

# MINUTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM QUARTERLY MEETING JULY 12, 2013

**Date of meeting:** Friday, July 12, 2013, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** Conference Call

**Date minutes posted:** 07/15/13

**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); Pam Motley (West Range Reclamation); Jerri Marr (USFS-PSICC); Mike Lester (CSFS); Paige Lewis (The Nature Conservancy), Terra Lenihan (Beh Management Consulting)

Absent: Glenn Casamassa (USFS, ARP); Commissioner Cindy Domenico (Boulder County); Commissioner Sallie Clark (El Paso County)

## AGENDA:

1. 10:30-11: Introductions and review outcomes from 5/31 Roundtable meeting, including new initiatives/action items that Roundtable members volunteered to take on
2. 11-11:30: Discuss letter to the Department of Natural Resources and the Colorado State Forest Service (and other applicable groups involved with prescribed fires). The topic is “Maintain Prescribed Fire Capacity.” Send points to Terra and she can craft the letter.
3. 11:30-12: Plan agenda for upcoming 9/13 Quarter 3 Roundtable meeting (being held at USGS in Lakewood); current agenda items include:
  - Report on UMC project by Paige
  - Present biomass legislation issues by Rob Davis
  - Report from the Missoula Fire Lab (suggested by Paige)
4. 12-12:30: Housekeeping:
  - Report on fundraising (Carol) and expenses (Gali) – Carol to email reports, M,P&C to meet off line to divvy up f/r responsibilities
  - Discuss membership – invite new CSFS Forester? – Glenn & Jeri to invite Mike Lester
  - Review remaining 2013 calendar: Roundtable & ET meetings

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### 1. 10:30-11: Review outcomes from 5/31 Roundtable meeting, including new initiatives/action items that Roundtable members volunteered to take on

The group introduced themselves and welcomed Mike Lester, the new director of the Colorado State Forest Service. Gali will schedule a future discussion with Mike to

give him the “About the Roundtable” introduction.

From the 5/31 Quarter 2 Roundtable presentations and discussions:

- Paige discussed increasing our profile for supporting capacity for prescribed fires. Megan agrees. We need good dialogue and to continue to engage key players. Mike Babler and other players to have that conversation. We need to track what happens at the state level; continue to check in. Carol suggested we draft a strong letter on that; Tony Frank would be the recipient.
- Action Item #3 - The new Roundtable initiative to “support policies that stabilize funding at adequate levels to meet management objectives.” The ET did not see a clear role for the Roundtable on this effort other than federal legislative outreach (e.g., DC trips) and supporting ad hoc outreach efforts of local counties and municipalities. The ET agreed to bring this question back to the Roundtable about what the counties and local governments would like to see the Roundtable actively do. **To discuss at next Roundtable meeting September 13, 2013.**
- Terra’s action items done.
- Paige noted that the news article referenced by Lyle was not useful. We will share the results at the next Roundtable meeting so that folks are not concerned.
- Letter to the Department of Natural Resources and the Colorado State Forest Service (and other applicable groups involved with prescribed fires). The topic is “Maintain Prescribed Fire Capacity.” Send points to Terra and she can craft the letter. 7/23: happy to have the conversation we had on 5/31, look forward to working with multiple agencies on prescribed fires in the future; this is a priority for the RT; or maybe also draft a rulemaking to the DPS; recommend that CSFS staff with prescribed fires capacity be allowed to participate in non-state lands prescribed fires; send letter to Roundtable members to seek who is interested in signing on to letter, do letter as private / outside of the Roundtable, so it doesn’t have to be watered down
  - Mike pointed out that the CSFS will not be initiating anything along those lines with prescribed fires; they will work with landowners and maintain expertise but won’t be initiating any prescribed fires. Carol told him that was “unacceptable,” and that prescribed fires are a very important and critical tool in our toolbox. Mike said that this is how it is now, but it may not stay that way. Mike said that the Outreach & Education side will be maintained. “It’s a very interesting situation.”
  - Carol and Paige will coordinate the writing of the letter to be sent to the Roundtable.

From the 3/8 Quarter 1 Roundtable meeting:

- Peter Brown is moving along on Next Step #3 - Look into planning a science / education symposium, perhaps in partnership with the Colorado Forest Collaboratives group led by Lisa Dale, perhaps in partnership with the CFLR Coalition or the NFF's CFLR webinars. Activities may include: writing a

letter to CFRI and others to coordinate a science synthesis; 5/9 update:

- Hal making progress with the BUSS team.
- Not sure about John Ring's work on teacher training/outreach initiative led by Shawna Crocker.
- Field trip for elected officials – Mike McHugh working with Public Affairs to plan two summer field trips for elected officials to Waldo and High Park fire sites (Shawna Crocker offered to coordinate using CSU's vans which can seat 12 passengers each); 5/9 update: just for elected officials, not as part of the RT mtg; 7/23: Mike selecting date in late August; tour sites already selected; look into CSU's or Boulder County vans for transportation, otherwise, rent a bus. Carol noted that a similar tour was done with the Governor's Insurance Task Force. Sites included Deckers, Hayman, Red Rocks, Ridgewood, Waldo Canyon (with Commissioner Clark and CSFD). It was a successful format and would work with legislator's tour. Megan also suggested that Boulder County has 1-2 vans that could work for the tour.

## **2. 10:55-11:30: Plan next Roundtable meeting – September 13.**

- Report on UMC project by Paige – Paige suggested waiting until the next meeting so that it's all finished.
- Present biomass legislation issues by Rob Davis – Paige will ask him if he can attend and present this topic. Pam will present from the perspective of West Range Reclamation.
- Report from the Missoula Fire Lab (suggested by Paige)
- Community Protection focus / panel discussion:
  - Fire adapted communities? (Jonathan Bruno) – Carol said Jonathan got paperwork back this week and is working on the processes.
  - Upper Fountain Creek (Carol/Paige) & Lyon Buttonrock (Chad Julian) Megan suggested to take these off and save for a future meeting.
  - Insurance task force report (report to Governor in July) –The report should be done by September. Megan thought it was a good opportunity for the Roundtable to see this. Will hold a panel discussion at the 9/13 Roundtable meeting. It's also on the agenda for the next Community Protection Team meeting and they will discuss. Carol will ask Jon to participate and lead the panel.
- Debrief from Landscape Restoration Team's CFLR Monitoring Field Trips held in July – give feedback to the USFS on assessment of restoration implementation. Discuss first at the August 11 LR meeting. Peter took pictures. Make a presentation at the Roundtable meeting. Paige suggested to let Jeff & Hal give their thoughts.

## **3. 11:30 – 11:50, Brainstorm next steps to inform the Roundtable 40 year vision planning initiative**

Discussion about the 40-year vision. Carol said it is a long time frame to define. Gali described the maps in relation to the 40-year vision so it's in steps (red, yellow and

green areas should be black). Concern that all these lands are not public; they are private, county, federal, etc. Gali mentioned that we are making recommendations so that's okay. Carol suggested taking it in chunks: 10 year blocks and then 40 year blocks. Jerri mentioned that every year things change. She understands setting priorities but is worried about how we hold ourselves accountable. Paige suggested we revisit our original report and update and revise that rather than starting over. Carol suggested that Upper Mountain Creek presents a great model but this is an even bigger and longer-term endeavor. Megan suggested it's more about policy than priority acres. Vision is more about policy around counties managing development in the WUI, not about priority treatments. Carol said the 40-year priority landscape over time is more like UMC. Paige suggested at the December meeting we send out questions ahead of time on this. It is important.

**4. 11:50 – 12:20, Housekeeping:**

- Discuss Executive Team membership renewals. No one else has asked to join.
  - Paige and Cindy's seats are up for renewal. Paige will continue her seat. Megan will check with Cindy if she will continue.
  - We could use more non-profit recruitment.
  - Carol, Megan and Pam's seats ended June 2013. They will all continue. Carol said CUSP hired a new finance director Adam Newburn who will join our meetings. Terra will add him to our list.
- Report on fundraising (Carol) and expenses (Gali): A few more counties contributions have come in. Carol will ask West Range for contribution.
- Plan next annual work plan for Gali & Terra: which teams to support? Budget? New contract with CUSP? Gali said that this year we are about \$30k. WE are still using a fiscal year calendar. Team can renew from July-December if they want, then they can start a calendar year beginning in January. No extra funding from NFF or CSU at this time. Terra & Gali together will be ~\$40k this year, for same amount of work.
- Review remaining 2013 calendar: Roundtable & ET – all RSVPd but Megan. Next Exective team meeting will be October 11 in person at USFS-RO. Need to confirm Glenn and Sallie's RSVP for that meeting.
- *Terra & Gali left the meeting at this time so the Executive Team could resume talk about their contract.*