

Sustainable Yellowstone Consortium Grant Meeting September 25, 2012 Draft Group Memory

On September 25, 2012, Fremont County and the rest of the Sustainable Yellowstone Consortium held its monthly phone conference.

Participants

Jan Brown (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Heather Higinbotham (Yellowstone Business Partnership), Bill Knight (City of Victor), Val Christensen (Rexburg), Angie Rutherford (Teton ID), Greg Newkirk (Fremont County), Wanda Adams (Fremont County), Doug Self (Driggs), Alex Norton (Teton WY), Brent McFadden (Madison County)

Absent: Ashton ID, Island Park ID, St Anthony ID,

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

Objectives

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- HUD Updates (Wanda)
- Grant components: project updates and advisory teams
- RFPs for Sustainability Indicators, Recycling
- Complete Streets consultations/workshops Oct 16-18
- Model Code stakeholder meetings late Oct/early Nov
- Pre-application/Process for responding to Technical Assistance Requests
- Update on regional Broadband Feasibility Study
- New opportunities: Habitat for Humanity partnership in Ashton
- MetroQuest
- Discussion on switching time of monthly calls to 1:00 instead of 2:00
- Next meeting: full consortium in-person in late October

HUD updates

Wanda Adams: foremost, Stephen Loosli turned in his resignation yesterday. He will be working with them for job description and new hire. That brings some consternation as to who will be lead for Fremont County and want to ensure that whoever that is will be committed to this project. Jan, Heather, Stephen and Wanda will meet October 8th to outline plans moving forward after Stephen's departure. Proposing to meet as a full consortium prior to Stephen's departure to get all ducks in a row.

James Norsworthy visit: ideas on how we should proceed with the grant. Need further direction in writing as to some of the changes he discussed with Stephen because they weren't completely clear. Jan will try to meet with James next week while in D.C.

Also discussed involvement with Naomi Freidman—tough to get Fremont County paid. Wanda put all bills together and submitted, James Norsworthy agreed to get all bills paid and hopefully Fremont County will be getting paid on a more regular basis.

Bill: is the grant in reasonably decent shape? Are we in trouble with HUD?

Wanda: transportation coming along extremely well, Heather's done a good job putting the committees together. Need to get a solid game plan together by the end of the month. If we do need changes per Washington's direction, will do so as needed but not before we get written instruction. For now, need to move forward with all of our committees and try to get things done as quickly as can.

Jan: after being in Salt Lake City, Stephen's comment to Jan was that we were spread too thin and not going in enough depth. Jan requested to Stephen and to Wanda that we need something in writing to share with full consortium with real guidance on what their concerns are. It's very nebulous right now. James Norsworthy has a responsibility to put something in writing if they want us to make any changes.

Wanda: HUD said they want our focus to be on specific, tangible results so they can share with Congress.

Bill: obvious thing is not to incur expenses with consultants that will be difficult to fulfill.

Jan: no stop work order or saying that we're on the wrong track. Seems like an anxiety with the program as a whole, some 2010 grantees that have fallen off track. We have to counter or respond to anything in writing with an affirmation of what we've been doing.

Wanda: don't think funding is the issue, but how they would like the program to proceed from this point on.

Greg: HUD finance system is a nightmare. Not surprised there is a problem getting paid. Not a new problem.

Next in-person meeting: October 23rd, 10:00-3:00 in St. Anthony. Greg will reserve conference room.

Grant Component Updates

RFPs: Stephen now has template and Recycling/Indicators RFPs and will make sure language is in accordance with Idaho State Law and officially post on the SustainableYellowstone.org website. Will take some work but is now Fremont County's responsibility to post and advertise. Estimating they will be posted next week. Wanda thinks it's a three-week minimum. Possible to have deadline coincide with our Oct 23rd in person meeting to discuss responses. Advisory teams review proposals and make recommendation to consortium by October 31st.

Angie: what was decision on pre-application meetings? Neither scope was probably complicated enough to require a pre-app meeting.

Jan: how does consortium feel about final award being done via teleconference based on recommendations from advisory teams?

Is a public meeting required to award RFPs? Consortium can vote via teleconference and make recommendation to Fremont County who will officially award contract through Commission.

Complete Streets: October 16-18 consultations/workshops.

Schedule: Alex (Teton WY) will check availability with folks in the jurisdiction. Brent and Val: would like to get commissioners there. Madison wants 17th afternoon slot. Brent McFadden is point person for Madison. Teton ID (Bill and Doug) wants morning of Oct 17th. Logistics are easier to start in Jackson and end with Fremont.

The multi-modal assessment includes an understanding of how far every city and county has gone with implementing complete streets. Joe's job is to consult with each city and county to assess where each jurisdiction is with complete streets. Public workshops are for Joe to outline

what's happening throughout the country with these concepts and how we're trying to encourage everyone in the consortium to embrace complete streets principles.

January/February is still target date for completion for full Multi-modal plan.

Model Code: Code Studio is scheduling a visit for stakeholder meetings. Angie, Doug and Bill will get together to outline priorities and identify key stakeholders.

Groundwater: John Millar, Amy Verbeten, Donna Cosgrove (part of big Snake River Plains study), Randy Johnson (Forsgren), District 7 public health district, EPA Kelly Eiger, Sean O'Malley (Teton WY County Engineer), Teton Conservation District—Randy Williams, Yellowstone Soil Conservation District, Ken Beckmann (NRCS in St Anthony), Henry's Fork Foundation. Val and Greg volunteer for lead.

Housing Bands: Alex and Christine (Teton WY), Val (Rexburg) will aid however needed, Habitat for Humanity in Ashton/St Anthony.

Complete community rehab in Ashton for all 400 homes. \$1.4M bequeathed to the H4H affiliate by Kirk Handler's estate for investment in Ashton. Interesting partnership to see how sustainable communities goals could be woven into this project. Could be part of the scope of work for housing—demonstration on what could be done with \$1.4M in a small town, partner with planning. Don't have to bring a lot to the table but could certainly see if they could certify under the GY-Framework.

Affordability bands—could still try to reach Billie Kirkham.

Energy: Creative Energies (Andy Tyson), CAES, Shelly Simonton (Jackson Hole Energy Sustainability Project), Ed Williams (P&B Commission Madison—geothermal), Bob Breckenridge (INL), Phil Cameron. Jan volunteer for lead.

Workforce: Who is with USDA doing new projects in Ag? Soil Conservation Districts? Paul Patterson (U of I Ag Extension), Ken Christensen (EITC), Dept of Commerce Christine Darcy, Dept of Labor, Econ Development Advisors for each county, Tim O for Teton WY, Jeff GoLightly (Teton WY chamber), Luke Erickson (Madison), Doug Self (Driggs) volunteer to lead.

The goal was to have a consortium member as lead for each study. Team leads are a leadership role—expected to recruit team, help with scope and RFP, and monitor contractors.

Technical Assistance Pre-application and Process

Ran out of time on call. Will discuss in person at October 23rd meeting.

Rexburg Broadband Feasibility Study

Scott Johnson working to redo scope of study to include entire consortium. Angie is point of contact for consortium; requested for Scott to send a draft of new scope. Angie will keep consortium in the loop.

MetroQuest

Public engagement tool that appears would be very useful for consortium. Webinar on Friday, September 28 at 11:00 a.m. for any consortium member interested. All team leads should be on the webinar. Would have to allocate a portion of budget from each study to cover costs for tool (est. \$10-\$15K). Would have a platform across all projects to provide consistency.

Consortium meetings

Next Meeting: In-person meeting, Tuesday, October 23rd from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.