

## 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership

### Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Location: Fosters Bar, in Chama, NM – 393 Terrace Avenue Time: 9 am – 4 pm

#### Action Items:

- Finalize Executive Committee (final confirmation from suggested members)
- Create directory or clickable map of local partnerships and their area of focus
- Send events you want shared to Aaron or Page
- Develop a website for streamlined communication (Squarespace and All About Watershed)
- Send log in details for All About Watersheds website
  - People should be able to create their own log in information.
  - <http://allaboutwatersheds.org/groups/2-3-2/2-states-3-rivers-2-regions-cohesive-strategy-partnership>
- Create working definitions between Education & Outreach and TRAM Committees(March/May)
- Create simple, one page Agreement of Participation for Advisory Committee (May)
- Eventually: establish Memorandum of Cooperation for full vetting
- Create one page flyer by March videoconference meeting
- Share stories of The 2-3-2's successes, partners, and partnerships for newsletter and website
- Develop letter of support for Trollworks LLC for project on Northern NM College
- Send SJHFHP map and survey link. Here it is:
  - <https://mountainstudies.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5ac925a5d48b481c86e0a6b02c8cbd4c>
- Determine the possibilities for mapping our work through the NM Opportunity Map, including our work in CO

#### Major Events, Announcements, Grants and Collaboration

- Laura McCarthy-National Cohesive Strategy Workshop in Reno in March- Will talk about The 2-3-2's work if anyone wants to help facilitate
- April 16ish: Colorado Society of American Foresters, CTIA (Colorado Timber Association). We can participate and recruit partners
- Conservation Innovation Grant idea: Adam Moore will lead conversation- due Feb 26<sup>th</sup>
- Landscape Scale Restoration Grants – due in September, Mary Stuever wants partners
- Other grants for non-federal lands out in February. Mary has more info.
- Chama Peak Land Alliance currently hiring a VISTA Volunteer
- Community Gathering – January 26<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm Chama Land and Cattle Lodge
- Solid waste grants from USDA, due Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, don't have many wood product applications, so eager to give
- Atmospheric chemist to speak on smoke March 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm, Pagosa Springs, Ask Aaron
- Bridging the Divide, June, date TBA

## 9:00 to 9:30 Welcome and Introductions

- I. Welcome: Thank you for your efforts. Let's think about the relevance of our collaborative work in the current drought conditions our communities face.
- II. Introductions
  - Aaron Kimple, Mountain Studies Institute (MSI), 2-3-2 Program Coordinator
  - Anthony Culpepper, Associate Director for Forest Health
  - Page Buono, Strategic Engagement and Communication Coordinator
  - Norman Vigil, NM Association of Conservation Districts
  - Matt Tuten, Timber and Vegetation Management Program, SJNF
  - Adam Moore, CSFS, Alamosa Field Office
  - Kent Grant, CSFS, Durango Field Office
  - Ashley Downing, ED at Firewise for Southwestern Colorado
  - Randy Johnson, Consultant, CO Wood Utilization and Marketing Program
  - Tim Reader, CO Wood Utilization and Marketing Program, CSFS
  - Gordon West, Gila WoodNet
  - Marlin Deras, Volunteer Intern for SJNF
  - Scott Zager, Wildlands Ecological Services, colleague with Gordon West
  - Lindsey Hansen, Range, Invasives and Ecology Program Manager, SJNF
  - John Waconda, USFS Restoration Partnership Coordinator, SW Region (3)
  - Laura McCarthy, The Nature Conservancy, Associate State Director
  - Brent Racher, Business owner, President, NM Forest Industry Association
  - Fred Ellis, SJNF, Assistant Fire Management Officer
  - Garret Hanks, Trout Unlimited, SW CO Field Coordinator
  - Mary Stuever, NMSF District Forester, Environmental Forestry Division
  - Laurel Sebastian, Mountain Studies Institute, Research and Education Asst.
  - Ellen Roberts, CO State Legislature, CSFS Contractor
  - Emma Kelly, Chama Peak Land Alliance VISTA Volunteer
  - Bill Trimarco, Firewise of Southwest Colorado, Archuleta Co. Coordinator
  - Toner Mitchell, Trout Unlimited, NM Public Lands Coordinator
  - Emily Hohman, ED of Chama Peak Land Alliance
  - Jerry Archuleta, NRCS, Archuleta County District Conservationist
  - Ellen Drew, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Regional Manager

## 9:30 to 10:10 2017 Wrap UP

- III. Survey Recap- See Documents sent 1.10.18
  - Let the watersheds do the local, on-the-ground work, and focus The 2-3-2 on larger, regional projects and coordination/support of groups
  - John McConda, by bringing groups together, we can leverage funding and resources to support smaller groups and projects; supports communication between Forest Service and smaller groups within and beyond their region
  - Survey is a great achievement in itself! Thanks
  - Aaron Kimple – Need time to talk, network, collaborate; turn focus to firm deliverables
  - Vicki Christiansen- She's interested in our work Rural initiatives program in development- they are

- interested in our
- Should set 75% goal in the future
- Potential question:
  1. Who do you think is missing from the group?
    - a. Forest product contractors

#### 10:30 to 10:45 Structure

- IV. Approve proposal
  - Should we include definitions in structure documents? MSI: Intention is to have education/outreach or TRAM committees work of definitions, bring back to group for discussion before May meeting
- V. **Executive Committee:** Aaron Kimple, Anthony Madrid, Mary Stuever, Emily Hohman, Adam Moore, Norman Vigil (or NRCS Representative- pending), Andrea (RGNF- pending) and Chris (CNF- pending), Laura McCarthy (pending)

#### 10:45 to 11:10 Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)

- VI. Review
  - Add “organizations and individuals”
  - Make mission statement a positive emphasis, not negative
  - Who do we want to sign this? We would love to have higher ups sign on, but we intend for this document to allow the group in this room to vote, but allows more understanding about the group before they sign.
  - Call it the “Agreement to Participate”, then create a “Memorandum of Cooperation” to send formally to agencies for vetting/feedback and PR
  - Add explicit note about becoming a voting member by signing document
  - Sign the Agreement to Participate as an individual more than agency?
  - Maybe we add a short explanation/agreement to The 2-3-2 on sign in sheet
  - Do we even need a voting body? We have done well as a consensus based group
  - Add language in structure document about establishing the advisory committee (by attendance and participation?) to elect the Executive Committee and have Advisory Committee in place to check the Executive Committee
  - Mostly the group operates based on consensus
  - Extreme simplification of Agreement to Participate, one time sign in, but bow out as needed
  - This would solidify The 2-3-2 and allow easy participation, understanding
  - May meeting for sign up

#### 11:45 to 12:00 Communications Plan

- VII. Website
  - All About Watersheds
    1. Can we share data share data with Forest Service- we think so
    2. Content editing is ran through Ferguson Lynch- indirect

3. We could be within the site, or direct users to our specific site
  4. Shared calendar and other tools are cumbersome to navigate, but it is good for sharing edits on large files
  5. Storage should be unlimited
  6. Once done, shareable through library to public and shouldn't need login
  7. We will send login information again
- We will create a simple Squarespace for documents, public access etc., but not necessarily complex data sharing

VIII. Communication Material Needs

- Who are we trying to outreach? General Public, partners, funders etc.
- Facebook page could be useful to share events among partners
- Goal is to redirect public back to local groups in their region
- Internal vs. external communication: quarterly newsletters vs. flyers, website
- What about funneling our funding to smaller groups for outreach- what infrastructure would we need in place to do so?
- Blog on website: story series on partnerships
- One pager by March videoconference- Page
- Newsletter- tell your stories!
- Timber/Biomass example: need to share information and promote needs on supply, then host information on a site including contractors, maps, timber sales, and filling need of firewood
- Mitigation, fire projects- also needs to share information in similar format

IX. What is our messaging?

- Needs to address cohesive strategy funding directly
- Address our mission – watersheds, forest health, community resiliency etc.
- Background: Forests are dense, more intense fire, connected to water and communities, need to return to our open forests, cleaner water
- What is unique about us (what brought funding?): Landscape scale approach that builds upon existing collectives to make landscape more resilient; ecologically linked system across state and agency borders, ecologically united despite political divides
- Building off local pillars (smaller groups/collaboratives)
- Economies of scale- big mill making it easier for small companies to succeed, is there another analogy
- But add complexity- ex: a needed fire (good) may clog water supply (bad), answer how can we plan for similar issues in the future
- Education and Outreach committee can work on flushing it out

**12:00 to 12:45 LUNCH – Committee Gatherings**

- X. This was a brief breakout meeting to get ideas for future meetings rolling. Please continue work over the next few months, get ready to report out by March videoconferencing

**12:45 to 1:10 Committee Report Outs:**

- XI. Biomass
  - Members: Bill Trimarco (Chair), Mary Stuever, Adam Moore, Amy Miller, Andra Thaden, Brent Racher, Ellen Roberts, Gordon West, Laura McCarthy, Randy Johnson, Scott Zager, Tim Reader; TBD: Carmen Austin, Harold Trujillo, Rachel Wood, Kristine Borchers
  - Determined membership of subcommittee
  - Google Drive determined as format for sharing info
  - Developing blended branding from Colorado and New Mexico to label wood products as local
  - Brainstormed ideas of addressing legislative obstacles
- XII. Education and Outreach
  - Members: Page Buono, Laurel Sebastian, Jerry Archuleta, Matt Tuten, Kent Grant, Mary Stuever, Aaron Kimple
  - Goal of helping tell stories of smaller collaboratives/ groups on website
    1. 12 stories per year is goal. We will ask for help on story ideas
  - Produce one page flyer by March
  - Produce website basics by May
  - Internal newsletter in April, and every subsequent quarter (July, Oct, Jan)
  - Host workshops to facilitate resource sharing: Wood product contractors
  - Goal: bring local partners in from communities surrounding meeting location
- XIII. TRAM and Habitat
  - Members: Aaron Kimple, Toner Mitchell, Lindsey Hansen, Marlin Deras, Anthony Culpepper, John Waconda, Norman Vigil (Not Present: Tony Cheng, Kent Reid)
  - Discussed East Rio Arriba Soil and Conservation - Secured funding for thinning and habitat improvement
  - Action Items
    1. Develop shared definitions – May – Garret, Anthony, Aaron
    2. Develop process to share and review project proposals
    3. Identify potential opportunities for science/ new practices
    4. Support assessment/Monitoring of impacts
    5. Work with education/ outreach to talk with landowners
    6. Work with permittees – education on techniques
    7. Review/ support monitoring plans: develop a liaison process for project
    8. Develop a monitoring program: evaluate holistic monitoring effort
    9. Develop process for identifying goals and objectives upfront
    10. Map proposed projects and identify habitat: evaluate/ assess holistic impact
- XIV. MOU Group
  - Backed up to a very basic MOU to agree to talk about fire generally after starting with a very specific conversation about wildfire response on private lands. This MOU is an agreement to talk about fire management but does not address specifics like resource sharing, money, etc.
  - Later, they want to focus in on more specific topics: prescribed burns, shared resources, wildfire response etc. Any specific agreements will likely reference back to this general MOU.
  - Need to update legal language for Colorado, add partner mission statements, make edits to text as needed, and vet it through partners
  - Touch base in beginning of February to talk more about the MOU language and gather needed info.

**1:10 to 1:45 Discussion of Biomass Grant Proposal**

- Asked for letter of support from the 2-3-2; will get Aaron talking points

- Gordon West and Scott Zager, Trollworks LLC
- CFRP grant in to get Biomass pyrolyzers on campus (gasifier stoves that make clean heat and biochar)
- Needs 500-600 tons of slash a year, cost ~\$50,000 to install
- For Northern New Mexico College (Española, El Rito); they couldn't pay the bill to heat campus and shut down
  1. They had wildland forest and soil science programs and created a great local workforce in northern NM
  2. They had a simtable with duals projectors, great training opportunity
- Most profitable forest product in 2004 was fuel wood
- Trollworks has created Chipcrete (wall material), Zerosion
- Biochar: soil additive to promote microbial ecology, plant growth and carbon sequestration
- 1 g. of biochar has the surface area equivalent of ¼ acre- water storage
- Trying to create a community scale program and product
- Carson National Forest would be source of biomass
- College would dry and process the wood products for sale

#### 1:45 to 3:45 Goals for 2018

- XV. San Juan Headwaters Map Presentation- Will send map and survey link in email to group
- Need to track our impact of the landscape in a uniform format
  - All info collected through survey form
  - New Mexico Opportunity Map- most agencies participate already, maybe we can integrate the two projects across state lines, Mary will send email to connect Anthony with Kent and Katie
- XVI. Round robin on planned work
- **Matt Tuten and Fred Ellis, SJNF, USFS**
    1. Pagosa Area Long Term Stewardship Project Contract (5/10 years)
    2. Moving into Jackson area
    3. Active spruce salvage on Wolf Creek Pass
    4. 3 planning efforts: salvage north of Pagosa, SE end of forest in The 2-3-2 landscape (difficult w/ landscape, looking at fire), and prescribed burn planning
    5. Last year we only burnt about 100 acres due to challenges
    6. Looking at more burning in 2018 in Fawn Gulch, Turkey Springs, Fourmile, Rio Blanco
    7. Bulk of mastication work is on oak, costs \$200-320 an acre
    8. Rio Blanco may become a priority watershed
    9. Comment: information on upcoming sales etc. would be extremely helpful for contractors to plan ahead
  - **Gordon West, Trollworks LLC**
    1. Wants The 2-3-2 to support the biomass project at the college
    2. San Juan Chama Watershed Partnership could do more of the actual monitoring, not The 2-3-2
    3. We can publicize the work and write a letter of support and state how it follows our guidelines (through Biomass committee)
  - **Norman Vigil**
    1. RCPP Grant coming through (Research Conservation Partnership Program), through NRCS.

- Hopefully starting on treatments this fall
  - 2. Funds approved, but details of how they would be allocated, needs for agreements still TBD
  - 3. Need to set up application and ranking process to determine which properties to treat – 5 year project
  - 4. 19+ partners on treatment program
- **Adam Moore**
  - 1. CAFA funds available, but held up by HOA
  - 2. Hopefully using CPW HPP, to treat around reservoir (San Luis Valley)
  - 3. Finish NEPA for Spruce salvage near Conejos Canyon
  - 4. Finishing NEPA in Fox Creak
  - 5. Thinking about full NEPA in Conejos Canyon, rim to rim in WUI
  - 6. Conservation Innovation grant to figure out how to tackle obstacles like TREX. Adam will lead conversation- due Feb 26<sup>th</sup>
- **Kent Grant, CSU**
  - 1. CAFA grant (USFS) went to San Juan Headwaters to treat low income Pagosa neighborhood (Thanks Bill Trimarco!)
  - 2. The Good Neighbor Authority, USFS collaborating to treat across boundaries
  - 3. Project north of Durango to thin some forests
- **Ashley Downing and Bill Trimarco, Firewise**
  - 1. Expand mitigation program- chip rebate and cost share site mitigation program (match up to 50% of treatment)
  - 2. Funding from BLM, hopefully from CSFS too
  - 3. Approval to use La Plata funding in Archuleta
  - 4. Ambassador Program expanding- reach out to neighbors in community
  - 5. Wildfire Preparedness Day – May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - 6. Bridging the Divide- 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of West Fork fire- June
  - 7. Wildland Partners Program has offered to help us,
- **Randy Johnson**
  - 1. Three days of collaboration training
  - 2. Need to get the right people at the table for biomass projects to move
- **Toner Mitchell and Garrett Hanks, Trout Unlimited**
  - 1. Upper Rio Grande Community Initiative with economic outcome
  - 2. Now in contact with acequia and ranching community leaders
  - 3. Lots of projects around watershed health, restoration etc.
  - 4. Wanting to find project to pair watershed restoration directly with forest thinning
  - 5. Priority watershed designation
    - a. Prioritizes resources and funding for specific area
    - b. Internal process in USFS
    - c. If you come forward with money and project, USFS may be motivated to make that a priority to maximize funds
- **Laura McCarthy**
  - 1. Emphasis on getting funding to scale up markets
  - 2. Successful on getting two 5 year agreements
  - 3. CPLA
  - 4. Focusing on counties, to get signed agreements to pitch in
  - 5. New work on wildlife corridors and movement

6. Monitoring and adaptive management- funding to develop systematic and automated monitoring system to increase accessibility
- **Brent Racher**
    1. Most contractors are busy, but growing very slowly; we need to help with that expansion to meet regional need
    2. Seeing more planning, policy changes, etc. which is great
  - **Mary Stuever**
    1. Forest and Watershed Health Research Institute, NM Highlands University working on multiple workshops this spring on NM Opportunity Map
    2. Working with Rio Arriba County to develop Firewise network
      - a. All in result of discovering millions in funding
    3. WUI and non-federal land grants- Rio Arriba County, Cebolla Area
    4. New grant applications should be out in February for non-federal lands
    5. Landscape Scale Restoration Grants – due in September, looking for partners
    6. Forest Legacy Program – Brazos Cliffs close to being in conservation easement, added to other property network
    7. Providing technical support to county to develop special use burning permits – 2 pile burns in last two weeks
    8. Support NRCS to create forest description
  - **Emma Kelly**
    1. Chama Congresso, about Rio Chama Watershed, Dates for event TBA
    2. Working to finalize documents on partnership before April
  - **Tim Reader**
    1. Center for Collaborative Partnerships project is a big task
    2. He is Region 2 biomass coordinator, need Buck Sanchez from region 3
    3. CCC grant
    4. Council of Western State Forestry – Carmen from New Mexico
    5. Small grant for private sector funding for work on public land
  - **Ellen Roberts**
    1. Cooperative Catalyst forming
      - a. Cooperative bank to help small businesses with grant
    2. Hosting a few value chain workshops related to wood forest products
    3. Partnered with chicken farmers, compost etc. to grow wood products
    4. Mora County- 15 acre plot, \$3,000, Collaborative Visions will take over wood yard
    5. Solid waste grants from USDA, due Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, don't have many wood product applications, so eager to give
    6. Wood products workers comp a huge barrier for hiring NM contractors, but safety courses can help lower rate
      - a. 6% workers comp in other states, 29% in NM
  - **Lindsey Hansen**
    1. Remember invasives: include in your grant proposals/ monitoring
  - **Emily Hohman**
    1. Firming up Navajo Blanco basins project
    2. CPLA funds to coordinate a TRES- 7 days- Chama to Durango/Dolores – 15-17 participants
      - a. Training, outreach,
      - b. NMSF – firefighter training available



- c. Anthony Madrid finding funding for fall of 2018
    - 3. Pile burn limitation in Archuleta County after passed ordinance
      - a. Trying to address concerns
    - 4. Use Contiki to create smoke-free fire (Trollworks LLC product)
    - 5. MOU moving forward
    - 6. Prescribed burns near Pagosa Springs
    - 7. Looking for ways to get stock burn plans written and ready to go
    - 8. Compiled state of the science report on CO cutthroat trout
    - 9. Looking to hire VISTA through Feb. for 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year
    - 10. Community Gathering – January 26<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm Chama Land and Cattle Lodge
  - **Jerry Archuleta**
    - 1. Atmospheric chemist to speak on smoke March 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm, Pagosa Springs
    - 2. Good Neighbor Authority agreement with Colorado State Forest Service program
  - **Aaron Kimple**
    - 1. Four Mile collaborative treatment: USFS, Forest Health Co., NRCS, PAWSD
    - 2. Sitting on CO State Forest Health Advisory Council
      - a. Talking about prescribed fire, biomass legislation
      - b. Working to build bridge between forests and CO Water Conservation Board to support forest health
- XVII. Going forward with the tracker
  - Add partnerships launched, connections made, letters of support signed, legislation needed (obstacles faced etc.) sections
- XVIII. Calendar of Events
- XIX. Goals for 2018
  - Gather all necessary agreements, partners on shelf to pull when it's time to burn
    - 1. Knowing funding, liability issues to be worked out
  - Help to provide larger land managers sounding board for projects

**3:45 to 4:00 Next Steps (See first page)**

- Subcommittees meet next month and report out in March
- Next meeting May 16<sup>th</sup> in Toas, South Fork in September
- Summarize Goals and action items
- Website
- Send event calendar to us to have us share