

Western Greater Yellowstone Consortium Monthly Phone Conference October 14, 2014 – 1:30-3:00 p.m. Group Memory

The Western Greater Yellowstone Consortium met on October 14, 2014, via conference call. Consortium members in attendance included Natalie Powell (Rexburg), Jeff Patlovich (Island Park), Jan Brown and Wanda Adams (Fremont County), Brittany Skelton (Victor), Sheryl Hill and Sara Reinke (Ashton Community Foundation), Heather Higinbotham (YBP), Doug Self (Driggs), Patty Parkinson (St. Anthony), and Alex Norton (Jackson/Teton WY)

Consortium members not present: City of Ashton, BLM, Caribou-Targhee and Bridger-Teton national forests, Idaho Department of Lands, and Madison and Teton counties.

Consultants/Public: Wendy Lowe (P2 Solutions)

Consortium Business

Status of HUD Budget/Work Plan Amendment and 120-day Extension Request

Jan reported that the 120-day extension request has been approved by all but the top-level official at HUD and they were hoping it would be signed today, if not this week. Once the extension is official, the revised work plan and budget will be posted on the consortium website.

Transition to Implementation Leadership Academy and Peer-to-Peer Exchange on Job Creation and Workforce Issues – October 20-24, Oakland, CA

The team attending the Transition to Implementation workshop includes Jan Brown (Fremont County), Natalie Powell (Rexburg), Jason Boal (Teton County, ID), Brian McDermott (Teton Valley Business Development Center), Brittany Skelton (Victor), Heather Overholser (Teton County, WY Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling), and Arne Jorgensen (Hawtin Jorgensen Architects). Jan Brown, Brian McDermott, and Brittany Skelton will be participating in the Job Creation and Workforce Exchange. Scholarships are covering more than 70% of the event costs, so the total charges against the grant for both trainings should not exceed \$2,000 for all team members.

The agendas for both workshops are included with the group memory.

National Main Street Center Training

Kathy LaPlante will be delivering both the "[Investing in Prosperity](#)" introductory evening session in St. Anthony on Nov. 18 and the "[Success Stories from Small-Town America](#)" all-day workshop in Ashton on Nov. 19. The City of St. Anthony and the Ashton Community Foundation are co-sponsoring the trainings. Currently the training in Ashton is limited to 40 people. The trainings will be promoted broadly, with agendas to be posted on the website as soon as the agendas are final (see attached).

The introductory session in St. Anthony (City Council Chambers) is free. The all-day workshop in Ashton (Community Center) is \$20 to cover lunch and refreshments. Both sessions are open to the public.

The Ashton Community Foundation reported high energy from the community surrounding the training. There is a strong emphasis on local examples.

Revised RPSD Development and Public Participation Timeline

Call participants reviewed the proposed timeline, briefing assignments, and public meeting formats. There will be two rounds of briefings for county commissions and city councils. The first round will happen early in the public comment period. The second round will occur after the plan is finalized and public comment has been incorporated.

The preliminary draft review for consortium members will occur after the holidays, from December 31—January 16. After that review period, Fremont County will consolidate all comments and submit them to Logan Simpson along with any newly completed reports, studies, and the completed model development code. The graphics design and Logan Simpson teams recommended that the public review draft not be presented in Word, but that it be fully laid out using professional publishing software. As a result, more time has been allowed in the overall schedule to produce a document that can be easily navigated by the public.

It will be important for each jurisdiction's consortium representative to brief their respective supervisors and/or elected officials. The responsible parties are listed on the revised RPSD production schedule (see attached). There will be a Power Point presentation available to ensure consistency in the public briefings.

Fremont County must submit all grant-related deliverables to HUD by May 1, 2015, and thus all RPSD-related work must be completed by that date. Fremont County will complete necessary grant paperwork during the month of May while HUD is reviewing all of the grant deliverables for final approval.

Logan Simpson has accepted the task of describing and mapping character zones in the RPSD. The funding that was initially allocated to Frontier Forward for character zone analysis in the housing studies has been reallocated to Logan Simpson for this work.

Tight Line Media anticipates providing P2 Solutions with a first cut of the project video by the end of October. The video may be posted on social media platforms, used at city council or county commission meetings, or shown at public events such as Rotary club meetings. The release of the video will coincide with the public comment period.

At this point we do not anticipate holding a final project summit as we expect the public briefings will fulfill the grant outreach requirements. However, Fremont County is offering to host a final gathering of the consortium members on May 29, to celebrate the close of the HUD grant.

Consortium Conference Calls and Face-to-Face Meeting Calendar

- November 20 – Rexburg
 - This meeting will have a very full agenda. There is a Rexburg P&Z meeting scheduled in the City Council room that starts at 7 pm. The consortium meeting is tentatively scheduled from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- December 16 – Conference call prior to issuance of preliminary draft
- January 27 – Conference call related to preparation of public review draft
- February 20 – Meet in St. Anthony to prepare for public comment period
- April 9 – Conference call to discuss public comment findings
- April 29 – Meet in Teton Valley to accept final RPSD
- May 29 – Fremont County to host final celebration!

Status/Remaining Work/Completion Schedules of Projects and Contracts

Model Development Code and Teton Valley codes

Driggs, Victor and Teton County received three code documents on Oct. 9. Brittany Skelton shared that the Victor code is 200 pages and by far the most complete and thorough iteration they have received thus far. She was pleased with the incorporation of feedback and additional chapters requested from the first draft.

There were no updates on future trips from Code Studio or next drafts. Driggs, Victor and Teton County are promptly responding with comments so the final version may be completed as soon as possible.

Code Studio is scheduled to visit Teton Valley and to present to the consortium the week of November 17th. Heather will confirm this trip with Lee Einsweiler.

Code Studio will present a preview of the Model Development Code in St. Anthony on January 22nd with duplicate afternoon and evening sessions. This educational opportunity will be designed for city and county planning staffs and planning and zoning commissioners.

Greater Yellowstone Framework for Sustainable Development

Heather Higinbotham reported that she is finalizing the revisions to the local government requirements for the GY-Framework, based on input from the model code work and the credit workshop held this summer.

The Town of Jackson and Teton County, WY intend to jointly submit their Land Development Regulations for local government certification and will be pulling together their documentation over the next several months.

Heather Higinbotham will be presenting a summary of the GY-Framework progress in conjunction with the model code presentation at the November 20 Consortium meeting.

Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) and Regional Analysis of Impediments (RAI)

Fremont County has received the final drafts of both the HNA and RAI. The RAI has been sent to HUD and is currently being reviewed. All comments/concerns from consortium members need to be submitted to Fremont County by November 2nd; Fremont County will submit a comment package to Frontier Forward. Frontier Forward will present the final study and recommendations at the November consortium meeting.

Brittany Skelton reported that she gave a presentation to the Victor P&Z and City Council on the Teton County, ID chapter, and it was well received. The P&Z, Commissioners and Council members were surprised at the data showing that Victor's median sale price was so much higher than Driggs. Elected officials shared that they appreciated the study and the presentation was helpful and gave perspective. They also noted that the city would not have been able to fund a study like this on its own.

Housing Advisory Team members are responsible for making summary presentations of the housing studies to each elected body in their respective jurisdiction. This outreach should help identify any errors or concerns with study results before finalization.

Economic Development Studies

Local Agriculture – Economic Opportunities Assessment

Jan Brown emailed the consortium information about the local agriculture assessment. The University of Idaho and High Country RC&D (HCRCD) are identifying stakeholders, distributing the survey link, recruiting focus group participants, and coordinating media and public outreach. The project advisory team includes Sheryl Hill from Ashton Community Foundation, Randy Williams from Teton Conservation District, and Cindy Riegel from Teton Valley. The focus groups will meet the morning of November 6th in St. Anthony, and in Driggs later that afternoon. To learn more about the project or to suggest interview or focus group candidates, contact Research Associate Soren Newman at 208.885.4017 or email her at newman@uidaho.edu

Here is a link to the online survey: https://uidaho.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3qIhQwdaKwBsXyJ

Fremont County Economic Development Strategy and Community Economic Profile

Dick Gardner of Bootstrap Solutions will visit Fremont County the week of Oct. 27 to meet with business and community leaders. Dick is updating two economic studies that he produced for the county back in 2008. It is expected that these updated reports will complement the Fremont County section of the housing needs assessment by analyzing demographic data for the entire Island Park Census District. The Bootstrap Solutions contract requires Dick to present the updated reports at the November 20 consortium meeting.

Technical Assistance Projects

Greater Yellowstone Trail Concept and Action Plan

Brittany reported that Tim Young from Wyoming Pathways, two consultants from Alta Planning and Design, and a representative from the Montana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocacy Federation traveled the entire length of the Greater Yellowstone Trail corridor October 2-3 to meet with stakeholders in each community and view existing sections of rail bed or trail. The intent of this trip was to gain a feel for the area, verify trail gaps, and obtain a realistic understanding of community needs and desires. The Victor visit reportedly went very well; it was a gathering at city hall and provided an opportunity for them to listen to locals, learn about existing resources and infrastructure, and understand ongoing projects and future plans.

Sara Reinke reported from the Ashton meeting that much of the Ashton-Tetonia section is in place but underutilized, and that there remain a few conflicts with adjacent farmers. Generally Ashton residents are excited to be participating in the design process.

The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of January. All involved were reminded to submit a list of those present at each community meeting for public participation documentation.

Henry's Fork Greenway Pedestrian Bridge Design

St. Anthony has contracted with J-U-B Engineers to work directly with Eastern Idaho Railroad on gaining bridge access. The Railroad still considers this portion a live track and bridge even though it is not in regular use. As such, the company will not allow a pathway to be constructed on the bridge, substructure, or within 50 feet of either side of the existing bridge. This was not a surprise, but St. Anthony did feel that directly communicating with the company represents real progress. J-U-B suggested the company consider leasing the bridge to the city or county and Eastern Idaho Railroad has agreed to look into it. The City Council has now formally expressed its support of the leasing idea. The project is pending until the City hears back from railroad, which is expected by the end of October.

J-U-B has witnessed fisherman using the bridge to cross, which illustrates both a public need and an existing liability for the railroad. Jan Brown has provided a LINK to a recent national study of "Rails with Trails" in 41 states where active railroad lines are sharing right of ways with trail users.

Driggs Wayfinding Sign Design

Driggs received five responses to its RFQ for this phase of design work and will contract with one firm by November 1st. If anyone in the consortium is interested in helping design wayfinding signs for adoption around the region, contact Doug Self with the City of Driggs.

Next meeting: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., November 20th at the Rexburg City Council Chambers, 35 N 1st St.. Natalie requested that everyone RSVP when the final agenda is published.