

Community Protection Team – Planning Session #2 Notes

Present:

Andrew Notbohm – Boulder County Land Use

Ryan Ludlow – Boulder County Land Use

Iain Hyde – CO Office of Emergency Management

Craig Jones – CDJ Consulting

Paige Lewis – The Nature Conservancy Andrew Notbohm – Boulder County Land Use

Bruce Dikken – West Metro Fire/CO State Fire Chiefs

Justin Whitesell – Larimer County Sheriff's Office

Allen Owen – CSFS, Boulder

Megan Davis – Boulder County Commissioners' Office

Jim Webster – Boulder County Land Use

Wes Rutt – Private forester

Hal Gibbs - USFS

Phone:

Cheri Ford – USFS

Jill Alexander – Douglas County

Cathie Mattor - CSU

Jonathan Bruno – CUSP

Sara Mayben - USFS

Review of priorities:

The group began the discussion by reviewing the top priorities that were identified during the first planning meeting held on November 8th, 2012. The priorities were listed for the group based on the number of votes that they received at the previous meeting – those listed under #4 received an equal number of votes and therefore are presented in no particular order of priority.

- 1.** Limit the growth of fire risk in the wildland urban interface: County Commissioners/Local Governments - Focus Roundtable efforts on working with local governments and leadership to increase wildfire mitigation and community protection initiatives.
- 2.** Focus on funding for implementation of CWPPs – innovative funding opportunities, private fundraising (e.g. Colorado Wildfire Relief fund), and use 2012 fire experiences to identify funders. Diversify funding so that it's not only the CSFS. Look more at pre-disaster mitigation funding (FEMA) and other funding sources.
- 3.** Develop a case study on positive, effective aspects of CWPPs, including cases where communities have implemented parts of CWPPs that have made a difference.
- 4.** Work with local governments to adopt land use codes that follow NFPA or WUI building code standards.

- 4.1** Limit the growth of fire risk in the wildland urban interface: Rocky Mountain Insurance Association - Insurance companies will now require wildfire mitigation/defensible space actions. Work with insurance companies to make sure their requirements are consistent, uniform; work with homeowners to understand and support their ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts.
- 4.2** Standardize insurance guidelines around WUI/defensible space/HIZ so that they are consistent.
- 4.3** Limit the growth of fire risk in the wildland urban interface: Colorado Real Estate Commission Add fire risk to the seller's property disclosure and require real estate brokers to provide educational materials on Firewise practice to buyers of forested properties.
- 4.4** Identify/develop best practices in CWPPs – what is working practically and what is not. Cite examples and creative implementation efforts. Establish monitoring for the success of CWPPs.
- 4.5** Find ways to make the work cheaper.
- 4.6** Create a how to implement CWPPs guide.
- 4.7** Social science – use social science to learn more about what works, what doesn't in terms of motivation of private landowners' mitigation.

In discussing/reviewing the priorities, the group identified some criteria with which they would consider each proposal. We continued the discussion with these filters in mind, and considering them as we determined where we'd want to focus our efforts.

- Will this move the needle on this issue?
- Is this something we are passionate about?
- Is there current political support for this?
- Is there an effort currently underway that we can capitalize on?
- Don't want to reinvent the wheel.
- What's the cost of the initiative – and to whom? (Who bears the cost?)
- The right Roundtable members to contribute to the issue must be available to assist.
- Should be low or no cost to the Roundtable.

As the group discussed the priorities, we also discussed that all of the priorities identified during the initial planning session should be advanced to the Roundtable for consideration of inclusion on their policy priority list. Throughout the discussion, the group identified additional policy actions or priorities that should be added to the Roundtable agenda.

- Reauthorize EPF funds
- Support the DRCOG amendment
- Continue to support a CWPP coordinator for CSFS (or the staff capacity at the CSFS to support CWPP implementation at the local level.)
- Support funding for CWPP implementation

Identification of potential strategies/action steps:

Under each of the top priorities listed above, the group identified potential projects or strategies that could help advance the issue. The following strategies were identified:

1. Increase Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities – Roundtable CWP would facilitate an effort, process to expand these programs in the Front Range.
2. Consistent communication and outreach - Develop common messages and a train the trainer strategy for Front Range partners.
3. Focus on identifying more sources of money for CWPP implementation.
4. Conduct a long-term research project that would include identifying available data and tracking success around various benchmarks – acres treated, development in the WUI, WUI building codes impacts, etc. Could be a two phase project to develop a plan and identify data and to actually create a mechanism to gather and track the data.
5. Develop case studies on successful CWPPs
6. Work to improve the implementation and effectiveness of WUI building codes – potential partnership with NFPA and FPRF (Fire Protection Research Foundation) effort currently underway to conduct a workshop on the Front Range around WUI building codes.
7. Work with insurance companies to standardize insurance guidelines for defensible space and home ignition zone.

The group then voted for their top two choices that they would like to see the CPT team focus on. The final two choices were:

1. Consistent communication and outreach - Develop common messages and a train the trainer strategy for Front Range partners.
2. Work with insurance companies to standardize insurance guidelines for defensible space and home ignition zone.

The group agreed that these would be the two areas that the CPT team should focus its efforts in 2013/2014. The third choice effort was item number six – WUI building codes.

Next Steps:

- Megan committed to putting together a draft of potential steps/work plan that would need to take place to begin each of the initiatives and circulate to the group for their input. There will likely be several decisions points around how to scope each project.
- Send doodle for another meeting in late February - phone call or meeting? Some preferred meeting in person, but could do a briefer phone call to check in about drafting work plan.