

## Sustainable Yellowstone Consortium Grant Meeting July 31, 2012 Draft Group Memory

---

On July 31, 2012, Fremont County and the rest of the Sustainable Yellowstone Consortium held its monthly conference call.

### Participants

Jan Brown (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Heather Higinbotham (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Bill Knight (City of Victor), Stephen Loosli (Fremont County), Wendy Green Lowe (P2 Solutions), Alex Norton (Teton WY), Val Christensen (Rexburg), Angie Rutherford (Teton ID)

This document is a summary of discussions that occurred (prepared by Heather Higinbotham).

### Objectives

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- IAP2 Training update
- Model Code tour update
- Grant components: Steering Committees/Advisory Teams
- HUD updates (Stephen)
- Process for responding to consortium requests for Technical Assistance
- Uploading information to [www.sustainableyellowstone.org](http://www.sustainableyellowstone.org) project website
- Video-conferencing for consortium meetings
  - (Google video hangouts--can be recorded and archived for free)

### IAP2 Training

Training has been completed June 28-29 (Planning for Public Participation) and July 25 (Communications for Public Participation), and the final course (Techniques for Public Participation) is August 1-2 in Driggs at the City Council Chambers.

#### Attendees:

- RPSD: Stephen Loosli
- GYF: Heather Higinbotham
- Model Code: Bill Knight
- Recycling: Dave Hudacsko
- Workforce Development:
- Multi-Modal: Collette Rinehart
- Housing: Alex Norton or delegate
- Energy:
- Groundwater:
- Sustainability Indicators: Kyle Babbitt
- Additional attendees: Hannah Sanger (City of Pocatello), Angie Rutherford, Olga Chavez (bi-lingual facilitator)

Stephen: very helpful. Took county commissioners through spectrum. Bill: offers good blueprint. Important for significant public outreach processes.

Will there be a set of things we all try to do specifically (i.e. share spectrum with commissioners)? Plan is to have a follow-up meeting with specific projects to outline P2 plans for remainder of grant period. Will also be a calendar of sorts for making sure there isn't overlap or public meeting overkill.

#### Model Code Tour

Lee Einsweiler and Colin Scarf with Code Studio toured the region last week. Monday afternoon: met with Alex and town/county reps in Jackson. Tuesday morning was spent with Bill in Victor, Tuesday afternoon meeting with county commissioners Bob Benedict and Kelly Park. Wednesday Lee and Colin spent in Teton Valley with Doug Self. Thursday was a full day in Rexburg meeting with Val, Scott Johnson, the mayor, city attorney, public works director, and several representatives from BYU-I. We were given a tour of BYU-I. Friday was spent in Fremont County with Stephen. Overall a very useful and productive time learning more about each jurisdiction and their similarities/differences.

#### Grant Components

Steering Committees/Advisory Teams: all kickoff meeting attendees need to be contacted ASAP. Scopes of work are due to consortium by Aug 31.

Sustainability Indicators: met on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Warbirds Café in Driggs. Group of 8 (7 of whom met in person). Rick Baldwin (Driggs Planning Commission), Basil Barna (Wilderness Systems and Technologies), Garth Blanchford (Ashton), Tim O'Donoghue (Jackson), Kathleen Steven (Island Park), Carol Sweet (Island Park). Randy Johnson (Forsgren & Associates) wasn't at meeting but interested in participating. Jerry Royster (HUD) recommended a research paper on indicators and the group used that as a reference. See notes from meeting for full detail.

Randy Johnson has offered to put together a template for teams to develop scopes and RFPs.

Housing: Christine is working on housing stuff, Alex helping her out as needed. Reviewed the grant and plan is to talk with people in the group about further defining what those specifics are and putting together scope. She has a few examples of scopes to use as reference. Stephen

received back a cursory framing report on the housing status in our area. Did an analysis, hired an E-center (students from BYU and ISU) nearing completion of bachelor's degrees and need to do this type of work for graduation. Took a lot of census data, housing data (real estate good resource) and income data. Have data in a digital form that Stephen will share with consortium. Also has been working on analysis of impediments to fair housing (mandatory component of HUD grant). It is being customized for each jurisdiction. Next phase is outbound telephone survey calls in each of 10 jurisdictions to get statistically relevant samples.

Multi-modal assessment: Rail diesel study in final review and is essentially completed and ready for review by all parties. Regional Recreational Trails Network: working on a map (Greg Newkirk with Fremont Co very helpful) on all intercity trails and concentrations across region/public lands. Have had 82 people on distribution list for reviewing the maps. Kimberly Brown is lead on project regarding Linx—working with Bill Shaw of ITD to get system and needs onto a GIS map, getting tools beyond those that were available before. Having a mid-course meeting with Linx folks next Wednesday in West Yellowstone to make sure everything coming out of this will have proper coordination with Greg and GIS mapping.

Regional Recycling: team met July 26<sup>th</sup> at Upper Valley Industries in Rexburg. Dave Hudacsko (RAD Recycling), Heather, Mac Dukart (Teton WY), Mike O'Bleness (UVI/The Development Workshop), Randy Johnson, Dave Leverett (Full Circle Recycling, Bozeman). Team is now identifying and ordering priorities for scope of work and initial draft will go out for review August 13<sup>th</sup>. Final draft to consortium for review/approval by August 31. See notes for full detail on meeting.

Energy: Fremont did an analysis (again with E-Center and INL—access to research regarding solar, wind, geothermal, microhydro, natural gas and biomass). Just in Fremont alone, INL already determined there are 200+ ideal micro-hydro sites. Stephen will distribute analysis to consortium this week. Also lots of talk on solar resources.

Groundwater: nothing to report.

Workforce: Stephen will talk with Bob this afternoon to make sure he communicates back to group.

Stephen will put together advisory teams for Energy and Groundwater to put together RFP/Scopes of Work. Goal is to have scopes/RFPs out by year end to have work begin end of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter or first of 2013. Hope is all roll-up reports can be delivered in a common language to make the RPSD process easier.

## Advisory Teams/Volunteers

Stephen will put together a facilitator guide/protocol for all team leads. The team lead will be responsible for scheduling and leading meetings. Advisory teams need to be identified by the next call (June 26) and have first meeting scheduled. We are running out of daylight and need to move all aspects of this grant forward.

## HUD Update

Monthly call with Naomi Friedman yesterday, she is very pleased with our progress. Group is advancing across all the fronts of our grant quite nicely and pacing ourselves. Paperwork is accurate and thorough. Other teams/consortiums struggling so we should be proud of ourselves. Have been asked to resubmit MOU for signatures with modifications made by HUD. Made arrangement to add Naomi into one of bi-weekly calls with Jerry Royster and Lyle Konkell. ID is in HUD region 10 (Seattle), WY is in HUD region 8 (Rick Garcia, Denver). Adds an interesting complexity.

Is there one particular aspect they are pleased with? Yes on Public Participation training. #1 complaint that has been lodged against HUD RPSD grantees across country has been allegation of a failure to do significant community outreach. HUD impressed with our foresight in bringing P2 Solutions on board to make a plan of action, clear and defined public participation.

### **Consortium Process for Responding to Technical Assistance Requests**

Design a pre-application form for assistance requests at September 6<sup>th</sup> RFP review meeting.

Stephen was given Rexburg's broadband feasibility study that fits in with what we are trying to accomplish. Would like to have that reviewed sooner rather than later. Stephen will send out for consortium to review and if right timeline then consortium will discuss at Sept 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Communication Resources**

SustainableYellowstone.org website: the contact for uploading information is Daniel Berry, [Daniel@starmoose.com](mailto:Daniel@starmoose.com). Just email him whatever you want put up on the site. It's important that we utilize the website as a resource and communications tool—meeting announcements, notes, blogs, etc.

Stephen introduced Google Hangout to the consortium—a conference call version of Skype. Free video calls, can record consortium/team meetings, etc. Stephen will set up for September meeting so we can all try it out.

### **Consortium meetings**

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00-4:00 in Rexburg. In-person meeting to review RFPs and scopes of work.