

**NWCOS Planning Committee Meeting**  
**March 10, 2005**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attending**

Jeremy Casterson, Jeff Comstock, Steve Hinkemeyer, Reed Morris, Jane Yazzie, Kristi Parker Celico, and Heather Bergman. Stephen Flaherty, Fred Julander, and Marianna Raftopoulos participated in the latter half of the meeting.

**Action Items**

1. Update on Assessment Analysis

Jeremy brought a draft of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a contractor to do the socioeconomic baseline study and analysis for the Resource Management Plan.

- a. He is considering adding a task to this RFP requiring a non-market values assessment. It is likely that BLM will not have monies available to pay for this additional assessment, but the Planning Committee and BLM are interested in getting estimates regarding non-market value assessments given the level of NWCOS interest in this type of research.
- b. Jeremy will keep the Planning Committee informed about any changes in the rushed schedule for getting the RFP completed. Unless we hear otherwise, we will assume that the NWCOS meeting on March 16 is still the last opportunity to comment on the draft RFP.
- c. The Planning Committee has set aside tentative times for future meetings on this topic, should they be needed. These times are March 16 from 12-1 p.m. and March 22 from 10 a.m. to noon (by phone). [Facilitator's Note: These additional meetings were later determined to be unnecessary.]

2. NWCOS Finances

Kristi described the status of NWCOS's contract with The Keystone Center. The current contract will likely run out of funds around the end of June, after which time more funds will be needed for Kristi's work.

- a. Kristi suggested and the Committee agreed that it might be best to seek grant funding for Keystone's future work instead of asking NWCOS members to pay for these expenses. To the extent there is funding available from NWCOS participants, Kristi recommends this go toward economic studies and/or computer modeling that NWCOS desires instead of facilitation services.
- b. Reed agreed to spearhead an effort, with Kristi's assistance, to write grants for funds for the next contract with Keystone. Reed and Kristi will talk about this again and get back to the group.

3. Meeting Length Burn-Out / Timing of Meetings

Jane discussed the findings of some of her calls to learn about how other collaborative efforts have addressed the issue of citizen burn-out and how to increase participation. Jane also raised the idea of changing the meeting times in order to encourage more citizens to attend.

- a. Jane agreed to lead an effort to create a small packet of information summarizing NWCOS's progress to date. This packet would be made available at all NWCOS meetings, as well as at the library. Reed agreed to help Jane with this project.
- b. The Committee decided that this might be a job for the Participation and Communication Subcommittee, and agreed to bring this issue before NWCOS.
- c. Each member of the Planning Committee agreed to contact people who came to one NWCOS meeting and then never came back. They will urge these people to give NWCOS a second chance, explaining that the group is doing more substantive work now. The Committee divided up the list of one-time visitors to NWCOS and agreed to make calls in the next few weeks.
- d. Heather agreed to look on the website of the Partnership Series for some information on maintaining and increasing public participation through complex government planning processes.
- e. Regarding a change in the monthly meeting times, the group decided not to make such a change at this time. However, the issue will be discussed again as meetings are planned for the period after June 2005.

#### 4. Community Viz

Those who attended the Community Viz presentation on February 17 discussed what the next steps are regarding this planning software.

- a. The Committee decided there is no need to act now on Community Viz. If NWCOS wants to use the software, that would happen after BLM completes the formation of alternatives.
- b. Keystone will write an update to be included in the materials for the March 16 NWCOS meeting.

#### 5. Keystone Internship

##### Background regarding this topic:

For the last two to three Planning Committee meetings, the Planning Committee had discussed Kristi's request for adding a junior person to the project. This request was based on two concerns: 1) Kristi works three days a week and also has other projects. Increasingly, she is finding it difficult to accomplish all the needed NWCOS tasks in a timely fashion. 2) Some of the tasks that are time-consuming—such as the drafting of meeting notes—could be drafted by a more junior person, which could save the project money. In particular, Kristi was seeking the following types of skills:

- Good writer who has at least basic knowledge of the topics;
- Ability to start immediately and help through the June 30 alternatives formulation crunch;
- Appreciation of the sensitivities of the issues;
- Ability to keep personal views to themselves and out of the discussions and documents;
- Can-do attitude.

Several members of the Planning Committee expressed a strong desire for providing input into who Keystone might hire, as opposed to Keystone pursuing this task on its own.

At a Planning Committee conference call on February 8, Kristi discussed the idea of teaming with Yampa Valley Partnership, with the idea of handing over all NWCOS responsibilities to this organization over time. During this call, the Planning Committee stated that they would prefer Keystone to stay as the sole facilitator at this time given the vast number of challenges that NWCOS is undertaking. Also, some Planning Committee members stated that they did not think current Yampa Valley Partnership staff would be the best fit for NWCOS facilitation either in the short- or long-term.

At the Planning Committee lunch meeting on February 24, Kristi presented three options to the Planning Committee, these included Heather Bergman, Todd Bryant, and Audrey Danner. Kristi explained that Heather could start immediately and would work for free. Todd Bryant could start immediately and work for \$100 an hour. Audrey Danner had stated that she was not able to provide NWCOS with minute-taking services in the short-term, but remained interested in teaming with NWCOS over the long-term. During the discussion, Planning Committee members expressed an interest in continuing to pursue a long-term option with Yampa Valley, although members disagreed regarding whether it is Yampa Valley Partnership's responsibility or NWCOS's responsibility to push forward the agenda of helping Yampa Valley develop broader skills to house a bigger northwest Colorado facilitation business. Other Planning Committee members noted that Todd Bryant had interviewed to be the facilitator of NWCOS and that he was rejected at that time. Still other Planning Committee members noted that there may well be objections to Heather given her recent internship at The Wilderness Society. Based on this discussion, the Planning Committee agreed to contact a number of the NWCOS members they thought might be most opposed to having Heather take notes. Jeff Comstock agreed to contact Vanessa Cameron, Fred Julander, T. Wright Dickinson, and Tom Gray.

The Planning Committee agreed that if these four members were okay with the concept, Keystone would put a note out to the full NWCOS group seeking their input. Jeff reported back to the Planning Committee that some of these four individuals did not particularly like the idea, but were willing to try it on a day-by-day basis for note-taking. Given the apparent agreement of these individuals, Keystone put out notice to the full NWCOS group stating that the Planning Committee recommended proceeding with Heather for note-taking. NWCOS members were encouraged to contact any Planning Committee member if they had concerns. Two NWCOS members contacted Planning Committee members with concerns. These individuals were invited to attend the next NWCOS Planning Committee meeting.

### **Planning Committee Discussion of March 10**

Kristi reviewed the above history and the Planning Committee listened to concerns from Stephen Flaherty, Fred Julander, and Marianna Raftopoulos. These three expressed both substantive and process concerns:

- 1) First, they were concerned that Heather had most recently completed an internship at the Wilderness Society (TWS), and they thought that it seemed inappropriate to move from an

advocacy organization like TWS to the “referee’s box”. This was of particular importance in light of the numerous lawsuits that The Wilderness Society has brought against oil and gas interests.

- 2) Second, they did not like how the process was handled. In particular, they had received mixed signals between emails and personal discussions as to whether this was a “done deal” or still open for discussion. They felt that Stephen and Fred should have been contacted before the rest of NWCOS was contacted—due to the on-going, contentious nature of the relationship between TWS and the oil and gas industry. Finally, they noted that Kristi should not have allowed this option to come forth to the Planning Committee or NWCOS given the inappropriateness of someone moving from TWS to The Keystone Center.

During this discussion, the Planning Committee clarified that this was not a “done deal” and that the Planning Committee would not proceed with Heather if any NWCOS participants were not comfortable with the idea.

Several members of the Planning Committee, Stephen, and Fred discussed this issue at the meeting, during the day, and again at the end of the day. As a result of these discussions, two items were agreed upon:

- 1) Meeting participants agree to proceed with having Heather take NWCOS meeting notes. This decision was primarily based on three factors:
  - i. Kristi needs the additional help immediately, and Heather is capable and willing to do the work at no cost to NWCOS;
  - ii. Planning Committee meeting participants understand that Heather’s work will be limited to non-confidential tasks that are reviewed first by Kristi and then approved by NWCOS; and
  - iii. An expectation that Heather will act in full good faith recognizing that this arrangement was approved with heartburn for some, but allowed in appreciation of a student who is trying to advance her career and assist NWCOS.
- 2) The Committee concluded that earlier discussions on the internship by the Planning Committee had not allowed the oil and gas sector to comment adequately on this idea prior to it being presented to the full NWCOS. For this reason, Marianna Raftopoulos will participate in all upcoming Planning Committee meetings and calls. Also, Kristi will raise with NWCOS the issue of changing the make-up of the Planning Committee to address the problem in a more permanent way.