

**GRANT COUNTY ECO WATERSHED PLANNING GROUP
JUNE 23, 2015 MEETING**

SUMMARY MINUTES BY VICKY ESTRADA

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Ralph Pope informed group that the final CWPP for Grant County was presented to the County Commissioners. He expects to get final approval or requested changes from the Commissioners at the June 25, 2015 Commission Meeting. Ralph along with Randy Villa expressed interest in the Planning Group helping to review and keep the CWPP updated on a yearly basis. This request was noted, but no formal decision or agreement by current membership to take do this was done at this time.

Interstate Stream Commission Regional Water Planning Update

Martha Schumann summarized the steps taken at the most recent regional water planning meeting. Group discussion followed on various watershed projects and agreed that it was important to have someone from planning group attend the regional water planning meetings to ensure that planning group priority projects are incorporated into regional water planning priority list.

All About Watersheds Website

Since this will be Vicky's last meeting, she reviewed with the group how to access the working group minutes and maps in public folder on the website. Additionally, while she reminded the group that they would need to identify a person from the planning group to contact and coordinate with Adrienne Miller of the New Mexico Forest and Restoration Institute (NMFWRI) if any additional map work was needed.

Next Steps for Planning Group – Areas of Potential Support and Collaboration

Vicky handed out a summary document from presentations made during the May meeting of areas and activities of potential collaboration between current planning group members as well as potential partners external to this group. Vicky also shared with the group that she would be writing a summary report of her work with the planning group and she would share that with the group when it was complete. She reminded group that it would also be available on the NMFWRI website.

Mitigation Plan

Gilbert Helton gave a briefing on the current Mitigation Plan and the need to update this plan. The mitigation plan is used to identify man-made hazards within the county. He will be working to update this plan and will share with the group a draft once it is ready for review. He is also seeking input from all agency planning group participants, on hazards that they are aware of within the county.

Meeting Participants Included:

Denisha Lucero
Jeff Fell
Diane Taliaferro
Ralph Pope
Glenn Griffin
Mick Deubel
Ty Bays
Gerald Schultz
Ellen Sites
Martha Cooper
Donna Stevens
Mark Bernal
Randy Villa
Vicky Estrada

Eco-Watershed Planning Group

Areas of Potential Partnership Among Planning Group Participants

Areas of potential support and collaboration identified were:

Silver City

- Meet with Grant County CWPP group to ensure city and county plans are coordinated and consistent
- Fire-Wise assessment training and volunteers to do assessments
- Development of Fire-Wise Federation (would identify what is working and not working in community fire-wise program and develop strategies to increase community involvement)
- Develop fire-wise pamphlet
- Continue involvement of WNMU students in GPS work for fuels treated areas in urban-interface
- Develop sustainability plan based on plan developed in Flagstaff

Grant County

- Meet with Silver City CWPP group to ensure city and county plans are coordinated and consistent
- Work with WNMU, USFS and Silver City to get more volunteer firefighters trained
- Partner with WNMU to establish certificate and associate degree in fire science
- Identify and facilitate opportunities for long-term employment based on fire science study
- Facilitate coordination with USFS and State Forestry of mock fire situations to ensure coordination of organizations and resources during actual fire events
- Lead effort to maintain and update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and ensure volunteer fire departments and partners are using latest information

USFS – Silver City Ranger District

- Identify opportunities to share and outreach information on latest science through field and local presentations, workshops....
- Have active participation by partners in forest planning input, watershed restoration and on-the-ground implementation projects particularly in extending information to local community members
- Have partners coordinate with fire prevention contact of USFS

The Nature Conservancy

- Collaborate with partners in order to obtain landscape scale project funding