

Roundtable Community Protection Team Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17th from 1:00 – 3:00pm

Call attendees:

Megan Davis – Boulder County
Jill Alexander – Douglas
Allen Owen – CSFS
John Chapman – CWPP planning
Lisa Mason – CSFS
Jim Webster – Boulder County CWPP coordinator
Iain Hyde – State of Colorado Emergency Management
Wes Rutt – Private landowners/Tree Farmers
Jonathan Bruno – CUSP
Cheri Ford - USFS

I. Review of CPT team discussions to date and where we are now:
Megan provided an overview of how we got here.

II. Report from communication and outreach subgroup meeting:
Jim – update on sub-group – no need for another deliverable, materials, etc. need to have a more formal forum for conversation – stakeholder group, without stakeholder group infrastructure (maintaining the list of attendees, website, etc.)
Lisa – the one issue that we have encountered with stakeholder groups is the need for a lot of infrastructure – notes, lists of events, list of members, etc. We would want to create something that is more sustainable, without a lot of maintenance of these types of support pieces.
John – Like the idea of one meeting per year of the Roundtable to be focused on community protection issues, should be brought to the Roundtable as a whole. If there was one place, perhaps the Roundtable webpage, to provide a list of people involved in the team, the minutes and meeting notes, other documents, for people to see what is being developed. (Noted that this was already available on the Roundtable website – the CP Team page. Needs to be updated.)
Questions: Is there a need for a group like this? Does this fill a niche? Does this duplicate any other forum or group and the work they are doing?
Iain – Thinks there is a role for a group like this to track how the issues change, different issues throughout the year seem to come up, and how each entity and community is addressing and responding would be helpful.
Jonathan – Having a more formal, regular group to bring all these issues forward is extremely important, a good opportunity.
Lisa – There are other networks around the state, trying to do the same thing. As an example, Firewise ambassadors, but they are not Front Range specific and are not ongoing.

Jim – Purpose would not only to formulate and ensure consistent communication and outreach, but is more to share best practices, network among outreach practitioners, among people in the field, what's working, what's not, tools and resources, etc.

Jill – At Kathie's meeting in Denver, talked about the need for information sharing among a bigger Front Range group, to share information, resources sharing for local governments. Seems to be scattered in this area and need.

John – there are a lot of opportunities for cross-fertilization of events/resources and things going on with other Roundtable groups. Could better leverage that by having a place for CP to hear this information.

Possible format of the group:

- Use these meetings as a forum to disseminate information about the programs that people are working on, share lessons learned, what's effective, problem solve together
- Get something out of it other than just learning – planning for other opportunities, Roundtable meetings, but also sharing information (ppts), handouts, etc.
- Sharing contacts, information, partnering opportunities, etc.
- Topical approach – bring together a group of individuals who are subject matter experts in a specific area, and have them discuss the approach they are using, the tools, etc. Then these materials could be posted on the website by topic (e.g. Community resilience and post-fire preparedness)
- Use each meeting as an opportunity to discuss what to take to the Roundtable – to plan for the bigger group meeting and a relevant presentation for the broader group.
- Webinars – have it available as a webinar as well as an in person meeting.
- Need to grow the group to have more people involved – more people to provide information/updates. (Insurance, fire protection, etc.)
- Next meeting with CPT – June could be too late given that outreach is happening now. We kind of missed the window on the spring – to get ahead of the planning work that most outreach professionals are doing.
- Bracing for interesting fire season- something earlier might be better – mid-May seemed to be best timeframe given that we want enough time for people to plan accordingly to attend.

Roundtable meetings:

- Request of the Executive Committee to have at least one meeting per year with topic focused on CP. Strive for 4th quarter roundtable agenda in 2013.
- Have more substantive discussion about CPT issues, more formal information exchange with the larger audience.
- Programs would be determined/identified by the CPT, but could find a guest speaker or panel to talk about these subjects.

Potential upcoming CPT meeting topics –

- Kathie Mattor to provide summary of her focus groups, and what she learned about effective outreach and education efforts.
 - Community resiliency and recovery – post fire impacts and how we can be prepared. What efforts are underway?
 - Role of Rx fire in community protection
 - Current outreach, education and communication programs – each person provide one example of the work they are currently focused on – what’s working and what hasn’t worked.
- III. Update and report from CFLRP Economic Monitoring Team research efforts – Kathie Mattor
- Save for next meeting – Kathie unable to join the meeting.
- IV. Update from CUSP/NFPA on Fire Adapted Communities Network Concept - Jonathan Bruno: CUSP was invited to participate in NFPA/TNC/USFS related to Fire Adapted Communities Network. They were one of several groups chosen from across the western US because of their coordination experience/success. Hubs will take some additional funding and try to build on the FAC concept and advance the program at a regional level.

A FAC is: takes responsibility for wildfire risk, actions to address safety, forest parks and open space, more action they take more adapted they become. FAC is not an end point but a continuous process – this process where community agrees to push to protect community resources. It’s an ambitious endeavor, but a lot can come of it. Firewise communities, fuels reduction, ready set go, codes and ordinances, prevention education, local capacity, CWPPs and cooperative fire agreements are all components of FAC.

Kick off meeting was interesting – all western states are addressing these issues. CUSP wants to see CO address Rx fire in a better way; how can FAC help here? Surprisingly got a lot of push back from those organizations who don’t want to talk about Rx fire. Another component would be understanding of what impacts would we face after a fire – how can we be prepared for post-fire impacts, but they felt this was expanding on the current focus. There is some funding that would be available to the coalition to lead a hub community for FAC network, still determining to discuss what scale they are interested in – could be just Woodland Park type effort or could look at broadening the horizon to talk about entire Front Range. First year will probably focus on outreach to spread the message, the CP Team is an essential element for this – funding could help with some of the issues that we talked about today.

Questions for Jonathan?

Will the funding include opportunities for FAC training/orientation?

- Requirements of the meeting were to put a work together a work plan, the outreach component was the key component of the plan. Doing a tour to educate the group about FAC.
- Also will review current CWPPs and make sure that these are kept updated and are current.
- CUSP is a hub community, but Tony Cheng will be working on the research with CSU and he will also work with CU researcher.

Concerns about Firewise communities and rubber stamping them without the understanding by the community for what the risk is. The FAC has more of a risk component than does Firewise. Jonathan was a part of the implementation and mapping team, he is interested and willing to be a part the CPT team now.

V. CPT member updates:

- Jim Webster – zone 1 and 2 drawn on mountain properties, attached to the Assessor’s office notice of valuation. These go out May 1 so that people can see where they are in terms of D space. If we do every two years, will show changes over time.
- Jill Alexander – had a wildfire mitigation awareness event with over 90 people – the CSFS provided the updated D space information. They hope to have another event this spring.
- Megan – WUI land use policy event on May 17th– will send out the invitation.
- Allen – New CO WRAP web based risk assessment tool that is now available through CSFS. Great tool for public, local community groups, land owners, government officials, etc. allows for baseline information for communities to support mitigation and prevention efforts within their communities. Allen will send out web link.
- Iain Hyde – Bill in the legislature for one-time grant program for \$10.3 million for wildfire mitigation in the WUI. Megan will send out the factsheet/bill.

Next steps:

- Send out handouts, presentations, etc. discussed during meeting to entire group.
- Send out minutes from meeting.
- Develop draft agenda for May CPT meeting – get input from the 4/17 attendees.
- Schedule CPT meeting in mid-May – in person meeting.
- Bring CPT plan to the Roundtable Executive Team.