

## MEMORANDUM

To: Tenmile South Helena Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee, City of Helena, stakeholders, information resources, members of the public, and media

From: Ben Irely and Gregory Kennett (ERG)

Date: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Re: Meeting summary and notes for Tenmile South Helena Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee Meeting 7

---

### SUMMARY AND NOTES FOR TENMILE COLLABORATIVE MEETING 7

#### **Summary of Meeting 7. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. 1:34 to 3:46 pm. City –County Building, Room 426.**

##### **Attendance**

1. Collaborative Committee Members - Co-vice Chair Jordan Alexander (fire community representative), Ron Alles (City representative), Co-vice Chair Mike Bishop (citizen-at-large representative), Jeff Chaffee (commercial use representative, pending approval by the Mayor and City Commission), Chair Joe Cohenour (conservation organization representative), Angie Grove (recreation representative), Gary Marks (commercial use representative), Doug Powell (citizen-at-large representative), Leonard Wortman (County representative)
2. Resources - Sarah Elkins (administrative point-of-contact), Ben Irely (facilitator with ERG), Brad Langsather (technical point-of-contact), Maggie Schenk (facilitator with ERG)
3. Stakeholders - Marshall Thompson (U.S. Forest Service)
4. Members of the Public - Rich Jorgenson, Diane Tipton
5. Media - None present
6. Absent - Mike Murray (County representative)

##### **Decisions**

1. The Committee decided that consensus will be their decision-making model
2. The Committee decided that riparian areas and wetlands should be added to the list of eight key issues and concerns that will help guide the development of their recommendations
3. The Committee decided that meeting 8 will be held on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm
4. The Committee decided to extend the meeting with the Fire Lab folks on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 to take care of ongoing Collaborative business afterward, this meeting will end at 5 pm
5. The Committee decided to meet sometime during the first full week in July
6. The Committee decided to remain flexible on the date for the August meeting, as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be coming out around then
7. The Committee decided not to have a Tenmile – South Helena Facebook page
8. The Committee decided not to post meeting notes on Facebook, but they will continue to be posted onto the City's Tenmile – South Helena webpage

9. The Committee decided to set up an email address for the Collaborative for taking comments and to set up an auto-response acknowledging receipt of comments
10. The Committee decided that prior to submitting recommendations on the Forest Service project, the Committee will hold a public meeting re: those recommendations
11. The Committee decided to put the Divide Travel Plan on the agenda for the May meeting

### **Action Items**

1. Committee members will review the Draft Divide Travel Plan and record their comments in preparation for the next meeting
2. Jeff Chaffee will get ERG a relevant contact with the BLM
3. Committee members will 'like' the City of Helena Facebook page
4. ERG will send Sarah anything the Collaborative wants to post on the City's Facebook page
5. ERG will create a formal consensus and ground rules document to be voted on at the next meeting and will bring copies to the next meeting
6. ERG will bring copies of printed agendas to all meetings, with consensus and ground rules document printed on the back
7. ERG will establish lines of communications with agency stakeholders
8. ERG will get digital maps that can be displayed via projector at meetings
9. ERG will send the Committee links to the Draft Divide Travel Plan with the meeting notes one week before the next meeting
10. ERG will send out the contact list to Committee Members, resources, and agency stakeholders
11. Sarah Elkins will send out a Doodle poll for scheduling the July meeting the week of the 6<sup>th</sup>
12. Sarah Elkins will set up an email address for the Collaborative and an auto-response for acknowledging receipt of any emails that come in
13. Sarah Elkins and Brad Langsather will discuss logistics for a June field trip
14. Sarah Elkins will send out a Doodle poll for the June field trip

### **Bin Items**

1. The Committee would like to know what can and cannot be done in roadless areas
2. The Committee would like to gain a better understanding of proposed treatments around residential areas
3. The Committee would like more information about how resources are affected by the nine key issues and concerns

### **For Next Meeting's Agenda**

1. Vote to adopt formal consensus and ground rules document
2. Marshall Thompson will discuss the Draft Divide Travel Plan and the Committee's ability to comment during the Objection Period
3. Committee will discuss their comments re: the Draft Divide Travel Plan
4. Committee will discuss plans for the first field trip
5. Committee will discuss next steps for the previous Collaborative's recommendations

**Meeting Notes for Meeting 7. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. City – County Building, Rm. 426.**

Meeting called to order at 1:34pm

**4. Welcome and introductions by Joe Cohenour – informational. Objective: To introduce Committee members**

4.14. Meeting attendees briefly introduced themselves

4.15. Water rights lawsuit by Ron Alles

4.15.1. Regardless of the result, the Tenmile will continue to be Helena’s primary water source

4.15.2. The City will continue to be able to fill the Chessman and Scott Reservoirs

4.15.3. The water treatment plant will continue to treat just as much water as it does now

4.15.4. The City can, with Tenmile Creek and the Missouri River, continue to meet peak demands for water

4.15.5. The City has 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> water rights on Tenmile Creek

4.15.6. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> water right that was up for sale, but it wasn’t a meaningful water right for the City, so they did not purchase it

4.15.7. The litigant is the holder of the 4<sup>th</sup> water right

**5. Public Comment – informational (not on agenda). Objective: To gather public input on projects in the Tenmile – South Helena area**

5.14. None given

**6. Mechanics of facilitation by Maggie Schenk – informational. Objective: Familiarize committee with facilitative techniques and roles**

6.14. For today, we will continue to utilize Joe’s expertise to facilitate this meeting

6.15. Ben and Maggie will watch the clock and assist Joe

6.16. For the overall mechanics of facilitation of the Committee, ERG will continue to work with the City and Joe to work that out

6.17. The goal for the meeting today is to work out how the Collaborative will operate, in order to come to decisions regarding recommendations for projects in the Tenmile – South Helena area

6.18. Ben will continue to work with Joe to facilitate the meetings and will coordinate for the Collaborative outside the meetings

**7. Review committee background and documents by Brad Langsather – informational. Objective: Quick background (where we’ve been, why we’re here, where we’re headed), define member roles, review document key points**

7.14. Going back to where we started at the initial meeting, where we did a round robin in which each member identified issues related to each project in the Tenmile, there were thirty issues identified

7.14.1. Brad submitted a document titled, “Individual Committee Member Issues, Concerns, and Position Statements Regarding the Proposed Tenmile - South Helena Project” to the Committee

7.15. The list of thirty issues identified then became the eight key issues and concerns

- 7.15.1. Brad submitted a document titled, “Key Issues and Concerns Regarding the Proposed Tenmile South Helena Project” to the Committee
- 7.16. These eight issues will help define how the Committee forms their recommendations
  - 7.16.1. Diane Tipton (member of the public) suggested that riparian areas and wetlands should be included on this list
  - 7.16.2. Committee decided that riparian areas and wetlands should be added to the list
- 7.17. The Committee then began to bring in speakers to address the issues
  - 7.17.1. David Nunn spoke to the Committee about prescribed fire (Meeting #3, 1/14/15)
  - 7.17.2. Dave Callory and Cara Farr spoke to the Committee about hydrology and soils and the affect of wildfire on these resources (Meeting #4, 2/11/15)
  - 7.17.3. Denise Pengeroth and Brent Costain spoke to the Committee about wildlife and wildlife mitigating measures (Meeting #5, 3/11/15)
- 7.18. The group would still like to be informed about other resources affected by the nine issues and concerns
- 7.19. The Committee could use more information from the Fire Science Lab regarding the fuel treatments they designed
- 7.20. How would different treatments affect fire activity?
- 7.21. It would be good for the group to get a better understanding of how the forest resources would be used
  - 7.21.1. Including a better understanding of prescribed fire treatments and a better understanding of mechanical treatments
  - 7.21.2. This understanding may best be fostered by a field trip that looks at different types of treatments
  - 7.21.3. A number of Committee members commented that they would like to understand the treatments better around residential areas
  - 7.21.4. The Committee should also get a thorough understanding of the Roadless Rule, especially what can and can’t be done in roadless areas
  - 7.21.5. Some of the roadless areas of concern were proposed for wilderness designation
  - 7.21.6. Proposed wilderness areas bring up another consideration regarding what can impact wilderness qualities
  - 7.21.7. The Committee feels like they’ve established common ground around roadless areas (consensus)
- 7.22. The end products of this Collaborative will be recommendations regarding projects in the Tenmile – South Helena area
- 7.23. Recommendations will be published like the 2009 Collaborative Recommendations publication
- 7.24. Model of the Collaborative by Ron Alles
- 7.25. The idea behind the collaborative was to bring industry, conservation, recreation, and roadless representatives and citizens-at-large (11 representatives in total) to the table to make recommendations on projects in the Tenmile – South Helena watersheds

- 7.26. If Jeff Chaffee is approved, there will be only one seat left unfilled, which is the seat for the second conservation representative
  - 7.26.1. We've tried to get someone into that seat, but it remains vacant
  - 7.26.2. We pursued Steve Kelly of the Montana Ecosystems Defense Council but we were unsuccessful
  - 7.26.3. We are currently pursuing someone from the Nature Conservancy to fill this seat
  - 7.26.4. We are also considering someone from Montana Hunters and Anglers
  - 7.26.5. In the future, Commissioner Murray will have a designee attend these meetings if he cannot make it
- 7.27. The scope of the Committee by Ron Alles
  - 7.27.1. It is a bit different than the original Collaborative Committee, because now there are specific projects out there
  - 7.27.2. The previous collaborative took more of a 'high altitude' view for their recommendations
  - 7.27.3. Now the Forest Service has something this Collaborative can sink their teeth into
  - 7.27.4. The outcomes of this Collaborative might not be as clean as one final publication like the first Collaborative had, but more like a series of recommendations over a one, two, or three year period
  - 7.27.5. The Forest Service's proposed project is the first in what may be a series of projects that this Committee can provide recommendations for
  - 7.27.6. The Collaborative should also address the Draft Divide Travel Plan
    - 7.27.6.1. The Draft Divide Travel Plan is currently in its 60-day Objection Period, which started April 24<sup>th</sup>
  - 7.27.7. We want to make sure that we have all the relevant agency representatives brought into our communications channel
    - 7.27.7.1. Dick Sloan, DEQ contact
    - 7.27.7.2. Tillman McAdams, EPA contact
    - 7.27.7.3. Jeff Chaffee has a contact he can get for the BLM
  - 7.27.8. We need to have all relevant agency resources brought into our communications channel
    - 7.27.8.1. Tom Cleasby, USGS Hydrologist
    - 7.27.8.2. Jenny Sika, MT FWP Biologist could give us more information on big game
    - 7.27.8.3. Grant Hokit of Carroll College could give us more information on wetlands and amphibians
    - 7.27.8.4. Gail Joslyn, MT FWP Wildlife Biologist (retired)
  - 7.27.9. An interested party from outside this Collaborative commented that everyone should be viewing projects in the Tenmile – South Helena less from a fuels system perspective and more from a biological systems perspective

**8. Decision-making model by Maggie Schenk – decisional. Objective: Agree upon decision-making model**

- 8.14. Consensus-based decisions

- 8.14.1. Joe submitted the document, “Consensus-based Decisions and Ground Rules” to the Committee
- 8.15. Consensus gives everyone a voice in the decision
- 8.16. The last Collaborative is an example where sometimes you can’t agree and that is okay
- 8.17. The consensus model presented in the document submitted by Joe requires that those that do not fully agree must state why they do not agree
- 8.18. This model is nice, because you cannot just say no, you must also provide alternatives
- 8.19. If we cannot come to consensus on a particular recommendation, as the past Collaborative did, we will report the recommendations for the particular project that were not agreed upon along with our consensus recommendations
- 8.20. The Committee decided to adopt consensus as their decision-making model
- 8.21. ERG will type up the consensus document that Joe submitted so that the Collaborative can vote on its adoption at the next meeting.
- 8.22. Active listening is an important item in the ground rules
  - 8.22.1. Active listening means summarizing the previous statement and letting them know that they’ve been heard and giving them the opportunity to correct their statement, this is very important
- 9. Meeting schedule and objectives by Maggie Schenk – decisional. Objective: Agree upon schedule and objectives of meetings (next three months)**
  - 9.14. Should the second Wednesday of the month be our routine meeting time?
  - 9.15. Are we ‘under the gun’ to get these recommendations out?
  - 9.16. The committee decided that meeting #8 will be held on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm
  - 9.17. Objectives of meeting #8
    - 9.17.1. Comments on Draft Divide Travel Plan (30 minutes max)
    - 9.17.2. Field trip planning
    - 9.17.3. Next steps for the previous Collaborative’s recommendations (rest of meeting)
  - 9.18. The Committee decided to extend the meeting with the Fire Lab folks on June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm to take care of ongoing Collaborative business afterward
  - 9.19. The Committee decided that this meeting will end at 5 pm
  - 9.20. The Committee decided to meet sometime during the first full week in July
    - 9.20.1. Sarah will send out a Doodle poll for the July meeting
  - 9.21. The Committee decided to remain flexible on the date for the August meeting, as the DEIS should be coming out around then
  - 9.22. The Committee will do one or two field trips over the summer
    - 9.22.1. An existing conditions field trip would be a good start
    - 9.22.2. This field trip should happen sometime after the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting
    - 9.22.3. Sarah and Brad will work together to get out a Doodle poll for this field trip
    - 9.22.4. The second field trip should probably look at different mitigation types proposed

**10. Draft Divide Travel Plan by Marshall Thompson - informational (not on agenda). Objective: Provide information re: the Divide Travel Plan to the Committee**

- 10.14. The Travel Plan is actually in the objection period, not the public comment period
- 10.15. The Travel Plan simply designates open and closed roads, seasonality of closures, and types of travel allowed
  - 10.15.1. Marshall will send the Divide Travel Plan to ERG
- 10.16. Is road abandonment a part of the Travel Plan?
- 10.17. No, it just states whether existing roads are open or closed
- 10.18. The Alternative 5 map is the most current map to look at re: the Divide Travel Plan (on the web)
  - 10.18.1. The Draft Decision Map is no longer current
- 10.19. One thing the Collaborative could look at re: the Divide Travel Plan is changes in dispersed camping regulations
  - 10.19.1. The Committee decided to put the Divide Travel Plan on the agenda for the May meeting
  - 10.19.2. Committee will review the Draft Divide Travel Plan before the May meeting
  - 10.19.3. Marshall will do a five-minute presentation and provide insight into how the Committee can provide recommendations since they didn't comment during the comment period
  - 10.19.4. Committee will discuss the Draft Divide Travel Plan

**11. Outreach and social media by Maggie Schenk – decisional. Objective: Agree upon decision making model**

- 11.14. Do we want our social media to be housed within the City so that it goes into an archive?
- 11.15. Facebook probably hits the age demographic best for the Collaborative
  - 11.15.1. With Facebook, you can limit how people comment
  - 11.15.2. You can say why you hid a comment
- 11.16. What is the key objective of our social media outreach?
  - 11.16.1. It is very important to pre-determine the key objective for effectiveness
- 11.17. Is it to maintain a public record of comments?
- 11.18. Is it to get more people involved?
- 11.19. Is it to provide an avenue for public comment?
- 11.20. The charter does not say that the Collaborative has to outreach through social media
- 11.21. If we go with a Facebook page specifically for the Collaborative, we'd have to acknowledge receipt of comments
- 11.22. The City of Helena has a Facebook page and they could post the schedule, agenda, etc. on there instead of the Collaborative having their own page
- 11.23. The Committee decided not to have a Tenmile – South Helena Facebook page
- 11.24. Committee members will 'like' the City of Helena Facebook page
- 11.25. ERG will send Sarah anything the Collaborative wants to post on the City's Facebook page
- 11.26. The Committee decided not to post meeting notes on Facebook, but they will continue to be posted onto the City's Tenmile – South Helena webpage

11.27. The Committee decided to set up an email address for the Collaborative for taking comments and to set up an auto response acknowledging receipt of comments

11.28. The Committee decided that prior to submitting recommendations on the Forest Service project, the Committee will hold a public meeting re: those recommendations

11.29. The Committee could have a Twitter account

**12. Topics for May Meeting by Ben Ireby – decisional. Objective: Discuss and agree upon May meeting objectives**

12.14. Objectives of Meeting 8

12.14.1. Comment on Draft Divide Travel Plan

12.14.2. Field trip planning

12.14.3. Next steps for the previous Collaborative's recommendations

12.14.4. Vote on consensus and ground rules document

**13. Summarize decisions and action items by Ben Ireby – informational. Objective: Ensure all members have clarity and agree on decisions and action items**

13.14. Summarized the notes above, Committee amended and corrected notes during summary

Meeting adjourned at 3:46pm