


Middle South Platte River Alliance

Envisioning a Healthy and Resilient River Corridor for all Stakeholders

Meeting Notes – 12-16-15

The December Meeting of the MSPRA Steering Committee was called to order by Chuck Sylvester at 12:05pm.

Steering Committee Attendance: John Barnett, Randall Ferguson, Steven Roach, Chuck Sylvester, Sheryl Trent, Glen Werning, and Interim Watershed Coordinator - Chad Reischl

Not in Attendance:, Martin Grenier

Other Attendees: Jeff Crane (DOLA/CWCB), Sherwood Langley, Fred Stenzel, Harry Betz, Brian Varrella (CDOT). Steven Humphrey (CDOT/Muller Engineering), Brian Murphy (CDM-Smith) and Kevin Houck (CWCB).

1. Public Comments
 - a. None at this meeting
2. Announcements:
 - a. Welcome to Kacey Blum. Kacey will be starting as MSPRA's watershed coordinator starting Jan 4. Kacey is a Greeley native and has great non-profit management experience and is excited to be on board.
3. Financial Statement:
 - a. Not much change since last report; we will go over this in January.

(Since representatives from CDOT and CWCB were in attendance to speak about the Highway 60 bridge project and talk about issues highway 85 we proceeded into this new business first.)

4. Highway 60 Bridge Project
 - a. CDOT is currently in the design phase for the replacement of the Highway 60 Bridge. The new bridge will be longer and higher than the old bridge and will have fewer piers in the river. This will allow the bridge to carry more water capacity in a flood event and cause less flooding upstream of the bridge.
 - b. Since CDOT cannot pursue any work outside the public right-of-way, CDOT is interested in working with the Alliance to work on sediment removal and regrading of the river banks up and down the river from the bridge. CDOT has had some conversations with the CWCB and Jeff Crane has been asked to come up with a design proposal for the regrading.

5. Next Round of CDBG-DR funding
 - a. The next round of CDBG-DR funding for project implementation has been announced. Deadline for application is January 22nd.
 - b. Jeff Crane said that the state would like to see MSPRA pursue a project via this funding opportunity and that the Highway 60 project might be a good place to start.
 - c. Brian and Steve from CDOT indicated that we might get more bang for our buck if we can work with CDOT on the project as CDOT could provide construction labor and management saving us from taking that on ourselves.
6. While CDOT was at the table the question of sediment removal at the Highway 85 Bridge was brought up. CDOT indicated that, at this time, they have no plans to do any sediment removal at the bridge. Again, they can only work in the ROW, and any project at the bridge would involve removing sediment up and down stream of the bridge. This would likely involve the railroad bridge and the Latham Ditch as well, making things more complicated. It might not even make sense to do anything at 85 until we determine the design of the diversion structure. After much discussion this issue was tabled until later in the meeting.
7. Old Business
 - a. South Platte River Restoration Master Plan:
 - i. Our main goal for this meeting is to approve the master plan
 - ii. Since our last meeting, Chad has drafted a resolution of support for the project and has vetted it with the Steering Committee, Randall F. made some comments/edits before the meeting and these have been incorporated into the resolution.
 - iii. Chad has also worked on developing a project list for a more fiscally restrained river restoration project based on Alliance priorities, potential partnerships and funding feasibility. This list of 16 projects represents around \$17M in projects rather than the full \$87M that was outlined in the MP.
 - iv. Chad's thought was that this list could be an attachment to the resolution if the Steering Committee felt it was a good idea to include.
 - v. Chad went over a presentation of the project list.
 - vi. After some discussion, Brian Murphy suggested that CDM-Smith could simply add our list to the master plan at the end of section 7 so that it's a permanent part of the plan.
 - vii. There was general agreement on this course of action and a motion was made by John Barnett that the "Alliance adopt the resolution of support as amended [by Randall F] and ask that CDM Smith add this project list to the master plan. MSPRA will review this decision at the next meeting pending the addition." This was seconded by Steve R.
 - viii. Chuck Sylvester led a roll-call vote. All 6 members approved. Chad indicated that while Martin G. was not in attendance he had called in earlier that day to voice his support. The motion carried unanimously, and the resolution was signed.
 - b. Sediment Transfer and Feasibility Study:
 - i. CDM-Smith has finished collecting over 200 sediment samples (mostly medium grained sand) and has surveyed numerous cross sections of the river. They will finish

their analysis in the next month and work on creating the sediment transport model shortly.

- c. NRCS-emergency watershed protection program
 - i. The Alliance was awarded money for a project at the Big Thompson Confluence, but the land owner on the south side of the river is caught up in litigation over the ownership of the property, water rights, etc. and it is highly unlikely that this project will happen anytime soon. At this time the Alliance is not pursuing any EWP projects at this time.
 - d. Next Round of CDBG-DR Planning Grants:
 - i. We submitted the application for the Lower Latham Diversion Structure on Nov. 20. We should hear back on that project in mid-January.
8. Back to Highway 60/85 debate
- a. After more debate and a round-the-table opinion poll, members generally felt that a project at the 85 bridge was more important at this time. A motion was made to apply for a CDBG-DR grant to cover a design-build project at highway 85. With the caveat that if we couldn't work something out that we could fall back on the Hwy 60 project". This was seconded and a roll call vote was held. 6 votes yes, 0 votes no; Motion carried.
 - b. Jeff Crain noted that we might be able to transfer some or all of the EWP funds to the Highway 60 project and do both. We would still have to come up with the 12.5% match. CDOT indicated that they couldn't provide the match funds. This might require an additional CDBG-DR application. Chad and Jeff to follow up.
9. Next meeting: Jan. 20th.
10. The meeting was Adjourned at 1:40pm