

# MINUTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM QUARTERLY MEETING JUNE 27, 2014

**Date of meeting:** Friday, June 27, 2014, 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** USFS-RO

**Date minutes posted:** July 1, 2014

**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), Sallie Clark (El Paso County), Carol Ekarius *by phone* (Coalition for the Upper South Platte); Mike Lester (CSFS); Paige Lewis (TNC); Terra Lenihan (Beh Management Consulting); Greg Aplet (TWS); RC Smith (El Paso County); Mark Martin (USFS); Erin Connelly (USFS); Cindy Domenico (Boulder County); Megan Davis (Boulder County)

## AGENDA:

1. The group did introductions and ice breakers.
2. Gali presented About the Roundtable.
  - a. Gali went over the results of the 2013 Roundtable scorecard.
  - b. Scorecard of Roundtable's Vision. There's never been progress on #7.
  - c. #10 went down for the first time ever at the last Roundtable meeting.
  - d. Gali went over the Executive Team – there have been changes made, and could be some additional changes we need to discuss. Paige and Sallie's seats were renewed. Greg's was added. Need to discuss possibility of adding Forest Product seat, Wildlife seat, and an Emergency protection seat.
3. Updates on Working Teams:
  - a. **Community Protection Team** - Megan gave an update. They started meeting in 2012. Their goal was to increase wildfire mitigation in the lower montane. Invited everyone interested from the Roundtable, and outside the Roundtable, good participation from JeffCo, Boulder, Gilpin, Larimer, Douglas, CSFS, and Insurance industry folks. Talk about barriers, one was insurance industry. Folks wanted to talk about mitigation work with private landowners, and with agencies around communities. It's a communication networking group. Talk about best practices, barriers, etc. Last couple meetings they've been talking about the DNR grant projects, which has provided great opportunities for these communities to implement their CWPP and to try different approaches. Each community receiving grant funds have talked about what they're doing. CFRI talked about how they are evaluating those projects. Brett Wolk has put together an evaluation process for those projects and mapping to show what work has been done. Next meeting in August and they will go back through priorities and look at what they want to do moving forward. Talked about policy initiative at the last Roundtable, they will talk about that in August. There are opportunities for the CPT to engage in this. Also around the

planning piece – in the development around the WUI. Looking at how to make more considerations for risk reduction. Mike mentioned there's also other CSFS funds out there. Talked about Colorado Climate. Toolkit for local governments to be more resilient. Sallie said next year she will be VP of NACO, and the following year will be President. That will give us more of a national voice. Megan said with CPT we need to move those conversations into those higher discussions.

- i. Hal had done mapping of wildfire risk reduction projects that were done a couple of years ago. Gali said we need data from 2010-2013. It's on Mark's plate. What does he need to do? Brett talked about the maps – they can also draw from CSFS. Gali said Hal took 2 forests, and all the counties. Hal did it all himself. Does Mark need a team? To get someone from each county. Mike needs to know what we have. He would like to know what they provided in the past so they know what to provide.
  - ii. Next CPT meeting is August 9. Wildfire Matters Interim committee is meeting soon – if – Jeanne Nicholson is going to be chairing that. Paige said we should revisit the WUI taskforce and revisit some of that stuff. Renews these funding sources? Megan said the map will be helpful because it's going to show a significant increase in wildfire risk reduction work over the past 5 years. So we can look and say why? What was contributing to the increases? Mike said we can plant seeds for next legislative session. Paige said how can we put forth ideas for them to recommendations. Mike said the Roundtable would be a good option for picking up the pieces of the Wildfire Insurance Task force.
4. **Landscape Restoration team** - Greg gave an update. It's a subgroup of the Roundtable responsible for accomplishing restoration – started via the CFLRP. We were awarded CFLRP in 2009 or 2010. Team needed to draft a monitoring plan. LR team focused on implementation of CFLRP at the current time. History of the team is working backwards to fill in blanks of the monitoring plan. Monitoring plan was just a piece of a bigger process. At last meeting the team approved the AM process/diagram. Approved the implementation plan. Working through heterogeneity, evolution including work on the ground. Upper Monument Creek project – implemented 1 ½ years ago in implementing a landscape scale project. Good progress made on this team. Gali added the team is gelling really well.
5. **Executive Team Structure** - Discussion
  - a. Adding a Forest Industry seat – who would this be? The team talked about adding a forest industry seat. What about a forest industry rep from an association? Greg asked if this would be a forest product person? Mike thought yes.. Greg brought up is it somebody who buys contracts or utilizes the material? Mike thought it may be more important that it's somebody who understands the issues. Paige said it should be someone who would be willing to communicate to their colleagues. Carol thought it should be someone in the know about products. Mike said he does understand that. Greg – could it be someone in bioenergy? Do we want someone more on the academic side or

more in the field? Gali said we want someone who is in a leadership role. Someone in emergency management would be a good representative. Carol said they are so busy. Paige said keep that as a question. A Wildlife seat was discussed. Is that too much of a sub? Carol agrees wildlife person too much of a subteam. Mike asked is there key input that we're missing from a wildlife voice? Greg said perhaps it's output, so they can be influential in their industry. The team decided not to choose a Wildlife team seat at this time. The team talked about RC, who was at the meeting, and they decided that he would be Sallie's alternate when she's unavailable to attend meetings. We will add RC to the Executive Team email list. Dianna Trujillo will be Erin Connelly's backup.

#### **6. Roundtable Agenda for 9/5**

- a. Gali talked about the potential agenda items on the board (see presentation)
- b. Megan talked about a Boulder project Wildfire Partners in Boulder (assessors) – its' a free assessment then they do vouchers and means assessment to get the work done. It's for wildfire defensible space. It could be the partner update.
- c. Paige talked about Missoula fire lab. She is going to visit them at the end of July; not going to present at the 9/5 Roundtable.
- d. Paige brought up the Conservation Exchange Project – from Center for Collaborative Conservation at CSU. Funding mechanism for public and private investments in upper watersheds. Engaging water providers, federal agencies. Jen Kovecksis and Paige will be leading a science effort. Would be good for them to present.
- e. Paige – recommendations refresh. Relook at range of treatment options. Where do we think treatments need to happen on the ground? Phase 1 would be the priority treatments. Phase 2 would be other recommendations. Paige lead Phase 1 only. Carol added there needs to be a discussion that this is a continuum we're moving on and everything can't be 100% removal. Mike said they just had this discussion in Governor's office – same thing. It's not all removal. Carol said we just need to have a dialogue not a speaker. When we say restoration – it includes all the tools. Megan brought up that includes prescribed fire. Mike said the outcome Roundtable would acknowledge would support all different tools. As an entity the Roundtable can make these recommendations but the individual entities cannot. But when there's mastication these projects are being called a failure. This would fit in with the conversation about Roundtable recommendations.
- f. Greg brought up that there has been talk about Roundtable meetings have become more presentations and less discussions and real debatable decision making. Carol agreed - meetings that are 4 hours of presentations it loses some thrust of the power the Roundtable has to influence policy. Gali added an hour for issues and conflict resolution. Mike said we need to have an issue so that we have an output. Greg said we could also use the group to identify what perceptions the barriers to progress have been. Why aren't we making more progress on our agenda items?
- g. Megan brought up that some of the presentations at past meetins were really helpful.

7. **Roundtable Policy on Letters of Support for Communities** – discussion. What is criteria? Carol suggested when we get individual communities asking it's probably not a good thing for the Roundtable to support x HOA vs y HOA. If it's multicounty, regional, research agenda projects those are appropriate. Because there is competition between those different cities. Greg asked what is the issue? Gali explained that the last one was Crystal Lakes, they've done a lot. She thought we should definitely support it, but others thought that we need to be more thoughtful. Megan and Paige are both on the review panel for DNR grant. Mike said Lisa had a good point. Lisa said it's great to have those letters from the Roundtable. Carol brought up that we don't always have a good understanding of what these small communities are doing. Sallie said we need to take a broad umbrella look at policies and potential legislation at state and/or local level that we want to provide support for, like Healthy Forests Initiative. Or Mike said if the project meets the goals of the Front Range Roundtable, then it has our stamp of approval. Gali gave some history – there is probably 1 letter per year. We have signed on to a few things like federal registry stuff. It's not a lot and it's very generic. Carol brought up if DNR is getting 50 applications from our communities and one has a letter of approval from the Roundtable, then we should write all those letters. Carol fully supports science stuff. Megan brought up that one of our goals is to bring more money to the Front Range for treatments. The DNR pot is particularly difficult. Carol said maybe we develop a 1-page letter of support form - explaining how the community meets our goals. It will come back to the executive Team. If we have that form on our website it may be more used. Gali and Terra would look at the form and if it meets our objectives they would pass it along to the Executive Team. Gali asked if we would allow more than lower montane communities. Question do we include red and yellow or just yellow? Most are WUI grants. Megan said it should be both. Gali and Terra will come up with form.
8. **Action Items** - Mark will work on the map. From Q4-13 ET meeting – Award from JSFS – Hayman . There is a guy a school of mines with a grant to look at post fire water issues. Paige said it may be interesting to know what JSFS projects have been funded on the Front Range. Glenn's action item
9. **Budget** – Gali presented budget along with future increases for Beh. Executive Team will put out an RFP for facilitation.
10. **Fundraising report** – Carol as of today we're out of revenue we brought in last year. Working with Evan Burks on modification – Pikes, AR, Research Station has \$21k,
  - a. She asked for some talking points – Megan sent those back to her. Key points of what we have done in the past year.
  - b. Invoices have not gone out.
  - c. Gilpin County has paid this year.
  - d. Larimer County dropped out. All regulars have paid.
  - e. Carol – Resource Conservation Partnership program.– secretary interested in fire. \$97m of this going to state priority initiatives, Colorado selected wildfire as one of our initiatives. It's a national initiative this year. We should do it as a Front Range wide proposal. Money would go to NCRS offices – they would get money to active participants. By this month we would need to do a letter of interest mini-proposal. Paige and Carol will be meeting with state fire folks. We put in for the Front Range say \$1m a year; question for Roundtable, will

your NRCS programs support the program. Pre-proposal is 6 pages, Carol can start that. Paige said it sounded like Dan – the NRCS representative for Teller/Woodland Park area – proposing something around pile burning. They've talked with Dan about upping the ante on burning on private land. Paige said it would be nice to have a private funding source for burning on private land. Anyone with 35 acres can apply for the equip. So larger size properties.