kyle Babbitt, Yellowstone Business Partnership; Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Jeremy Besbris, City of Victor; Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Randy Blaugh, Harmony Design and Engineering; Jeff Dufault, Fremont County Smart Growth/Idaho Master Naturalist; Bob Foster, Teton County Business Development Center; Lila Gold, Fremont County Planning and Zoning; Pam Herdrich, High Country RC&D; Charles Hutchinson, Power Engineers; Sherri Jackson, Development Workshop/Upper Valley Industries; Bill Knight, City of Victor; Ted Knowlton, The Planning Center; Greg Newkirk, Fremont County; Patty Parkinson, City of St. Anthony; Collette Rinehart, Yellowstone Business Partnership; Natalie Schneider, City of Rexburg; Doug Self, City of Driggs; Zach Smith, City of Victor; and Chris Staley, Idaho Falls Community Partners.

**Multi-faceted Housing Study and Inventory of Housing Stock:** Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Joshua Chase, Private consultant; Lynn Davies, CRSA; Jeff Dufault, Fremont County Smart Growth/Idaho Master Naturalist; Bob Foster, Teton County Business Development Center; Stacey Frisk, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development; Ted Knowlton, The Planning Center; and Rene Lusser, Driggs Planning and Zoning.

**Energy Resource Assessment:** Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Phil Cameron, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy; Joshua Chase, Private consultant; Lynn Davies, CRSA; Jim Gerber, Retired; Pam Herdrich, High Country RC&D; Charles Hutchinson, Power Engineers; and Steve Lookabaugh, City of Island Park.

**Groundwater Protection Strategies and Demonstration:** Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Phil Cameron, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy; Jim Gerber, Retired; Pam Herdrich, High Country RC&D; Charles Hutchinson, Power Engineers; Kim Ragotzkie, Henry's Fork Foundation; and Adonia Ripple, Friends of the Teton River.

**Regional Index of Sustainability Indicators:** Rick Baldwin, Driggs Planning and Zoning; Basil Barna, Teton Area Advisory Forum; Garth Blanchard, Intrepid Consulting; Joshua Chase, Private consultant; Lynn Davies, CRSA; Jim Gerber, Retired; Charles Hutchinson, Power Engineers; Ted Knowlton, The Planning Center; Greg Newkirk, Fremont County; and Kim Ragotzkie, Henry's Fork Foundation.