

Program Coordinator's Report
May 10, 2012
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This report reviews status of tasks included in the Strategic Categories of the Operating Plan adopted May 10, 2012. Only tasks that require updates are included in this report.

Category 1. Organization and Coordination

Funds for new OSM/VISTA member, Emily Galanto, have been secured from Tri-County Water, Tiffany & Co., Trout Unlimited and fundraisers. Thank you letters have been sent to these kind donors. A meeting will be scheduled in June to outline reporting wishes of Tri-County Water and watershed plan issues.

Emily's work plan (VISTA's Assignment Description) was pre-pared by Matthew Jurjonas and I have reviewed it with her. We will re-visit it quarterly to make sure we are meeting the goals outlined in the. My contract is being drafted by Anthony Poponi, Coal Creek Watershed Director and will be presented to the Steering Committee by May 10, 2012 for review and approval.

I have revised the UWP Strategic and Operating Plans based on feedback received from the Steering Committee during the last Steering Committee meeting held on Apr. 23, 2012. I have also included my edits and additional tasks. I would like to propose that we adopt this latest version of the plans with the agreement that these are adaptive document which we will review quarterly during Steering Committee meetings in February, May, August, and November of each year. I would also like to propose that we select a date for regular monthly Steering Committee meetings. For example, second Thursday of every month.

General fund in the ROCC account are only \$107. These are monies left-over from various fundraisers and do not include funds allocated for OSM/VISTA and Program Coordinator.

Category 2. Fundraising and Grant Writing

I am happy to announce that we have received a grant (\$5,227) from the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program to implement a tamarisk removal in Ridgway State Park and re-vegetation of stream banks in Rollans Park, Ridgway. Congratulations and big Thank You to Matthew Jurjonas for preparing the grant proposal! Matt, Emily, and I will be meeting with collaborators (Ron Mabry, Ouray County Weeds Manager and Jen Coates, Town of Ridgway Manager) to discuss methods and project timeline. I will prepare a Scope of Work plan for the grant and fund will be available July 1, 2012. On the ground work will likely occur late summer and fall 2012. Grant report is due on June 30, 2012.

I have prepared and submitted a grant proposal (\$14,000) to the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund – Planning Grant fund on Apr. 30, 2012. This proposal seeks funds for Community Outreach and Education. The budget categories included 1) project management (i.e. coordinator compensation for various events and educational needs assessment), 2) outreach materials (newsletter, brochures, social media) for various UWP events, 3) educational tools (our own watershed model, tool kits), and 4) operating expenses/supplies (computer, printer, projector, camera, office supplies). The full grant application along with 4 letters of support from Ouray County Commissioner (Lynn Padgett), Town of Ridgway Manager (Jen Coates), Superintendent of Ridgway Schools (Cheryl Gomez) and the Black Canyon Regional Land Trust (Olivia Bartlett) is included in attachments.

On Apr. 30, 2012, Lynn Padgett and Jeff Litteral of the Colorado Data Sharing Network hosted a meeting with the Nonpoint Source Program (NPS). Matt Jurjonas, Emily Galanto, Pat Willits, and I attended the meeting. We

learned about NPS grant opportunities and application/reporting process as well as the Colorado Data Sharing Network. Both programs offer exciting opportunities for UWP.

On May 3, 2012, I attended the Gunnison Basin Non-consumptive Uses Roundtable in Hotchkiss, CO. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm projects for state-wide and basin-wide Non-consumptive Uses program. At the meeting I presented a proposal (see attachments) for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) fishing pier at Crystal Lake. UWP would like to partner with USFS (Fisheries Biologist Matt Dare) in this effort and contribute \$7,000 toward construction materials. The project proposal, prepared by Matthew Jurjonas, was well received and I was encouraged to apply for funding through the basin-wide program this summer. The roundtable was also a great opportunity to meet representatives from other watershed groups, federal, non-profit, and private entities working toward similar goals as UWP and to make contacts with coordinators of grant programs (i.e. Colorado Watershed Conservation Board).

The Uncompahgre Watershed Plan will be completed by June 30, 2012. The Rapid River Assessment (spearheaded by Rachel Boothby and Sara Sauter) will also be completed by June 30, 2012. I have received all Rapid River Assessment documents from S. Sauter and will finalize the report. I will also provide a short synthesis of this assessment to be included in the Uncompahgre Watershed Plan.

Category 3. Assessments, Restoration and Research Projects

As discussed in Category 2, we will be implementing a tamarisk removal (Ridgway State Park) and riparian re-vegetation project (Rollans State Park) this summer and fall 2012.

On Apr. 18, 2012, Matt Jurjonas and Dave Hale (Colorado Division of Wildlife) spearheaded another tire clean-up effort in Burro Creek which was featured in the Plaindealer (No.48, Apr.26 - May2, 2012). They were assisted by 4 volunteers and removed about 100 tires from the creek and riparian area. They also uncovered many more unexpected tires. These tires still need to be removed from the public land and additional efforts will be planned to assess the magnitude of additional clean-up efforts. Emily Galanto will take the lead on future clean-ups and seek funds through River Networks' new tire clean-up program. For more information see "Bridgestone Americas Announces One Team, One Planet Spent Tire Program with River Network" at <http://www.rivernetwork.org/news/bridgestone-americas-announces-one-team-one-planet-spent-tire-program-river-network>.

Category 4. Outreach and Education

There are many exciting Outreach and Education happenings to report:

- Earth Day, Apr. 20, 2012 was a big success with Ridgway 4th graders (Ms. Javoronok's and Ms. Silver's classes) and Ron Mabry, Ouray County Weed Manager. A press release was included in the Plaindealer (No.48, Apr.26 - May2, 2012) and the Watch (Vol.16, No.17, Apr. Apr.26 - May2, 2012). We greeted about 30 students at Rollans State Park and then gathered under the cottonwoods to discuss the Uncompahgre River and riparian ecosystem while the students enjoyed their picnic lunch. Ice cream donated by Suzy Ulrich of Café Ridgway was a huge hit. The students then participated in a riparian scavenger hunt and played a game of camouflage (similar to hide-and-seek) before walking to the 4H Event Center for a community service project. At the 4H Center, Ron Mabry discussed native and non-native flowers before guiding the student in a wildflower seeding project.
- San Juan Mining Conference, Apr. 26-27, 2012 took place in Silverton, CO. Matt Jurjonas collaborated with Mountain Studies institute to organize the conference. Presentations included mine reclamation

projects, assessments, water quality studies, and tools. The first day concluded with a forum in which representatives from 4 watershed groups shared their community's experiences with CERCLA (superfund). The second day of the conference consisted of field tours to the Mayflower Mill and Gladstone Mine. Attendance at the conference was 130, more than doubling last year's attendance. Matt has completed the grant report which funded the conference.

- Montrose Natural Resources Festival, May 8, 2012 – Matt and Emily will lead a group activity (17 times during the course of the day!) designed to enhance children's appreciation of water.
- Ridgway River Festival, June 30, 2012 – Matt and Emily have been coordinating presenters needed for the Water Education Tent. Invited groups include: US Forest Service (watershed trailer), Mountain Studies Institute, The New Community Coalition, Transition OurWay, Black Canyon Regional Land Trust, and Wise Water Use Council. UWP will have an outreach booth with UWP informational materials and slideshow, provide a riparian scavenger hunt, and demonstrate pollution sources with a watershed model. Additionally, we will do some fundraising and are considering a silent auction, duckie race, and cotton candy sales. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help out with this big event and would like to **RECRUIT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS** to participate.
- Lake Appreciation Day, July 21, 2012 – planning is under way

Our new VISTA member, Emily Galanto, has hit the ground running since her arrival in the Ouray-Ridgway area two weeks ago. She has been involved in brainstorming and planning various activities and is settling well into her Outreach Coordinator role. She will attend a Colorado Parks & Wildlife banquet on May 22, 2012 to honor volunteer efforts in local communities. Emily has taken a lead in maintaining and upgrading UWP website and evaluating additional social media outlets (ex. Facebook, Twitter). Our website has a new home on the Mountain Geo Geek server. Lynn Padgett helped Matt with the migration which will save UWP around \$100/year.

Sadly, our super-VISTA, Matt Jurjonas, will be retiring from his duties on May 15, 2012. Matt has planned several summer adventures before heading off to graduate school at Colorado State University. He will be greatly missed by the UWP community.