

Otero County WUI Working Group

May 11, 2016

Summary of Minutes

Participants

Present – Rick Merrick, Dave Venable, Frank Silva, Mark Klaene, Sue Dreikosen, Beth Humphrey, Alan Barton, and Vicky Estrada

Tularosa Creek Focus Area

Based on previous planning group decisions and communications done by phone and email between Vicky and Thora and Erica, the group could now finalize the Tularosa Creek Focus Area boundaries. Rick agreed that he would work with Thora to initiate the development of the Focus area Potential Partners and Stakeholders List. As the group moves forward in identifying completed and planned projects in the next focus area, Vicky reminded the group to review the Taos Valley Water Coalition publication **Landscape Restoration Strategy** and to work with the USFS Lincoln NF Forest Planning group to obtain vegetation maps on ecological response units and over-represented seral stages, which they should have available for the working group in June.

Westside CFRP Project

Mark provided an update on the planning process from the February and March meetings. He also shared with the group the potential options being considered to fund the implementation phase of this project (i.e. another CFRP grant, Reserve Treaty Rights...).

Sacramento Mountain Wood Industry Summit – Follow-Up

Rick and Vicky shared with the working group members, the three items identified by the Planning Group as key to moving forward to increase contractor capacity in the area. These included: 1) Development of the Bidder Process write-up to provide hard copy and electronically to contractors. Vicky has developed a draft that has been sent to individuals of organizations and agencies that were on the panel at the summit. Rick and Alan will need to work to finalize this. 2) Contractor List by Niche and Training Needs – Vicky has created an initial list which was reviewed and revised following the April planning group meeting. Rick will need to ensure that this list is updated based on working group members input. Working Group needs to decide where this information will be kept and/or how it will be distributed. Due to interest expressed at the Summit, the New Mexico Forest Industry Association (NMFIA) agreed to host a forest worker safety certification training in the Ruidoso area. Vicky reminded working

group members to get the word out to contractors on this training or it would need to be rescheduled for a later date since few people were currently registered.

Potential Future Working Group Activities

Since this is Vicky's last meeting with the working group, she was asked by Rick and Alan to put together a list of potential activities that NMFWR and Alan could complete to support the working group (See attached Appendix A). This is only a suggestion list. The working group, in coordination with Alan, will review and decide what the group wants to move forward on.

NRCS/USFS Joint Chief's Grant Proposal

Vicky reviewed the same information she shared with the planning group at the last meeting about the Joint Chief's Grant. She passed out the request for proposal letter including the criteria from 2015 so group could see type of information required for submission. The proposal will likely be due at same time as last year (Oct. 30) and criteria are not likely to change much. Vicky encouraged group to look it over and identify someone in group to begin gathering proposal information so working group can submit a proposal next Oct. 2016.

State of New Mexico Acequia Association

Vicky shared with the working group members the same information she shared with the planning group at the previous meeting. She passed out the information she downloaded from the website about potential funding options available to communities for acequia construction and maintenance along with the forms necessary to submit funding request. Rick will follow-up with community members to see how they want to move forward. It was suggested that a future meeting be dedicated to inviting community members and highlighting the connection between increasing water quality and quantity in the acequia and the watershed at large (i.e. higher elevation watershed restoration treatments).

State Wood Supply Information Gathered by TNC

As had been requested by the Working Group, following the Sacramento Mountain Wood Summit, Steve Bassett of TNC was invited to do a presentation that specifically focused the wood supply analysis findings for Otero County. Steve was not able to make this meeting due to conflicting commitments. However, working group will look for opportunity in near future to invite him to a meeting.

All About Watersheds – Working Group Public and Private Folder Access

Vicky reviewed with the group the information that is currently housed in the public folder (summary minutes) and private folder (maps). She also identified the names on the list that

currently have access to the private folder. The group needs to review the access list and update based on current membership. It was agreed that Alan should work with Adrienne to revise the list. Additionally, the group needs to review all the maps currently in the private folder and decide which, if any, should be moved to the public folder and if any should be deleted. Some maps contain various versions as they have gotten updated over time. Vicky suggested that the group delete all but the final version unless having a draft version can serve to provide insight into how a decision was made.

Appendix A

May 2, 2016

Potential Future Activities of NMFWR I To Support Otero Working Group

- 1) Continue Mapping Support including updated forest planning information from Lincoln NF (i.e. ecological response units and overrepresented seral stages) as well as projects completed and planned by focus areas
- 2) Update access and continue group use and learning of All About Watersheds Working Group Private folder
- 3) Continue fostering relationship between NMFIA and Sacramento mountain contractors (support training opportunities in Sacramento Mountains, aid in ensuring representation on NMFIA steering committee and facilitate registration for trainings and membership in NMFIA)
- 4) Follow-up on work related to the wood summit such as:
 - expand contractors list for Sacramento Mountains including contact information and type of work they do
 - aid in development and distribution of project bid information by agency
 - aid in the identification of training and skills needed by contractors to link with resources (i.e. SBDC, forest products lab, marketing specialist, wood cluster...)
- 5) Support working group in grant writing and funding efforts (i.e. locate applications, help coordinate writing, mapping...) and ensure funding sources are identified and incorporated into working group planning efforts
- 6) Continue to identify and engage partners and stakeholders in working group activities and meetings based on watershed scale planning and implementation
- 7) Continue landscape scale watershed based planning using focus area concept
- 8) Discuss and decide on role of Planning Group (steering committee) vs. working group
- 9) Develop articles and communications about progress of working group
- 10) Follow-up with TNC and NMFIA on development and presentation of wood supply information for the Otero County Area
- 11) Assist in developing meeting agenda