

Otero County Planning Group

January 21, 2015

Summary of Minutes

Present - Rick Merrick, Tony McWilliams, Bela Harrington, Frank Silva, Jay Northcott, Ryan Whittacker, Pete Haraden, Mark Cadwallader, and Vicky Estrada.

Mission Statement – Vicky Estrada passed out draft final mission statement. Group agreed to keep the word “strategically” plan in mission statement. Mission statement was finalized and will be handed out at the next meeting.

Project Priority Area/s Exercise – Vicky Showed priority area map based on input from entire group at previous meeting. She also displayed the Focal Area/Greatest Fire Risk Area on the map and then group discussed rationale for diverging from the Focal Area/Greatest Fire Risk. Each participant reviewed the priority boundary area and provided input into adjustments of the boundary. One final priority project area was identified. It was agreed that at the next working group meeting, this priority project boundary would be shared along with criteria for selection. Group a discussion would occur about which areas within this priority project area where most important to initiate work.

Criteria for Selection of Project Priority Area

Group then discussed what criteria each participant had used to identify the priority area/s. Vicky listed these on a flipchart and will compile and send out to the working group for the next meeting.

CWPP

Rick shared highlights from the final draft CWPP (December 2014). Many expressed interest in finalizing and getting signatures on this document. Various individuals stated that CWPP has been a tool to identify priority project and community needs. Rick agreed to follow-up on identification of actions still needed in order to finalize the CWPP and will share this with group at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Items

Snow began to fall and we agreed to adjourn. For next meeting, it was agreed that we would share final mission statement, final priority project area delineation and work to define priority areas within this boundary to initiate work and discuss potential partners. Additionally, it was agreed that clarification needed to be made between the “Planning Group” and the “Working Group.” Vicky agreed to present a draft of differences in roles at the next working group meeting for discussion. Working Group also needs to provide specific names of which persons in each organization should have access to private group folder for the Otero County Working Group, All About Watersheds Website.