

Front Range Roundtable: Community Protection Kick-off meeting summary

11/8/2012

Participants:

Ryan Ludlow – Boulder County Land Use
Andrew Notbohm – Boulder County Land Use
Kristin Garrison – CSFS, Franktown
Iain Hyde – CO Office of Emergency Management
Cheri Ford – USFS
Craig Jones – CDJ Consulting
Paige Lewis – The Nature Conservancy
Molly Mowery – NFPA
Bruce Dikken – West Metro Fire/CO State Fire Chiefs
Eric Bergman – Colorado Counties, Inc.
Patty Champ – USFS – RMRS
Justin Whitesell – Larimer County Sheriff’s Office
Carole Walker – Rocky Mountain Insurance Industry Association
John Chapman – Colorado Environmental Coalition/Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance
Rocco Snart – CO Department of Public Safety
Allen Owen – CSFS, Boulder
Dave Farmer – CSFS, Ft. Collins
Megan Davis – Boulder County Commissioners’ Office

Process:

The group reviewed the original 2006 Roundtable recommendations #7 and #8: regarding Local Leadership and Planning. The group discussed the progress and importance of each recommendation and the recommended actions, and determined whether or not each should continue to be a priority moving forward. We then reviewed the Roundtable Q3 strategic planning notes and recommendations from a recent Wildfire Awareness Month event; from there the group identified the highest priorities of all the issues/actions under consideration. Below is the list of ideas or potential actions that the group discussed as opportunities for Roundtable engagement, along with the “vote” of the participants on what areas should be prioritized by the Roundtable moving forward.

Votes in support	Issue/Action Item
11	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a consistent message around mitigation, a comprehensive education initiative.

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local governments to adopt land use codes that follow NFPA or WUI building code standards.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to “trickle” county efforts down to FPD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for FPDs, private landowners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with private industry – Lowes, NFPA, FAC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the list of points of contact for private landowners/homeowners who can provide education about wildfire mitigation issues – HBA, mortgage brokers, schools, CAI, CML, CCI, etc.)*
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage at the HOA level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on locally based training using local residents (train the trainer model or other local/grass roots engagement)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on comprehensive planning at the county level – where development occurs, open spaces, etc.
3	<p>Limit the growth of fire risk in the wildland urban interface: Rocky Mountain Insurance Association</p> <p>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.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education about mitigation requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education to insurance companies and underwriters, such as: How to guides, bringing the Roundtable into companies individually to work with them to develop their requirements and education them about best practices in wildfire mitigation for homeowners.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize insurance guidelines around WUI/defensible space/HIZ so that they are consistent.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use IBHS data to inform insurance guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to educate homeowners about underinsurance, the need to review policies, update, etc.
3	<p>Limit the growth of fire risk in the wildland urban interface: Colorado Real Estate Commission</p> <p>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.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CAR (Colorado Association of Realtors) to educate their members about opportunities for reaching buyers/sellers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include language in real estate sales about the mitigation condition of the property
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if curriculum can be added around wildfire mitigation to real estate continuing education requirements
	<p>Promote the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) for Front Range communities at risk – New focus should be on implementation of projects identified in CWPPs and keeping CWPPs “alive” at the community level.</p>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to keep CWPPs moving forward in communities with professional advisors, technical assistance.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate CWPPs into Hazard Mitigation Plans so that they are folded into the Land Use and emergency management process – Adams County model
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a case study on positive, effective aspects of CWPPs, including cases where communities have implemented parts of CWPPs that have made a difference.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating those who don’t know their stakeholders about how to fold people into the

	discussion who are affected by the same risks. For example, LU and FPDs, who are focused singularly on planning and fire suppression.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Create a report card on CWPPs – to meet goals and demonstrate effectiveness and outcomes.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find ways to make the work cheaper. Establish a 501c3 non-profit for mitigation – to support small or large projects with clear standards.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a how to implement CWPPs guide
OTHER issues – not in original Roundtable 2006 recommendations	
3	Social science – use social science to learn more about what works, what doesn't in terms of motivation of private landowners' mitigation.
2	Partner with NFPA and others to develop a national model around regional initiatives to advance wildfire mitigation efforts.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower FPDs to have more authority (building codes) in order to engage them more.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get Sheriff's Office more involved in mitigation – education, legislation and mitigation work.

Next Steps:

The group agreed to meet again in January in order to further narrow the opportunities to 2 – 3 key actions and strategies for Roundtable involvement in Community Protection issues. The group will report back to the Roundtable at the upcoming Q4 meeting on the discussion and progress.

*Indicates item was moved/relocated from where it surfaced during the discussion because it fits better in another area.