

**NWCOS Planning Committee
Conference Call: March 24, 2005
Summary**

Attendance

Jeremy Casterson, Jeff Comstock, Steve Hinkemeyer, Reed Morris, Marianna Raftopoulos, Jane Yazzie, Kristi Parker Celico, and Heather Bergman.

Action Items

- 1) Jeremy will follow up with Colorado State University (CSU) regarding a Cooperative Agreement for the socioeconomic study. He will involve the chairperson of the Resource Economics department in these discussions. He will ask the chairperson and other faculty members to come to Craig to talk about this project, perhaps on the morning of April 19 or the afternoon/evening of April 20.
- 2) Kristi will meet with Audrey Danner at Yampa Valley Partnership to begin to assess if a long-term relationship between NWCOS and Yampa Valley may be appropriate.
- 3) Kristi will give feedback to Cheryl Wagner on her survey, will tell Cheryl she can speak briefly and hand out the survey at the NWCOS meeting on May 18, and will send Marianna a copy of the survey in its current form.
- 4) Keystone will send out an email to all of NWCOS outlining the background, issues, and options surrounding the issues for expanding the Planning Committee. In this email she will ask if there are more people who want to be on the Planning Committee mailing list (in order to increase awareness of and participation in Planning Committee meetings).
- 5) Current members of the Planning Committee will give some thought to having alternatives who can attend meetings when the members themselves are unable to do so.
- 6) The Planning Committee will remind NWCOS members that Steve and Reed's terms are ending on the Planning Committee and to begin to encourage others to think about filling their seats.
- 7) Kristi will add a public comment period into agendas for future NWCOS meetings.

Items from Meeting Agenda (each will be discussed below)

- 1) Socioeconomic study
- 2) Schedule of subcommittee meetings
- 3) Yampa Valley Partnership
- 4) CSU Survey
- 5) Planning Committee structure
- 6) Planning Committee member terms ending

Socioeconomic Study

Jeremy said that John Husband was very impressed with the unity of NWCOS's recommendation that BLM consider having CSU do the baseline, impact, and non-market analyses of socioeconomics in the Little Snake Resource Area (LSRA). Jeremy said that there are basically two ways of moving forward with this: 1) BLM engages in a Cooperative Agreement with CSU; 2) John Loomis's contracting business competes in a standard open process for the contract and then subcontracts some of the work out to others at CSU. Each of these approaches has its drawbacks. For the Cooperative Agreement option, it would have to be

demonstrated that there is a social benefit of the work to be done, and CSU may charge a high overhead fee for this work. For the Loomis contracts and then subcontracts to CSU option, Loomis would be the lead on the project, which might make some NWCOS members uncomfortable. After much discussion about these issues and based on the limited details available at this time, the Planning Committee favored:

- 1) Jeremy pursuing the Cooperative Agreement option with CSU, hoping to find a way around the high overhead cost issue.
- 2) The work should go to the entire Resource Economics department at CSU, and the chairperson of this department should be actively involved in the planning and implementation of this project.
- 3) Jeremy should discuss with the chairperson and other faculty members the possibility of them coming to Craig to talk with the Planning Committee and interested NWCOS members about this project.

Schedule of Subcommittee Meetings

Because BLM has not yet completed the alternative shell that was going to be discussed at the subcommittee meetings on April 6 and 7, these meetings needed to be rescheduled. Committee members shared NWCOS feedback regarding preferred times for meeting on these dates and recognized, given this feedback, that no times would work well for all participants. The following schedule was agreed upon:

- The Vegetation/Habitat Subcommittee meeting will be on April 19, 1-4 p.m.
- The Travel/Recreation Subcommittee meeting will be on April 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- The Energy Subcommittee meeting will be on April 20, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- The Special Designations Subcommittee meeting will be on April 20, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

The Committee asked Jeremy to see if the CSU Resource Economics folks could arrange to be in Craig on the morning of April 19 or the afternoon/evening of April 20.

Yampa Valley Partnership

Kristi proposed to the Committee that she meet with Audrey Danner of Yampa Valley Partnership (YVP) to begin discussions about considering the possibility of transferring the facilitation and organizational functions that are now performed by The Keystone Center to YVP over time. These would be preliminary discussions to see what the possibilities are. It was agreed that Kristi should have this discussion with Audrey and report back to the Planning Committee.

CSU Survey

Heather briefly summarized the survey on relationships in collaborative processes that Cheryl Wagner of CSU wants to give to NWCOS members. It was agreed that Cheryl will be asked to give a brief introduction to the survey right before dinner at the May 18 NWCOS meeting, and the surveys will be handed out during dinner. Reed and other members of the Planning Committee will encourage members to complete the survey, because it is part of NWCOS's commitment to allow CSU to study the group. Marianna asked to see a copy of the survey.

Planning Committee Structure

The Committee discussed the idea of restructuring the Planning Committee to:

- 1) Ensure that a broader diversity of participants are represented—as NWCOS has grown and become more diverse; and/or
- 2) Attempt to shorten NWCOS meetings by increasing the organizational (not substantive) responsibilities of the Planning Committee.

It was decided that:

- 1) Keystone will send out an email to all of NWCOS outlining the background, issues, and options surrounding this topic; in this email Keystone will ask if there are more people who want to be on the Planning Committee mailing list (in order to increase awareness of and participation in Planning Committee meetings).
- 2) Current members of the Planning Committee will give some thought to having alternatives who can attend meetings when the members themselves are unable.
- 3) As members rotate off the Planning Committee, they will remain active for at least one month after their terms end in order to help the person filling their seat make the transition.

Planning Committee Member Terms Ending

The Committee was reminded that Reed and Steve's terms are ending in April. The committee will give some thought to who might replace them.

Additional Issue

It was suggested that a public comment period be added to all future NWCOS meeting agendas in order to provide citizens who are interested in NWCOS but not interested and/or able to attend a full meeting to share their thoughts with the full group. The Committee agreed that this should be done.

Next Meeting

The next Planning Committee call will be on April 12th, from 4-5 p.m., at which time the committee will review the agendas for the subcommittee meetings on April 19 and 20.