

Uncomaphgre Watershed Partnership
Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
Sept 15, 2011 4:30-630

Attendance: Rein Van West, Nancy Lance, Ben Tisdell, Jeff Litteral, Sarah Sauter, Matthew Jurjonas, Don Kellogg, Debbie Cokes, and Montrose Press.

Minutes from 4:30-6:30

Matthew's Summer Recap

- Matthew hosted an education tent on behalf of the UWP at Mosaic Community Project's Ridgway River Festival. Matthew was able to borrow a watershed model to demonstrate how pollution can runoff into streams.
- Matthew worked with Ridgway State Park to host the 3rd annual Lake Appreciation Day. Matthew set up an education booth and showed off the watershed model.

Rapid River Bio-assessment macro-invertebrate Data Powerpoint

- Matthew gave a presentation on the macroinvertebrate data collected as part of last fall's river assessment survey. Macroinvertebrates are living indicator of water quality and used by scientists worldwide. Different species have varying tolerance levels to pollution, so by studying community composition, we can determine how clean the water is. Our macroinvertebrate samples will serve as baseline data to see if future restoration projects effected water quality.
- Very few macroinvertebrates were found at the Rollins Park site in Ridgway. This was expected because of the impacts from mineralization in the headwaters. Downstream sites where macroinvertebrates were collected (Billy Creek, Baldrige Park, and Waterfront Way) indicated healthier populations.

Watershed Plan Update

- Sarah gave an update on the watershed plan. The bulk of the plan is complete. After years of research, multiple education forms, stakeholder meetings and scientific studies, Sarah has developed a series of problems in the Uncompahgre Watershed that need to be addressed (*see attachments*)
 1. Segments are on the impaired water list for heavy metals
 2. Segments of River on 303d impaired water list for selenium
 3. Water supply gaps
 4. Accelerated snowmelt
 5. Development impacts on watershed
 6. Seasonal low flows
 7. recreation conflicts
 8. inaccurate regulatory framework
 9. nutrients will likely violate upcoming standards
 10. stormwater management
 11. limited habitat and aquatic communities

- Sarah also identified 4 major goals for the watershed plan:
 1. Improve Water Quality
 2. Improve riverine ecosystem function
 3. Increase in-stream flows
 4. Improve recreation opportunities
- Each goal has a set of objectives, action items, partners, funding opportunities, timeline, and milestones. This portion of the plan identifies activities that should be implemented to improve the health of the Uncompahgre Watershed (*See attachments*).
- Draft should be ready for public review in mid October with a Final draft expected by end December.

Leadership Needs

- Sarah has recently taken a new job and will no longer be available to the UWP beginning 2012. Sarah will remain the project coordinator for the completion of the watershed plan and any other pending grants.
- Matthew will continue as the UWP coordinator by leading meetings, developing a steering committee, projects, grant writing for 4th year vista.
- The UWP is in need for a new supervisor for Matthew, the VISTA volunteer IMMEDIATELY. Ideally, this person would provide guidance, ideas, community connections for Matthew.
- Nancy Lance expressed a concern to formalize a steering committee
- Ben Tisdale and Rein Van West suggested that we form a super committee with a few (3-5) key members to supervise Matthew until his term is up in April.

Matt is looking for housing for the next 6 months. Any Ideas or leads would be appreciated.

Thanks for coming!