

MINUTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM QUARTERLY MEETING JANUARY 31, 2013

Date of meeting: Wednesday, January 31, 2013, 12:30p.m.-3:30p.m.

Location: Conference Call

Date minutes posted: February 5, 2013

Roundtable contact: Gali Beh, c/o Beh Management Consulting, Inc., 637-B South Broadway, #134, Boulder CO 80302, 303-499-1576, gali@behconsulting.com

ATTENDEES

Gali Beh (Beh Management Consulting), Glenn Casamassa (USFS, ARP), Megan Davis (Boulder County), Jerri Marr (USFS, PSICC), Pam Motley (West Range Reclamation, LLC), Joe Duda (CSFS), Carol Ekarius (Coalition for the Upper South Platte); Terra Lenihan (Beh Management Consulting)

AGENDA:

1. 12:30 -12:45: Introductions/ice breaker – Participants answered the ice breaker: "What is your favorite place to hike in the forests along the Front Range?" Gali reviewed the agenda.
2. 12:45 - 1:00: Review how the Roundtable rated our progress against 2006 Recommendations from the last Quarterly meeting.
 - Voting was comprised of assessing progress on 10 major initiatives since 2006. Some have flipped a bit. Gali will provide photos at next meeting. Will discuss status slide, and what we should do about these items.

10 recommendations:

1. Identify new state and local funding sources for treatments on state and private land. Results were half blue, half yellow; perhaps we are slipping a bit. Joe asked if everyone had seen the DNR budget request item for fuel mitigations program, which is good news for the Roundtable. Hopefully that will move us forward. People have been pleased in the past for the CFLR and stimulus funding. Megan said another factor that may be of influence is there have been many large fires recently, so a sense of urgency may be exacerbated. Joe mentioned the recent legislation for EWP and for Forest Restoration program that Farms Services had, the money was directed to Hurricane Sandy, and none available to us.
2. Increase forest treatment incentives for private landowners. This initiative flipped from solid blue to yellow. It was blue in 2010 and 2011, and now is solid yellow. Could related to the Healthy Forest Initiative. Glenn can see why it has slipped as it seems like there was nothing added to it. It's not increasing, so it slips. Gali asked if DNR funds are for private landowners?

Joe says yes. The source of funds will be discussed during the budget process. Joe thinks it will sail through to extend up to a \$2500 tax deduction for defensible space, and it works for out-of-pocket costs.

3. Advocate for additional federal funding for Front Range forest treatments. This initiative stayed blue (although two people gave it a red). Initiative was blue in 2011. Rated blue by 10-12 people. Gali asked how we feel about advocating for federal funding. Pam said we all continue to advocate for funding. Perhaps the difference is we didn't do a trip to Washington D.C. this year? Megan was thinking same thing. Maybe more of this is happening. Did the Roundtable do any letter writing, or did members do more advocacy, or write any letters?
4. Increase appropriate application of prescribed fire and wildland fire use as a management tool. This initiative got all red. Was red in 2009, then went blue. Feels like we're back at ground zero. Megan said she hopes with what happened over the last year, there is more dialogue around prescribed fires. Hopefully over time it will move us farther forward. Discussion about sitting down with senators Nicholson and Roberts for application for prescribed fires and who it applies to. Bill was just introduced in its original form, without amendments. I would encourage everyone to give feedback. Megan said Boulder County was (at the hearing) and provided feedback. It was a good conversation. The bill is Senate Bill 13 083 "Prescribed Burn Prog Div Fire Prevention & Control." Implements a prescribed burning program and standards, for everyone in the state, county and private landowners. There was a lot of concern over the bill due to the cost, and because people are hesitant about prescribed burns. Gali asked if the Roundtable should have an opinion? Megan will send the bill to the group. Joe said it may not have the amendments attached. Several parties and Joe had lengthy comments at the hearing. Megan felt like sponsors made a commitment to get it out there.
5. Increase utilization of woody biomass for facility heating. This initiative was yellow, now it has the least agreement, with 3 red votes, 3 yellow, and 5 blue. We've talked about this recommendation in the past. Do we want to change this, or not recommend?
6. Increase contract sizes and durations with stewardship contracts on federal lands. This initiative was blue, now it has 5 green, and 5 blue, (green means significant progress has been made). Gali explained that people feel like something is happening here.
7. Change local policy to limit the growth of fire risk in the Wildland Urban Interface. This initiative has always been a problem. This time it got 3 yellow votes, and everyone else gave it a red. This one is difficult to achieve. Joe asked what everyone thought of the governor's announcement yesterday about his committee on prescribed fires and insurance issues. It means more

engagement from the insurance agency. He thought it was interesting since it's outside the typical scope of state government. Megan said after the Fourmile Fire, Boulder County had many issues with homeowners and their insurance companies, and after this summer other counties are having the same issues. Having conversations with the state insurance commissioner. Sherry Borden is on that commission. Megan will send the Executive Order to Gali. Joe assigned one of his staff members to be on the Governor's task force.

8. Promote the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Front Range communities-at-risk. This one is getting better.
 9. Adopt a clear and common framework for prioritizing treatments. This initiative was blue, now it's half blue and half yellow. Need to develop a vision and a plan for the whole 40-year period.
 10. Convene follow-on Roundtable to ensure implementation of recommended initiatives. This initiative has all greens. When 2006 report was published, it was unknown if the Roundtable would keep going.
- Gali summarized that until now we've always gone up in our progress, but now we have some recommendations slipping. We have our work cut out for us.
3. 1:00 - 2:45: Review decisions from last Quarterly Roundtable meetings regarding the straw poll on 2013+ strategic initiatives.
 - Large scale planning for future treatments through 2046, using a multi-disciplinary approach based on science with the aim of minimizing post-fire impacts. Gali said the deliverable would be a map showing different treatments. Why 40 years? Because in 2006, ran scenarios and our recommendations were for a 40-year map or vision.
 - Gali said for the 40-year vision map encompasses doing something about prescribed fire, and policy changes to make funding more stable. What should we do about these requests? At the August 2012 Roundtable meeting, guests brainstormed about what we could be doing. Ideas also discussed at past Executive Team meetings. At the Roundtable meeting in November (2012) we did a straw poll of the three best ideas. That's how we came up with these. So we need to figure out what we can do about these, and present our findings at the March 2013 Roundtable meeting.
 - Megan said the CPT team started that discussion in November, and looked at initial Roundtable priorities. They looked at where they could have the most impact, improving community protection, what had momentum, and what is politically feasible? We didn't look at these three broader priorities. This team decided to focus on consistent messaging, or outreach strategy. That could really tie into the second and third priorities. We talked about broad

messaging around better leveraging state forest service, and insurance information. Creating consistent messages around the WUI communities. There could be some possibility to tie into this. I wish we would have integrated these on the CPT.

- Joe said CSFS be releasing the Westwide Wildfire Risk Assessment which is calibrated with risks and values of Colorado data. It will include a website portal (COWRA) – in which users can log in and download information. Users can apply different data sets, and can get reports or GIS information. It's a great tool. Not a solution to everything, but another source of information. Communities can map overlays with this tool. We are just finishing up some of the final details, and expect it to be accessible in February. Gali asked if that could work into our first priority? Absolutely. We can look at this map, and see high-risk areas. Using that GIS information, with other data, and values in the land base, it can overlay it with the COWRA, to establish priorities.
- Pam asked about the first initiative – large scale planning for treatment – how does this apply to the 400,00 acres? Gali said it's a refinement of this. What's being asked for is 1.5M acres, if you look at the contour map, so then what's next? Asked Glenn and Jerri if the Forest (Service) can identify 30 years out for treatment, or is this more of a collaborative of where these treatments should be and then there given to the Forest Service. Glenn said for the long-term we could give some level of treatment. It's advantageous to show folks what's been treated, what's under contract, and what's been proposed. That would really add to our understanding of where we want to put our focus. Then it could become more collaborative as far as our level of criteria. Where do we want to put our focus? Gali asked if that means the data already exists? We could certainly provide that. It's probably a good thing for us to do right now. We've kept track of that information in the Forest. It was a data request from Congress and the Governors office. Gali said that would be great to have. Jerri said for Pike and San Isabel forests, we can do that, and show what we've done and where we're going. But this could change. It's a great way to get feedback. We need to look at words like collaborative. We want to be clear we don't lead folks down a path that we can't commit to. Gali said that's encouraging and looks like something we can move forward on. Jerri asked who would be creating a map? Gali said we would have a Roundtable agreed upon map as far as what would be treated and when. We'd have to find a GIS volunteer down the road to help create it. Pam said the Roundtable did have a 2009 map of priorities for Forest Mitigation – it could be a revision of this map. Gali explained that map treats all acres the same as far as when to treat, but doesn't prioritize what needs to be treated or has been treated as far as CFLR and the stewardship contract. It would show what would be burned in the future. Glenn and Jerri asked when could we do this? Jerri would need to talk to her staff. They have a lot on their plate. Glenn will query their GIS folks and ask how long it would take. Gali will send an email for those next

steps. Maybe it could be an agenda item for May.

- Increase the social acceptance and policies of smoke management and prescribed fire, based on science and taking into account the value of ecosystem services, i.e. “make fire as a management tool more effective.” This got about 10 votes. Megan asked if it made it more acceptable and effective? Yes, it’s a broad umbrella.
 - Gali asked for thoughts about moving this forward. Megan said she can have this discussion with the CPT team at their next meeting. I think this would be an aspect of the common messaging they would be working on. I could see if they have any ideas on how we could do work on this area.
 - Support policies that stabilize funding at adequate levels to meet management objectives. Gali said this is more specific than creating an agenda. This got 11 votes.
 - Gali asked what would be a next step for this priority? Sallie Clark thought about this a lot with El Paso County’s struggles. There were tight deadlines. She was looking at policy changes that would make it more accessible. Megan said pre-mitigation funding for Boulder County was “next in line” for a long time. That funding keeps going away. Glenn (?) said as far as FEMA funds, over the past five years the process has become more competitive and funding gets reduced, but it only requires a 25% match. Megan agreed that the funds are flexible. Generally you have to give them a very specific project area, not a broad area because of NEPA. They were pre-disaster mitigation grants. Boulder is getting there’s at end of 2013. El Paso and Summit counties have received these grant funds and have done some great work. Gali asked what can the Roundtable do? All of the above – make it a line item budget request, some of it is new legislation. Is the Roundtable’s role advocacy? Glenn said we need advocacy to support the existing programs. Gali asked how we do that? We contact federal legislators. They have the most influence. For Boulder County, Megan said they created a quick fact sheet of federally funded forest health programs. A staff member met with Cory Gardner to show him this. It’s a way to educate legislators. Gali asked if the Executive Team should take this on as an initiative and make a document like Boulder County’s? Or hold 1-on-1 meetings? Megan thinks this is more of an advocacy issue. The Executive Team needs to initiate. Others agreed. Glenn and Jerri support it. Glenn said for impetus it should come from counties or local municipalities, so it is community based. Gali asked if we could ask our local and county representatives? Group decided to take this issue to the next Roundtable meeting.
4. 1:45 - 2:15: Discuss the Wildland Urban Interface Land Use Policy Summit for the Colorado Front Range (see attached document).

Megan sent the group this draft document. She met six months ago with Molly

Mowry at NFPA. They have been talking with the Lincoln Land Institute and the Consensus Building Institute. She said they are interested in looking at local WUI building codes, and what regions are facing. They were interested in Colorado as far as our regulatory land issues. There's a resistance to building codes. Cindy and Megan talked to NFPA about having a conversation at the grassroots level to bring planners and policy makers, about why it's important, what are the best practices with WUI building codes, and how counties can improve on their building codes. Goal is to try to encourage local government to do it on their own. The idea is to offer a land use planning workshop for counties, municipalities and others who have a stake in the WUI (such as water districts). In the morning the conference would cover issues about why it's important, then there would be a hands-on session with land use folks. CCI is going to endorse it and help plan, Colorado Association of Planners will participate and convene. I think it would be a great opportunity for the Roundtable to endorse it, since our group has done a lot to encourage making improvements. She said they are not asking for a monetary contribution from the Roundtable. The conference would be after CCI's conference, probably in late May. The Roundtable could help get the word out, and get people interested. Focus mainly on Front Range counties, but since CCI is sponsoring, open to all of Colorado. Glenn said these kinds of things can be very powerful. It's an idea generator, and potential formulation of policy. Establishing scope would be important. Joe agrees and would help local government engage and move forward.

Megan said part of the message would be around what we've experienced around wildfires and WUI, and how to address it on the front end, rather than the costly back end. She said the next step is to get a steering committee to do the planning. We'd love it if someone else can join to help establish the scope and strategies for getting folks there. Currently she's on the steering committee along with members of the Fire Protection Research Foundation, NFPA, Consensus Building, CCI, and Colorado Association of Planners. We'll start having conversations twice per month. We could communicate by email when there are opportunities to provide input on the scope. Glenn would like to participate, and be able to provide his thoughts.

5. 2:15 - 2:45: Plan the agenda for the next Quarterly Roundtable meeting, scheduled for Friday, March 15 at the Jeffco building (hoping that Regional Forester Dan Jiron can still come speak). *Next meeting was later confirmed for March 8; Dan Jiron can speak on that day.*

Need an outline of the agenda. Not possible if Dan Jiron can come. Glenn will check if Dan can be there; need to give him an hour, then have a break so people can meet and greet. Perhaps he could present resiliency and stewardship contracting, then do a Q&A. We will discuss these three priorities. Are there other major topics or guest speakers we should try to get?

Megan brought up Rocco Stewart, as it would be helpful to have the state come and talk about the new structure. Do we want to wait until after hiring for the Forest Service position and have both agencies come? Joe thought that would be better. He

said they should have a new director in April, but they may not be up to speed. Megan was suggesting we have the state departments come and discuss the new arrangements, and what's under the purview and how they might work with the Roundtable. Joe can come and speak. Megan thought maybe it should be at the summer meeting. This meeting will be federal and next will be state.

Tony wants to request Dr. Sara Mccaffrey for 45 minutes on social science research, and social perceptions of fire. Pam and Carol agreed it'd be interesting to have her. Glenn mentioned that the Forest Service just recently did an assessment of social perceptions of forest management over a broad area in Northern Colorado. We could bring it down to what we found out from our communities. This is from a portion of the Front Range and has applicability in 10 northern counties. Joe is familiar with the study. The report was done through the state, Forest Service was part of the. We thought it would be advantageous for us to get this assessment from CSU. Will send to Gali. Carol suggested we do 40 minutes with Sara and the people from this report. It could be a panel discussion on their studies and their findings. Gali will ask Tony Cheng (CFRI) and let him know that we are interested in the authors of this report.

Gali suggested for the Roundtable Quarterly Meeting we give two hours to the discussion on the three priorities, and half hour to an hour on updates from each team. Discussion about how to present the three Roundtable priorities. 2-hour block. Group decided to split the Roundtable into two groups for first two priorities, and then come together and handle the third priority as a full group. We can adjust things on the fly.

Carol said she and Joe were appointed to the Governor's insurance committee and she'd like to get feedback from the Roundtable, about 10-15 minutes. Joe thought that is a great idea as the Governor wants to make sure the committee is engaging a broader constituency.

6. 2:45 - 3:15: Plan Roundtable budget for 2013. Carol sent out invoices. There's \$36,590 invoices and some money we have received already. We have \$8,663 for Gali. About \$2000 match funds to date. We are also negotiating an agreement for \$5000 from research station, which will come via an agreement with Pike National Forest. They will add that in. Funds will be distributed from the Research station to Pike, and from Pike to the Roundtable. We're doing okay right now. Haven't put in request for any contract money. Asked if Carol can send out those figures. She will send the Profit/Loss statement to Megan.

Megan said if she can send the list, we are happy to follow up with those counties who haven't contributed in a month or so. Carol said we should wait 30-60 days to remind those commissioners.

Gali mentioned that she is billing to other NFF grant money for work on the Landscape Restoration and Wildlife teams. However CFRI offered \$5000 toward these teams.

Megan has no update yet; hasn't gotten together with Paige. Gali said Paige asked for two scenarios:

- Continue how we have been with more note taking and with Wildlife. Desire of Wildlife team for more note taking.
- Support CPT team (not right now). If we push forward on the three priorities, and Terra and Gali help facilitate, what would that cost. Also note taking at Landscape Restoration and Roundtable meetings.

Base scenario is \$40,000, second would be \$70,000 for the year. \$70,000 is what we got close to, with our trip to Washington D.C., and the Fourmile tour, supporting four teams. We scaled down May 2012, budget has been quite low since then. Lots of options and flexibility. Megan said we also discussed Executive Team last summer to anticipate what our budget is for Gali, plus some fundraising, or another trip to D.C., so we have a buffer. Carol feels we should be conservative initially, until we know our future security, so we wait on decisions of funding trips for now. Megan agrees and also wants to think about these other priorities that came up at the last meeting. Last summer we talked about restructuring the Roundtable. CPT is a group that hasn't been focused; I don't know how we'll be able to take on the work of that team if they decide to pursue another set of priorities, plus other initiatives. Carol mentioned DNR's \$10.8 M for forest health includes some money for collaboratives. We can put in a grant for that for help with the CPT team.

Joe said that won't get resolved until late in the (legislative) session, probably April. State's budget isn't real flushed yet. Income has been reduced, so it's a competitive environment. Carol asked if Patagonia or a company like that funds grants that may be applicable to us. Megan said we haven't explored that.

Glenn said given concerns of water quality, there's been a tremendous interest in various micro-breweries, and they've come forward to do some level of restoration work. New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins could be a great partnership. Doesn't have to be a huge grant.

Pam sent Gali the grant opportunity: every year a foundation awards a \$50,000 grant to a collaborative within the state, and there are no matching funds needed. Is it the FERET foundation prize? Pam asked isn't that for NSF? Yes, that's different. It's the Colorado Collaboration Award. Carol and Megan will send to Gali. Terra offered to help with the grant.

7. 3:15 - 3:30: Find date for Q2 Executive Team meeting (at least one month before Q-2 Roundtable meeting scheduled for May 31); plan other immediate next steps.

Meeting for April. We did the Doodle, but there were no great results from the Doodle. Mondays/Fridays are best for county commissioners.

Jerry was selected for an SCS candidate program. Will find out dates in the next week or two. They will come up with a schedule soon.

Gali asked can we do a doodle for the Q2 date? It will not be April 5 or 12.

Note taking for the next Roundtable meeting. Gali asked shall we have Terra come? Or can someone bring a note taker? Carol suggested Don Kennedy's daughter Amy. She may be able to bring her on as a regular. Is there an opportunity for a regular note taker for the year? It was discussed to have a regular note taker, but it's better to have someone that understands the issues and acronyms, etc. Carol suggested that if we do an ad hoc way then the key person that brought the note taker sit next to him or her and help with names and acronyms.

Joe said CSFS can't commit someone all the time, but depending on staffing maybe they could share some of the cost.

Carol said Mary Mitzo introduced the NFF person Marcus Seleck who is very interested in the Roundtable, and has a really strong background on the things the Roundtable does. He intends to come to the March meeting. He's been involved with collaborations on big forests. If he becomes engaged, it may be a better way for Roundtable to ask for funding from NFF.

Megan – we still had the March 8 date on our calendars. 3/15 is a CPI date, commissioners won't be able to make it.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.