

Meeting Summary

Advisory Committee Meeting #2

Date, Time: Monday, April 10, 2017, 1:00 AM-3:00 PM

Location: Crawford Room, Centennial Hall, 124 10th Street, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Meeting Purpose

Review and discuss: 1) the existing data sources and reports for the Yampa River Health Assessment and 2) the draft Community Engagement Plan.

Action Items

- AC to add any other comments to Yampa River Health Assessment References spreadsheet and indicate whether they would like to be a contact for certain types of information.
- Julie/Kelly distribute Community Engagement Plan draft for AC review
- Julie/Kelly to schedule next AC meeting
- City to issue press release and update website
- Seth/Mark to reach out to identified data contacts and subject matter experts
- Seth/Mark to draft data sources memo

Attendees

Kelly Romero-Heaney, City of Steamboat Springs
Craig Robinson, City of Steamboat Springs
Scott Cowman, Routt County Environmental Health
Brian Hodge, Trout Unlimited
Dan Chovan, Yampa Valley Fly Fishers/TU
Jules Poma, Friends of the Yampa
Kent Vertrees, Friends of the Yampa
Lyn Halliday, Upper Yampa Watershed Group
Kevin McBride, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Marsha Daugherbaugh, Community Agriculture Alliance
Todd Hagenbuch, Colorado State University Extension
Geoff Blakeslee, The Nature Conservancy
David Graf, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Zach Smith, Colorado Water Trust
Julie Baxter, Acclivity
Seth Mason, Lotic Hydrological
Mark Beardsley, EcoMetrics

Agenda Items

Quick Recap of Kickoff Meeting

- **Goals and objectives:** Develop a long-term strategy for improving health and resiliency of the Yampa River in the face of changing future climatic conditions and water use demands. Objectives are to identify target flows to support river health and community need and prioritize actions and projects to achieve measurable progress toward targets
- **Opportunities and Challenges:** Themes from group brainstorm on key opportunities in this project and roadblocks/ challenges we might expect.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Scientific foundation and data driven
- Involving community in planning for river health
- Collaboration to identify common interests and better solutions
- Example/catalyst for watershed and lower Yampa

CHALLENGES

- Limited budget
- Staying within scope
- Managing diverse interests
- Analysis paralysis
- Realistic solutions
- Implementation and long-term commitment

Comments:

- Flows will be analyzed 365 days a year.

Existing Data and Reports

- Review Yampa River Health Assessment References spreadsheet. Added the following information in the spreadsheet for each River Health Assessment variable, discuss:
 - *What's missing?*
 - *What data sources are most valuable?*
 - *Who can be a contact on this team? Who are other experts and contacts?*

Comments:

- Sediment data for Lake Catamount and Stagecoach Reservoir.
- USFS road assessment and bark beetle assessment include erosion/sediment info.
- Nutrients more of an issue because of potential future regulations. Need to know change in regulations we may need to address.
- Ecoli? Recreation Master Plan tested at seven sites.
- Basin Implementation Plan includes non-consumptive needs assessment and other studies.
- Aquatic surveys through Billy Atkinson, CPW.

Community Engagement Plan

- **Purpose:** Provides a framework for engaging a diverse range of stakeholders and the public in the process to develop the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan. Includes participation goals and approach/strategy for engaging three target audiences: Advisory Committee, Stakeholder Groups, and the Public.
- **Public:**
 - Website: <http://steamboatsprings.net/index.aspx?NID=587>
 - Press releases: First one in April to introduce project, process, and how to participate.
 - Two community workshops. 1) Nov 2017: Findings of River Health Assessment 2) Feb 2018: Management Strategies and Projects.

- **Stakeholder Engagement Strategy:** Strategy identifies organizations for each of six main stakeholder groups and identifies how they will be engaged. Discussed engagement approaches.
- **Stakeholder Interests:** The plan seeks to address interests of key stakeholders. Interests are the underlying values and motivations of each stakeholder (different from positions).

Group Brainstorm: *What are core interests for each stakeholder group?*

(Note: Italicized text added after meeting to represent interests of the City's Department of Public Services, which were not covered in the meeting.)

1. Agriculture

- Protect agricultural livelihoods and economy
 - Impact on grazing, fertilizers, and recreational leases (hunting and fishing)
 - Maintain flexibility in opportunities
 - Lessen misplaced burdens
- Understand river health/quality and potential actions

2. Aquatic and Riparian Health

- Maintain healthy fishery
 - Native and sport
 - Decrease pike
- Support healthy native riparian plant community
- Understand river health/quality, needed changes, and potential actions
- Identify stewardship opportunities
- Improve awareness of water quality/water quantity nexus

3. Local Government & Land Use Planning

- Create factual basis for decision-making
- Advance interests of citizens
- Align existing planning documents
- Better facilitate and improve permit compliance
- Maintain local recreational economy
- *Maintain and protect water quality and stream health*

4. Public Health & Utilities

- Protect public health, including drinking water sources
- Lessen the misplaced regulatory burden (i.e wastewater treatment plant)
- Meet permit compliance

5. Recreation and Tourism

- Prevent negative impacts to natural resources

Major Stakeholder Groups



- Manage recreation at sustainable levels
- Maintain local recreation economy (reliant on healthy aquatic/riparian areas)
- Protect beauty and aesthetics
- Improve educational opportunities

6. Water Management

- Prevent additional regulatory burdens
- Create factual basis for decision-making
- Understand and meet supply needs (and recognize tradeoffs)
- *Increase flexibility in operations to meet stream health demands*
- *Protect existing water rights and uses*
- Further objectives of Basin Implementation Plan

Next Steps

- Finalize Community Engagement Plan
- City press release and email update to stakeholders introducing project
- Finalize memo documenting data sources and gaps
- Summer field work for Yampa River Health Assessment
- Next Advisory Committee Meeting: **August**
 - Purpose: Progress update on Yampa River Health Assessment and stakeholder engagement. Discussion on setting targets and applicable standards for health variables.