

Otero County WUI Planning Group

April 20, 2016

Summary of Minutes

Participants

Present – Rick Merrick, Tony McWilliams, Alan Barton, and Vicky Estrada

How to Capitalize on Success of Sacramento Mountain Wood Industry Summit – Working Group Follow-Up

Rick summarized Summit Steering Committee comments from the Summit Follow-up Meeting. Overall, group was pleased with the facilities, presentations, and running of the meeting. Some recommendations were made regarding the date for the meeting and ways to increase vendor and contractor participation. Review of surveys showed contractors found topics presented useful and overwhelmingly want to have another summit meeting in 1- 2 years.

Discussion followed highlighting the need to ensure contractors have capacity (skills, equipment and employees) to handle upcoming vegetation treatment work in the Sacramento Mountains. Group agreed that a contractor list needs to be compiled that incorporates agency/organization lists of contractors by work niche and training needs. Additionally, it was agreed that the bidding information presented by the agency panel at the summit meeting, would be beneficial for all contractors to have access to. Group suggested the possibility of helping organize a regular get together for contractors to meet to discuss challenges they are having, and share latest contract information.

Contractor List Update

Vicky passed out list of contractors that combined Two-Goats-High Rolls-Maruchi Focus Area Contractor List with the list of contractors that attended the Summit. She handed this out to the group asking for group to fill in any missing contact information they had and to add any other contractors that they knew were interested in working in the Sacramento Mountains to the list. Group agreed that it would also be beneficial to add type of work each contractor does, similar to the State Forestry database, to this compiled list.

Aligning With Regional Water Planning Efforts

The group members reviewed projects in the works or planned including State Forestry, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Mescalero, Bureau of Land Management, and USFS – Lincoln National Forest. Mark also shared the Lincoln's five year plan. This information, in addition to updates

made on the Regional water planning project list, will be shared at the next regional water planning meeting.

NRCS/USFS Joint Chief's Grant Proposal

Vicky shared information she received from Kristen Chavez of NRCS on 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 mentioned that she had invited Jonathon Martinez of State Engineering Office, New Mexico Acequia Association Program Coordinator, to this meeting. Since she did not hear back from him, she got on the website and printed information about funding available to communities for acequia construction and maintenance and the forms necessary to submit request. She passed these around and left with Rick to follow-up with community members.

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.

Next Otero Working Group Meeting will be May 11, 2016 at 1:00 pm at Cloudcroft Ranger Station.