

MINUTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM QUARTERLY MEETING MAY 9, 2013

Date of meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2013, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Location: Conference Call

Date minutes posted: 05/13/13

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), Carol Ekarius (Coalition for the Upper South Platte); Megan Davis (Boulder County); Glenn Casamassa (USFS, ARP), Cindy Domenico (Boulder County), Jeff Underhill, (USFS-PSICC), Hal Gibbs (USFS), Paige Lewis (The Nature Conservancy), Terra Lenihan (Beh Management Consulting)

AGENDA:

1. 9:00 – 9:30: Review outcomes from 3/8 Roundtable meeting, including new initiatives/action items that Roundtable members volunteered to take on
 - a. Update on status of pulling together USFS long term and landscape scale treatment plans to inform the Roundtable 40 year vision planning initiative (Glenn & Jerri)
2. 9:30 – 10:00: Discuss the progress of the Community Protection team (Megan will lead)
3. 10:00 – 10:30: Plan agenda for upcoming 5/31 Roundtable meeting (to be held in Boulder); current agenda items include:
 - a. The Landscape Restoration team has asked for a chunk of time on that day to propose its adaptive management model, update on progress by the Wildlife team, and generally get the Roundtable up to date on the CFLRP Monitoring activities and results
 - b. USFS long term and landscape scale treatment plans to inform the Roundtable 40 year vision planning initiative
4. 10:30 – 11:00 Housekeeping:
 - a. Report on fundraising (Carol) and expenses (Gali)
 - b. Discuss membership – invite new CSFS Forester?
 - c. Review remaining 2013 calendar: Roundtable & ET meetings (can we move our 7/12 ET meeting to the morning to that Sallie can join us?)

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1. **9:00 – 9:30: Review outcomes from 3/8 Roundtable meeting**, including new initiatives/action items that Roundtable members volunteered to take on. Gali showed the team the 2013-2015 Roundtable goals, including goals of Executive Team, Community Protection Team, Biomass team, Landscape Restoration, Wildlife Team.

Update on status of pulling together USFS long term and landscape scale treatment plans to inform the Roundtable 40 year vision planning initiative (Glenn & Jerri) – Went over the 40-year treatment plan and vision. Referenced 2009 map of priorities, not temporal. Roundtable needs to understand CFLR plan, what counties are planning, and what all the plans are. What about other land? Suggested we turn into a topographic map showing different dates/decades of when things will happen.

Prescribed Fire initiative – not defined right now.

Policy Initiative (40-year plan, from Nov 2012 priorities initiatives) – not defined right now. Paige asked about revisiting our priority anchors now that we have more information, more science. Gali said that hasn't been part of that conversation yet. We moved on that idea a few years ago. The implementation and mapping team discussed doing further prioritization. Hal wasn't sure. We might have not agreed, or we decided to do that map first. We have discussed review of existing plans. A next step could be science priority – add slope and access. Paige agreed. As part of Monument creek project, talk about mixed conifer. We may want to address that. And a sense of the numbers that really need to be treated. Need more precise numbers. Gali added this to the goals.

Implementation initiative – old goals Gali trying to figure this out.

Next steps from March 8:

- Carol – working on summer field trips
- Peter – working on science symposium. Paige suggested an interest in sharing the new mission. Something we would partner with – maybe with Lisa Dale, or CFLR coalition or the NFF's webinars.
- Rob – working with state Prescribed fire council
- Hal – working with Mark and Craig on future of BUSS team, and updating the latest map

More on the 40-year treatment plan: Gali had no idea this was happening. Today is the day we figure out when and how we do this. See 1/31 meeting minutes. Congressional hearing data.

Glenn said he and Hal are looking at a map by district, which would fit into both forests, identified into WUI, timber sale and treatment areas. Planned for 2013–14. This information compiled at request of DNR and Lisa Dale, accompanying information people could tier to when they propose for grant for hazardous fuel treatments to communities and private land owners. That's one piece. Information is not all-encompassing. We can provide that as a baseline, and we can use that.

In another partnership with Xcel Energy to identify areas of mutually beneficial treatment, Xcel's transmission/distribution lines in northern part of Colorado. It's based on slope priority areas, congressional (elimination), elimination of roadless

areas. Xcel developing a 5-year plan. We have parts and pieces and we can present them. As the Roundtable, we can create something that would be looking at a longer term approach to this. Like Paige said, maybe we could refine those areas. We have a lot of parts and pieces. How do we compile and display that in a long-term outlook for not only National Forest, but private and county landowners? That's the genesis of what we're trying to do.

Hal concerned with the reference to this as a long-term forest treatment – the data we have is only a few fiscal years, that's not a long-term fiscal plan. We shouldn't portray it that way to the Roundtable. It's our plan for next couple of years, beyond showing places through NEPA we haven't treated yet, but our long-term planning goes to 2015 at best. So that was my concern. Maybe it was semantic. Gali changed on draft agenda.

Glenn said there would be different circles the Forest Service if we identified this long-term level plan, maybe we need to back off a little bit. Without losing sight that we can build on what we have done. Why we don't have anything identified beyond 2015-16; we can use all the information we have as a reference as to what we expect to do over the next decade or two, without being specific.

Carol asked Hal and Jeff: We know there's not 1.5 million acres we can treat with current technology and knowledge. Would doing the refinement be that longer term planning map, indicating where we need work over the next 40 years, without saying it's the 40-year plan? Paige agreed there would be more refinement needed, but more realistic for the Forest Service going forward into future project planning, but to have as a reference.

Hal said where we ran into trouble with the IMP team is the difference between what we *need* to treat and what we *can* treat. We were looking at where we *can* treat. Our trouble was where to draw the lines. If there's a road, and assumption of if more roads will be built, can we treat a mile or 1.5 miles past the road? Difference on slope. Forest Service thought 40% was limit. State foresters felt like you could go to 50% or beyond with certain kinds of treatments. Those kinds of calls are essential.

Megan asked about other agencies – 40 year mapping for Forest Service, and update of the IM's team map project, which includes the other agencies. For the IM team process, are we capturing other folk's plans over next few years? No just capturing what has been treated up to 2012. Hal said the problem was the Forest Service can't make assumptions; they are restricted by the land owners. Private land is half of the 1.5 million acres.

Glenn said another piece we could add is in 2012 the Colorado Roadless rule was put into effect. Implications for Forest Service, and also lays out exceptions to what we can do within those areas, and what can happen within communities. To go back to our goal, that's another piece of this puzzle that's been refined. Should be on map.

Carol explained the refinement is on 2 levels: 1) what we need to treat, and 2) what we probably can treat. Important discussion if we're treating with CFLR money - expensive hand acres as part of the project (not fast or easy). For fuel purposes there would be a benefit to treating those acres. How do we account for the fact that these treatment areas will need some follow-up in 20 years (maintenance/re-treatment)?

Paige said there are areas we can't treat with mechanical or hand treatments; we should be using prescribed fires. May play into that discussion.

Hal said we can get those maps from Jeff for both forests. We can show those maps and talk about what they involve. 2010-2012 treatment plans for this year and next. Next year not totally set because of funding. They include everything (CFLR treatments, etc.). Also we can get someone to talk about the Colorado Roadless Rule for May meeting.

Gali confirmed we didn't ask anyone to create anything. Carol agreed. Ken Tu may be able to talk about Roadless rule.

Glenn said we could get someone from Regional office to give a brief snapshot on big chunks of the Roadless rule. Part of this whole refinement of what the landscape looks like, and management prescription.

Megan said that was a good point and that new DNR funding that is available for communities in the WUI (can't speak for Joe), at a local level way would be more strategic in our local communities. Maybe not for this mapping process, but areas we have community engagement, like HOAs, private landowners, engage these entities on work that Federal level is doing.

Glenn said when he was deputy regional forester they asked: how do we start to build on our successes? How do we target or prioritize areas with state and local entities? That's part of why we started to establish these maps - so landowners could catch up their treatments hopefully sanctioned by and through the Roundtable.

Glenn will ask Kim. Glenn has map. He will find out where the latest copies are for Arapahoe Roosevelt and Pike, and will make sure Jeff and Sarah are aware of location. Gali will get those and distribute. Who will present? Hal, Jeff and Ken? We can tag team it. Maybe Jerri and Glenn can set it up.

Carol asked if we could bring large-scale versions to hang on wall? Yes.

Glenn will send Jeff the link on drive with all of the treatment maps. Jeff is familiar with the long-term planning description he wasn't clear on. We are on the same page.

- 2. 9:30 – 10:00: Discuss the progress of the Community Protection team.** Megan sent notes, and said the team has met four times, since November 2012. First couple of meetings were planning and scoping. They looked at all the Roundtable priorities

related to community protection.

Priorities are to develop a consistent message and work with insurance. At February meeting, discussion about the broad nature of education and outreach priority. What could we do about that? A sub-group from CSFS and a couple of counties, and a couple of individuals met on how to scope that. The outcome was they didn't know if there was a need for a specific program or document, deliverable or presentation. A repository would be good. We've had good attendance 10-20 people at meetings, with a good range of folks included. Could fill out the group a little more with Roundtable folks who are working on fire mitigation with communities in any way.

Big update at the last meeting decided we're not going to focus on a deliverable at this time. But get an ongoing meeting space - a forum or exchange of good ideas and approaches. Complementary to Kathy Mattor's work on social research on what has been effective outreach methods. A lot of CP team members have attended. Next meeting she will talk about her findings. Update on NFPA Firewise regional – fire adapted communities. Good opportunity for Front Range communities to be linked together in that forum.

Another important area is to find ways to link CP team to the full Roundtable, cross-contamination with LR team and CP team. Conversation about treatments is a good example. Need to integrate with the CWPPs and how to get communities engaged, access funding, and find information on grant funding. Next meeting talking about grant opportunities and how groups can work together to get some of this funding. Would love to get some thoughts. One idea was to have a full or half of a Roundtable meeting focused on community protection.

Carol asked if we can we get an update on Fire Adapted Communities (FAC). Recent meeting in Idaho bringing together Hayfork Watershed group; got funding to help ramp up the approach. Small grant to the different groups this year; how to expand this approach around the west. Jonathan working on a scope on local confined efforts – how does that fit in with more regional efforts like the Roundtable? He's thinking about how we broaden the FAC approach. One of the problems is – need to look at it in respect from CWPPs – the community's can't do this stuff by themselves. State Forest Service doesn't have the capacity to implement all these CWPPs around the states. What are our expectations of these small communities? Like West Boulder doesn't know how to move forward. How do we empower communities to move forward? I think that's what the FAC is looking at.

Megan said Jonathan Bruno thinks there would be an opportunity to partner with some other communities involved with CP team like programming, training, and education around FAC around Woodland Park and how they can be expanded or replicated. He's looking at how to leverage the work. Good idea for the group.

Carol said that Tony Cheng was asked to identify a group doing some active things, and showing progress, so he nominated us to be the first participant. Hayfork group

wants to do additional funding with other communities around the west.

Megan said regarding insurance, that Carol Walker was in two CP Team meetings, keeping group informed on the insurance information most of folks involved are running up against. Local level is saying what you're telling me is different from what the insurance companies are telling me. But waiting to see what comes out of the Governor's Task force. If it doesn't make recommendations on that, we could work on something. In the meantime, we have a couple of folks doing that – we will keep tracking that work. Use CP team as a forum for those conversations.

Carol said we have another meeting next week - open to a larger audience. Now they are still trying to figure out the mandate, and what we can accomplish. Thinking education will be part of their report. Different messages from insurance and Forest Service (such as, insurance companies telling private landowners to cut trees 100 feet around your house). Not making great headway.

Carol likes the idea of having a meeting focused on this topic. Half the land we're talking about is private. So we need the private side enhancements to be happening if we want to have a real impact on fire behavior. Maybe at summer meeting.

Megan said the FAC is one idea. I think the treatment issue will keep coming up. The Healthy Forest Initiative is a good indicator at how hard it is to get groups together to do larger scale treatments. Carol said it's harder to deal with private landowners than the Forest Service, trying to make any large scale landscape progress. Landowners can be very challenging. Fire Districts have thrown up their hands. How do we crack that nut? Glenn suggested getting people that are good at talking about private land. Chad Julian has a good way of informing and educating. Can we utilize some of what he talks about?

Megan suggested presenting two examples of projects in different phases: Fountain Creek and Button Rock. Talk about the process, vision, planning, and needs. Carol said that makes sense. To show the other Roundtable members what these challenges are on the community level. Some days are frustrating. Paige is now our partner on the Fountain Creek and she sees it. If we expect some success we need to converse with these communities. But it's a lot of labor trying to make it happen.

Megan said what we have realized is use land use department to deal with the landowner and fire district. Internally it's a demanding process. But to be effective you have to include all those people at the right time.

May 31 could work. Gali asked Megan if her role is changing? I think that would be great. She will send this and write up a summary. Megan said to add that we've had a lot of people engaged who are part of land use codes. WUI land use policy event in Denver is next week; great assortment of people at this meeting. Good conversation. A lot of CP team folks have been involved.

Shawna Crocker and Rob Ring involved? No but that's a good idea. Gali will send their contact information to Megan.

3. 10:00 – 10:30: Plan agenda for upcoming 5/31 Roundtable meeting (to be held in Boulder); current agenda items include:

The Landscape Restoration team has asked for a chunk of time on that day to propose its adaptive management model, update on progress by the Wildlife team, and generally get the Roundtable up to date on the CFLRP Monitoring activities and results – 45 minutes – LR team has been working on this for quite awhile.

Wildlife team – to present their work on species monitoring list – 30 minutes.

USFS long term and landscape scale treatment plans to inform the Roundtable 40-year vision planning initiative - 1 hour.

Discussion about what counties and local communities like the Roundtable to be focused on? CP team – two different speakers to speak about their projects – maybe move to September meeting. Paige said it may be easier for her and Chad if we did that at a future meeting.

Tentative topic from LR team on monitoring results – Jenny and Paula – 30 minutes.

Megan will send Gali map and parking for 5/31 meeting.

Talk about having another Social Science topic – ask Glenn? Mike Chia was there (at the last meeting when Dr. McCaffrey presented). Maybe a little bit redundant to have that topic again.

Paige - Discussion about prescribed fire. Legislation passed on how prescribed fires get used by state agencies. Might be interesting to have a speaker(s) on that how agencies are moving forward with that. Smoke modeling research (Fire Science Network?). Megan agreed, a summary of the new rules and expectations would be good. They're pretty significant changes. We just put together a manual on this in Boulder County – looking to move forward with prescribed fire program this year. Jay Stalnacker from Sheriff's office could talk about that; Megan will ask Rocco if he's available. Need someone from that same division. Rocco could do a summary of the legislation, and the new perimeters. They also set a rule-making that they're probably working on. Hearing an update from Division of Fire Prevention and Control. Then Boulder County, Forest Service. Glenn will ask Sherry Ford and Paul Langosky- from RO. Paige will ask Mike Babler from TNC to speak. Would we want State agency? Parks & Wildlife? Casey has said they don't really have a person that does that specifically. Paige will ask them if that's an option, they have been using prescribed fire. Carol said it would make sense since the "Fire" side moved to Emergency Management from Forest Service side to discuss how they are going to be handling this change; perhaps have Paul Cook speak? Could Rocco dedicate 20

minutes to give an overview on changes?

4. 10:30 – 11:00 Housekeeping:

Report on fundraising (Carol) and expenses (Gali) Carol won't be able to talk about fundraising – she has no electricity. Carol will send the reports out when they're back online. She asked in addition to AR can there be a prospect list? Sent invoices to everyone on the spreadsheet, without asking ahead of time. We had a miscommunication. She can have Helen work with Paige or Megan on fundraising. I didn't realize we were doing that part of it. Expected the Executive Team would divide up the list and do the asking. Didn't know when to do that so people know when the invoices are going out. Carol, Megan, Paige are on fundraising committee. When Carol gets the updated information the three of them offline can divvy up amongst the Executive Team, and give assignments.

Gali presented expenses. NFF grant lasted to January. Was supposed to last until March, but added the Wildlife team. Very helpful. We just sent the end-of-grant report to NFF. This ends our relationship with AR as our fiscal manager. CSU has stepped in. CUSP is fiscal agent for all other Roundtable activities.

Paige thought it would be helpful to show all the different contributions to the Roundtable. Gali explained that is done on the Organizational chart, with a thank you to the funders. The contributions are not labeled on the Organizational chart, but it would be useful on our fundraising spreadsheet to show those numbers.

Carol is in the process of hiring a finance director, which means more efficient accounting at CUSP, since there will be a dedicated finance person.

Discuss membership – invite new CSFS Forester? One of our plans was getting the CSFS on the Executive Team. Does the team want to invite Mike Lester to the team. Do we want to keep Joe on the team? He starts in July. Decided we should try to meet with him and let him choose if he wants to participate or wants Joe to keep doing it. Joe's been doing it as the acting State Forester. He's been the official member of the Executive Team and the Roundtable. Will encourage Mike to continue in that role. Glenn and Jerri can ask him. Glenn agreed with Paige: let him decide if it's him or Joe that serves on the ET.

Review remaining 2013 calendar: Roundtable & ET meetings (can we move our 7/12 ET meeting to the morning to that Sallie can join us?). Looked at calendars. 9/13 is a field trip for elected officials and Roundtable members. Carol - Mike McCue talking about it.

Next Steps from 1/31 ET call – discussed. Decided to not apply for the Collaboration Award; too much of a forced fit. Carol said there's not a specific MOU for the Roundtable; not under any umbrella agreement. Decided it's not worth it to create this legal document. just for the award; we've been working well without an MOU.