

White River Integrate Water Initiative

Planning Advisory Committee Meeting

August 24, 2020 6:00p.m. @ CNCC Weiss Room, Rangely, CO 81648

Alden Vanden Brink	Gary Moyer	Phil Brink
Callie Hendrickson	Ian Wilson	Ron Reich
Colton Brown	Jessica Sanow	Rosaly Coombs
David Graf	John Leary	Stu Massey
Deirdre Macnab	Linda Masters	Tristan Nielsen
Don Reed	Mario Sullivan	Walt Proctor
Forrest Nelson	Mike Dillon	

Welcome and Introductions: Facilitator, Linda Masters – CSU Extension Director, welcomed everyone. She reviewed the ground rules and expectations of the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to develop a focus for the first grant application.

Diversion inventory Scope of Work (SOW): This task is considered a “low hanging fruit” that the PAC felt was a good task to start the White River Integrated Water Initiative (WRIWI) with.

- Purpose and Need Statement: The PAC came to a consensus on the following statement:
 - 1.) *“Identify and assess opportunities for multipurpose improvements to diversions from the mainstem of the White River and Piceance Creek.”*
 - 2.) *“Work with landowners and water rights holders to assess the condition of diversion structures to determine if opportunities are available to improve.”*
- District staff will develop a checklist of what to look for and record to complete a diversion inventory.
- District and NRCS staff will contact respective water right holders and landowners to determine if they would be willing to participate in the assessment by meeting with and allowing site visits to the diversion.
- District staff will complete diversion site visits to identify the following by asking questions and conducting assessment as identified in #2:
 - a) Landowner concerns with the infrastructure
 - b) Landowner ideas for improvement that would help efficiency and effectiveness of the diversion
 - c) Discuss any opportunities to improve fish habitat or other resource concerns
 - d) Collect pictures of the diversion

Priorities based on Reach Committee reports: Based on common themes among the 4 Reach Committees, the following two items were identified as priority areas to use in applying for grants. Within each item, committees refined goals specific to each reach.

- 1) Riparian Health
- 2) Diversion Structure Inventory

Project Manager:

- The PAC sees value in ensuring work be continued by local individuals, so that the knowledge base remains in the community for future reference.
- While District and NRCS staff will be working on items within the Diversion Structure Inventory SOW, the PAC suggests that the Districts contract with a “Project Coordinator” to ensure momentum of the process (coordinate PAC and subcommittee meetings, continue with gathering public input, communicate between the PAC and others, coordinate current and future WRIWI related projects/processes, and finalize a full scope of work for the WRIWI).
- The PAC agreed to meet at least 9 months out of the year. This gives the District an idea of how much time the coordinator will need to coordinate the WRIWI.

Next steps:

- Apply for grants to fund Riparian Health Assessments, Diversion Structure Inventory, and Project Coordinator.
- Send newsletter to landowners to inform them of the process.
- Subcommittees will identify priorities within their respective reaches to include in the grant application
 - Callie and Linda will create guidelines for subcommittees on how to identify which/how many priorities to have for their reaches.
- Note: If anyone knows of existing studies that have been done on the river, please send them to Callie.