

Western Greater Yellowstone Consortium Monthly Phone Conference
(626) 677-3000, access code 8377863#
June 11th, 2014, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Consortium Steering Committee: Tom Cluff and Jan Brown (Fremont County), Jason Boal (Teton County ID), Ashley Koehler (Driggs), Heather Higinbotham (YBP), Greg Sanders (Victor), Alex Norton (Jackson/Teton County WY), Patty Parkinson (St. Anthony)

Consultants/Public: Wendy Green Lowe (P2 Solutions), Wanda Adams (Grant administrator), and Jerry Royster (HUD)

Objectives

The objectives for the June 11th meeting included:

- Update on HUD revised work plan – Tom Cluff
- Annual Summit debrief – Tom Cluff, Wendy Lowe
- Updating the Consortium MOU – Jan Brown, Tom Cluff
- Update on Teton View Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – Jan Brown, Tom Cluff
- Update on Model Code and Drictor charette work – Jason Boal, Brittany Skelton, Ashley Koehler
- Update on Sustainability Indicators – Tom Cluff
- Island Park Socioeconomic Research – Jan Brown
- Discussion on pending and potential Technical Assistance requests for the remainder of grant period – Tom Cluff
- Teton View Local Food and Fiber Assessment – Jan Brown
- Update on Housing Assessment and supplemental budget request – Tom Cluff, Jan Brown
- Other grant updates as needed
- Next meeting: July 1 face-to-face, Harriman State Park, Island Park ID

Update on HUD revised work plan – Tom Cluff

There are no new updates on the revised HUD work plan. It has been approved and we are in the process of implementing it.

Annual Summit debrief – Tom Cluff, Wendy Lowe

The group memory has been finalized and distributed to all attendees and posted on the consortium website. We had a good turnout, with around 60 attendees and a lot of folks who were new to the Consortium work. The HUD partners who attended had planned on sending only the notes from the listening session to their partners within HUD; they were so impressed with the meeting that they sent along the entire group memory to headquarters. Naomi Friedman, our liaison to HUD in Washington D.C., is on the HUD team that is collating the reports from all the round tables and listening sessions. She reported that the WGYC group memory was the best one she had seen and had way more detail; she was very impressed. Our work will be included in HUD's national publications.

Updating the Consortium MOU – Jan Brown, Tom Cluff

During a recent briefing to the Bridger-Teton National Forest on the WGYC work, Jan was asked by the Bridger-Teton officials why they had not been included in the original consortium. They are interested in joining the consortium and getting involved with the project. The Bridger-Teton is building a new supervisor's office in Jackson and is interested in considering GY-Framework certification for the 5-acre development.

Fremont County does not have a copy of the final updated MOU with all current consortium members and signatures. We need to have all current elected officials sign the Consortium MOU. The original MOU that was submitted with the grant application was the interim MOU; it appears that we have individual signed versions

of the MOU from each jurisdiction and consortium members but not a complete signed MOU on file with all members on one document.

Fremont County will send out an updated MOU with signature lines for all jurisdictions and consortium partners. Each jurisdiction and partner representative will need to get their elected officials to sign the updated MOU. It is unclear whether we have to have all signatures on the same page. If so, Jan or Tom will visit each consortium partner to have one consolidated MOU.

Update on Teton View Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – Jan Brown, Tom Cluff

At the May 2014 Summit Jan Brown requested the attendees to submit name ideas for the overall RPSD, and “Teton View” was recommended from a participant. This is the current name on the proposed final outline. The Tetons are a unifying landform and inspirational view across the entire consortium area.

The proposed outline is organized by character districts/categories to aid in comparative analysis and to look at data that is similar across county lines.

There was a request on the “sustain our small towns” section to also highlight the outcomes of the regional housing needs assessment in this section as well as the “city centers” section.

The next steps are to release an RFQ to contract with subject matter experts to complete the different sections of the plan: for instance, a natural resource planner to assist with four-season recreation and agricultural heritage sections; a municipal or city planner for the city centers and infrastructure sections. It could be a couple of independent contractors or a team from one firm; there are basically two special areas of expertise we will need. Jan Brown will oversee the contractor(s) as well as write the introduction and conclusion of the RPSD. The revised budget includes funds for assistance in developing the final plan.

There is significantly more work in writing some of these chapters than we’ll be able to do internally, so we are soliciting help for those particular chapters. There are still some literature reviews and research that needs to happen to ensure we access all existing plans, studies and datasets that jurisdictions have, such as workforce reports

Update on Model Code and Drictor charette work – Jason Boal, Brittany Skelton, Ashley Koehler

Code Studio was in Teton Valley, ID from May 28-June 3 for model code and Drictor charette work. There was a great turnout for all of these events. The Saturday morning design charette and presentation had about 30-40 people in attendance. On Monday evening Code Studio presented a review of the downtown codes, and had about 20 people in attendance. Code Studio will participate in a call in with the Driggs P&Z to help explain the downtown code. Driggs and Victor will provide the list of participants from each session.

Thursday evening Code Studio appeared at a joint Planning & Zoning commission meeting, specifically to address timelines and the revised scope of work. The takeaway from Lee’s presentation was the importance on keeping to a strict timeline ensuring we can get the model code developed for the entire region, and complete the specific codes for Driggs, Victor, and potentially Teton County. Code Studio will provide the revised scope and then we will post the new timeline/schedule on the consortium website. There is still some flexibility on the schedule through summer into fall.

On Tuesday evening Code Studio presented the findings and results from the Director charette. There were 20-30 people in attendance, which was fewer than participated on Saturday. The Code Studio presentation is updated on the www.TetonValley.Code-Studio.com website and will be posted to the consortium website.

Driggs, Victor and Teton County, ID representatives felt that the combined P&Z meeting was beneficial and that it was positive to get the P&Z members talking to one another.

GY-Framework for Local Governments - Credit Workshop – Heather Higinbotham

The GY-Framework credit workshop was held on May 28-29 at the Teton County ID courthouse. There was a decent turnout, with 24 people on first day dwindling to 12 by the end of the second day. The group went through each credit to revise the prerequisites/credit requirements as appropriate for local governments, and to define requirements for a county vs. city or other entity. Heather will be working with the Teton Valley team and Code Studio to incorporate the lessons learned from the model code work and GY-Framework audit in Teton WY/Jackson.

We need to check Code Studio's revised budget/scope of work to ensure that Lee's work for the GY-Framework is included. Lee's current revised budget didn't include anything for the GY-Framework.

Update on Sustainability Indicators – Tom Cluff

Brendle is collecting data as part of the housing study survey. Tom will give a detailed update at the July 1 face-to-face meeting at Harriman State Park.

Island Park Socioeconomic Research – Jan Brown

Jan Brown sent out three proposed draft research topics for the Island Park socioeconomic research; these were ideas that surfaced from the Island Park Chamber of Commerce meeting on May 15. When the Island Park Futures Study had to be set aside, the focus switched to a list of suggestions presented to the Fremont County Commission at the end of April. Those suggestions were narrowed down to 3, in order of priority:

1. Revisiting the need for a grade school in Island Park
2. The economic impact of how visitor dollars are spent in Island Park and Fremont County
3. Housing stock and housing needs of seasonal employees

She requested that everyone review the draft outlines, and share any data they have for similar studies in other parts of our region. Fremont County is hoping to get a sense of similar types of assessments that have happened in other counties. The response from the Island Park Chamber is that they need to better understand recreation and tourism expenditures in the area. The lodging/bed tax assessment gives limited data and limited depth of understanding of the full lodging picture.

They will be putting together a voluntary advisory team for the economic impact study and the seasonal housing assessment. To what extent does the whole consortium see this study needing to go beyond Fremont County? It's an important question because Fremont County wants to make sure this study has relevance to the entire region. The next level of understanding is important at least for Fremont County on the value of its recreation and tourism amenities.

The intention is to convene the advisory team by phone or in-person, and then put out a joint RFP for the economic impact study and seasonal housing assessment. The proposed Island Park school study would be partially funded by a grant from the Albertson's Foundation to the White Pine Charter School. There are several folks who have already expressed interested in serving on that advisory team.

Discussion on pending and potential Technical Assistance requests for the remainder of grant period – Tom Cluff

Pending technical assistance requests:

- Teton View Local Food and Fiber
- A bicycle trail system signage plan for the Ashton area that includes the Ashton to --Tetonia Trail
- Bridger Teton NF technical assistance to assess potential for GY-Framework certification under for their new headquarters plus the pending development on 10 acres of former B-T land
- Rexburg Heritage Area inquiry
- Teton County/City of Driggs wayfinding study - they applied for the grant funds to conduct the study and may apply for technical assistance from the consortium to plan for implementation in Teton Valley

Technical assistance requests are reviewed as they are received. The amount projects can contribute in match is taken into consideration. The intent is to offer a "last call for projects" so that we can identify them by the end of July and make sure we don't have any grant money that won't be allocated. There is \$42K left in the technical assistance budget.

Teton View Local Food and Fiber Assessment – Jan Brown

There was a discussion at the May 2014 summit about the need for assessments of the potential markets for local grown food, fiber and wood products to bolster our regional economy. High Country RC&D is very interested in this sponsoring this assessment that involve technical assistance funding for the University of Idaho. It may be possible to use our consortium counties as a pilot area to test at least one of their new models being funded by another party. High Country RC&D will provide a draft scope of work to Fremont County; Fremont County will forward to the entire consortium. Cindy Riegel is interested in serving on the advisory team, regardless of the outcome of her county commissioner race in Teton County, ID. High Country RC&D actually represents 10 counties, including the western portion Teton County WY. It is an appropriate entity to serve as grant administrator.

Update on Housing Assessment and supplemental budget request – Tom Cluff, Jan Brown

Frontier Forward submitted a request for supplemental funding for additional work the advisory team had suggested and ideas from other aspects of the work. Fremont County and the advisory team discussed the request with Frontier Forward, and approved a portion of that request. Fremont County will be modifying the contract. There was still about \$13K in the initial housing budget that we can use for the additional work. Some of the requested items were outside of the scope of work.

Other grant updates as needed

The capacity building training we had planned on attending in May 2014 didn't work out. One upcoming training is the Smaller Places Summit in Louisville, Kentucky, September 3-5. Fremont County is putting together the application for that and is seeking scholarship funding. There are slightly different target groups they would like to see because this is focused on implementation. The invitation asks to put together teams that even include people who have not been involved in the consortium to date like funders, etc. who would be important for implementation. We need good geographic representation and diversity. Please contact Jan or Tom if you are interested in attending this training.

Next meeting: July 1 face-to-face, ~~Harriman State Park, Island Park ID~~ *Location changed to Fremont County Annex Building, St. Anthony, Idaho