

Urban Waters Fed to Fed meeting – July 15, 2011 - EPA Region 8 Headquarters

Attendees:

Karl Hermann - EPA
Polly Hays – Forest Service
Chris Poulet – CDC/ATSDR
Stacey Eriksen – EPA
Joy Lujan– National Park Service, Rivers and Trails
Jeremy Mikrut – Bureau of Reclamation
Cathy Tate – USGS
Susan Alden – Forest Service
Alan Ragins – NPS – Rivers and Trails
April Nowak, EPA
Alan Gilbert – DOI, American Great Outdoors Program
Guadalupe Herrerra – HUD

Phone:

Gwen Jarrett- USACE, Omaha
Tiffany Vanosdall– USACE, Omaha
Brian Sanchez – USFWS
Janelle Smith – Forest Service
Susan Ford – Forest service

Purpose: Continue Fed to Fed discussions on the Denver Pilot of the UWFP with the following desired meeting outcomes:

- Agreement on a specific geographic scope for the project
- A revised list of current related activities, projects or partnerships within project area
- A working agreement about our most appropriate role as Federal partners
- A list of potential future activities or tasks for us – separately and collectively
- A list of who else needs to be involved in this effort
- Desired outcomes for the federal to local meeting
- Updates
- Next Steps

General Items from Introductions and Update

Alan Gilbert presented information about the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, which includes 3 areas in Colorado – San Luis Valley; greater Denver urban area – Rocky Mountain Greenway; there will likely be some synergy between the Rocky Mountain Greenway Project, and the UWFP. (AGO focuses on consensus conservation projects; economic development associated with parks; youth in natural resources) Rocky Mtn Greenway concept includes a trail between Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats and Rocky Mountain NP.

Geographic Scope of the project

There was a lively discussion on the geographic scope of the project and how broad or narrow to make it. People brought up individual projects and locations where they were working. (Specific items that were mentioned included: Chatfield, Groundwork Denver work on Bear Creek; North Greenway Group. USGS water quality monitoring at the Confluence of S Platte and Cherry Creek.)It seemed like a broader geography with specific areas of focus would serve the

partnership the best, but no decisions were made. And the group felt the discussion needed a better map to use as we talked.

Action Item: Karl at EPA will put together a working map for the next meeting.

Current Activities

- What are the projects/partnerships/activities currently taking place within the Denver Pilot Project area?
- Where are the gaps? What is missing?

Note: Below are notes from this discussion. Items still need to be brought together into a working document so that the gaps can be analyzed.

Stacey – technical; education/outreach; research projects – EPA brownfields grant – S. Platte and greenway foundation – potential brownfields sites along the s. Platte corridor – USACE and greenway foundation – restoring riparian areas;
Brian – OverlandPark; related to Shattuck NRDA settlement (near Evans);
Denver water MOU – could be known as Forest to Faucet – Shauna Crocker – Colorado Forest (Aurora water also uses this) – South Platte in Englewood near Chatfield and water quality monitors in cherry creek; Urban drainage and flood control 5 streams in Denver area – stormwater monitoring;

South Platte River Rangers program – environmental education. Karl trash reduction – outreach program – segment 14 (below Chatfield); greenway foundation – protect our urban river environment – section 319 funding; Karl doing sampling on s. Platte and clear and sand creek and westerly creek – with Denver Env. Health - pesticides, pharm, and personal care products – discussion about ATSDR looking at monitoring data – health risk – do not have drinking water standards – Chris – fact sheets and education – issues about water quality, etc. with health reference values – if there is not a value is there a health impact

Karl – most chemicals found do not have guidance; restrictions; regulated

Susan Ford – urban and community forestry program; tree planting - ~40 some projects; CSU competition – green infrastructure – riparian habitat – need matched funding –

Susan Alden – children’s peaks to prairies – connecting kids and families to outdoors – S. Platte from downtown Denver to national forest – social mapping along the river corridor – Audubon, rei, children’s museum – non profits, city, state, Trust for public lands – Tim Wohlgenat – mapping; green space – want to focus on open space access within 10 minutes; where are gaps in metro area HHS engaged –
Outdoors Colorado.org ; Johnson habitat park, SPREE

Stacey – re Michael Hancock – priority S. Platte River; implementing projects in river implementation plan;

Stacey – Sand Creek Regional Greenway –

Alan Gilbert – northeast greenway group – coalition of communities in northeast Denver – (possible technical assistance – APA); federal trustees – 1 to 1 match

Groundwork Denver – work on s. Platte related to health; nonpoint source grant funding for bear creek; watershed plan for bear creek;

Alan Ragins – NPS – state and local govt – city and county parks – bring together all the folks working on the river;

NPS – outreach to the Denver community – summer service programs – youth groups – ELK, teacher ranger teacher, preservation youth summit – Sept 2011?

Sun Valley and Valverde neighborhoods on the west side of the Platte river;

Stacey in DC next week – an urban waters meeting on Friday – Bar Chadwick – Greenway Foundation; city and county of Denver;

What are the gaps – connection to the riverway – what are the physical barriers – projects – low income populations – physical impediments – connection to natural areas – top down or bottom up – communities set the priorities and we help achieve vision – Joy;

What is the most appropriate role for the Federal Partnership given current and envisioned local-level efforts?

- What are the specific desired outcomes we want to achieve as a Federal Partnership (shared goals)?
- Where should we focus our energy?

Note: below are the raw notes from our goals discussion.

Polly – goals – desired outcomes; natural infrastructure – built infrastructure

Joy – improving water quality; connecting people to natural areas – getting- understanding of how the rivers work;

Designated uses – wildlife, recreation – impaired, non attainment

Economic development? Brownfields redevelopment

Get outdoor Colorado.org; GP Red and open media foundation

Common goals –

Access: - People can safely and easily access and enjoy waterways close to home. ([Reconnect people to their waterways](#))

Water quality: Urban waters are safe for recreation, drinking water, and aquatic life. ([Promote clean urban waters.](#))

Education: People understand where their water comes from and their role in protecting it.

[Source Water](#) Protection: We help to ensure reliable water supply by maintaining the health of our forested source water areas.

([alt proposal added: We protect and restore the health of our forested headwaters.](#))

Restoration: We work to restore and revitalize the river environment.

Note: some of these are duplicates of the National Document.... Should we just use those words [I added them in blue?](#)

Future Activities

- What can each of our individual agencies contribute to our shared goals?
- What are the things we can do together?
- Who else needs to be involved in this effort?

Things we can do together to move toward our goals:

Website – collect and share info w/partners (remember urbanwaters.org)

Shared vision with goals/strategy document

Help communities ID their priority projects and then figure out how we support those

Work to match partner needs with our resources

Collaborative coordinated approach to water quality monitoring

Coordinated collaborative education and outreach efforts –

Coordinated and collaborative approach to on the ground projects

UWFP large group convenes to coordinate efforts – re: research, education and on the ground projects

Provide a forum for partners to make connections w/one another

Federal to Local meeting

- Why do we want to have it?
- What do we hope to get from it?
- Who needs to be involved?
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Why: mandated have fed to fed;

Work being done on local level – we need to support

What we hope to get from the meeting: gap analysis – what are the ground up needs that aren't being met.

Stacey – we try to match their needs with our resources; outcome what are specific project that partnership can support

Karl – water quality monitoring and assessment

Desired outcomes for fed to local meeting:

What are our partners working on relative to Denver pilot?

Who else needs to be at these meetings?

Do these goals make sense to our partners?

What do you think needs to be done/What are the things you would like to do?

Have them identify priority projects? How do you prioritize? Projects you are thinking about

What are you doing that we don't know about?

What it is (is not); no new \$\$\$

Reception on the river September 01, Greenway Foundation

Action items:

Revise template (to facilitate understanding of current activities and gap analysis).

List what are the resources we can provide to communities (along with 5 goals)

Determine time/place/agenda fed to local meeting (October or November)

Plan media event – announce at reception on the river; showcase media event at world water monitoring day

Spreadsheet of partners – other participants that should be at fed to local meeting

Karl will send watershed proposed map

Stacey will talk to Arsenal team on contacts

Stacey will followup on a CDOT contact

Stacey will followup with EDA

Desired outcomes of next meeting:

Update from DC meeting

Review resources we can bring to partners

Plan for fed – local meeting

Map