

AGENDA

SE UTAH RIPARIAN PARTNERSHIP MEETING

10 am to 2 pm June 26, 2019

BLM Conference Room

In attendance: Kara Dohrenwend (Rim to Rim), Shannon Wadas (RiversEdge West), John Leary (RiversEdge West), Duncan Fuchise (Rim to Rim), Tony Mancuso (FFSL), Jake Deslauriers (UCC), Nicole Croke (UCC), Tim Higgs (Grand County Weeds), Pam Riddle (BLM), Tim Graham (individual), Michael Smith (PRI), Josh Doucette (NPS), Liz Ballenger (NPS), Kelli Quinn (NPS), Nicole Nielson (DWR), Gabe Bissonette (BLM), Steve Young (NPS), Keri Frandson (Travel Council), Makeda Hanson (DWR), Tamsin McCormack (PRI), Rani Derasary (City of Moab, council member), Gerrish Willis (CWC). There were no core team meetings due to government shutdown- made some calls and chatted about agenda- wiggled room to add anything to the agenda. Will work on a core team meeting late summer for follow up

Partnership updates

NPS-phragmites- Kelli

- Southeast Utah phragmites project: getting a better rep. of native and non-native, standardize/digitize a data dictionary by mid-July to partners.
- Field trip planned in Arches in early August
- Start iding populations
- Compile data, triage collection sites- done by January to get an idea of how many sites, funding needed, collect samples to be sent off in the spring to determine nativity
- Goal is to help people in the field feel comfortable with iding
- If not signed up and interested let Kelli know
- To get in on field trip- sign up via email: _kelli_quinn@nps.gov

UDWR- Matheson Razorback sucker project- Nicole and Makeda

- Working to create a brooding pond
- Tried to do a trial run this year but just received the gates to install so used temporary barriers
- Linear channel will go back into the pond for habitat for the sucker
- Will install gates this fall
- Native fish crew have done some sampling and did detect larvae sized fish

MOU progress- Kara

- Shannon Hatch started the process of getting the MOU signed but ran into issues with San Juan County and BLM. Hoping to get this signed within the next couple of months. Kara will work on this this summer/fall
- Need master from REW

Tim Graham - update on beetle monitoring efforts

- 2018 at the end of the season there was very little green but canopy coverage had increased at the beginning of the year
- Last survey of the year was middle of September and it was noted the canopy is not recovering as well as at the end of September as it has in the past.
- Winter of 2011/12 had some of the highest counts
- Fall of 2012 was the start of a collapse of the population- went into diapause early that year
- Population starting to come back up now
- It appears that trees have less reserves, there are sections along Potash and River Road where there is complete brown out
- Recruitment- separated into watershed positions: peaks in 2011 (more species in the system than any other year). All sites showed a decline after 2011. There isn't any funding for recruitment collection in

2019. There is a lot of biomass, maybe not as many species. With the high water and other things it could be important to see how they are responding now vs. in 2011. **Need about \$2000**

- Some rivers are getting some increase in plant coverage, perennial natives are showing some increase over time as are natives in general. Some sites have no live plants under the defoliated canopy. (abundance)

WRI field trip - July 25th

- Have 6 boats to go on
- UPCD members have first priority for this trip. Once Tony has RSVPs for the UPCD members there may be some spots for SURP members to join on too.
- UCC, RRR and FFSL providing boats
- No boats confirmed from BLM – though Gabe thinks that 2 are available for this
- Tony will be sending out emails about this

Travel Council “Do it Like a Local” movement - possible TC wag bags?- Keri

- Travel Council has a new campaign that they are launching this 4th of July
- “Do it like a local” is an informational movement rather than an advertising campaign
- Logo is brand new, and apparently is part of a larger effort that will eventually be across the country
- The idea of providing WagBags as swag in this campaign was brought up. Discussion ensued and it was noted that the Clean Waste is the biodegradable kind of bag, Rest Stop is not biodegradable. There was lively discussion about the challenges of providing these bags (they end up in vault toilets, recycling bins etc) and also why aren’t we just teaching proper LNT etiquette. It was brought up that this is becoming the new standard because too many people.
- Tony noted that the Governors Office of Water Quality is working on this with a Master’s student- people from out of Moab need wag bags before they get to Moab. Focus on a holistic level. What is your essential packing list. **Travel Council should call Meghan Tait- get contact info from Tony Meghan Tait, USU MS student working on human waste education: Meghan.tait@aggiemail.usu.edu** (Thanks, Tony, for passing the info along)
- Have the Travel Council at least contact LNT before they move forward with the campaign. Traveling trainers with LNT will come to Moab- help folks interacting with the public.

REW resources – videos to use - Shannon

- All of the videos are on REW’s website and are available for use.
- <https://riversedgewest.org/about-us/riverside-stories>
- If you would like to find out more information as far as the production and doing something similar contact John and he can put you in touch with Cara, REW’s Outreach Coordinator.

Mill Creek Community Collaborative - Kara

- Mill Creek Community Collaborative- survey will be open until July 7th, will also be available at the July 4th event; working for around 500 responses
- There will be follow up meetings in the community after the summer.

Project updates

Vegetation Management Response Report- Kara

- Vegetation Response to Manipulation- please provide feedback on report. We can send it out with the notes. Used Relative Native Cover as a way to look at native cover compared to the non-native cover. From our data collected, burning doesn't seem to be a good thing for a site.
- Some people who helped with gathering data will be looking over the report to help edit. We also have individual reports done and will get them to landowners.
- Will be doing a more detailed report for Mill Creek.
- The longer the time frame of monitoring the more significant changes we see.
- Rim to Rim would like all SURP members to provide feedback on this report and next steps by the end of August.

Beetle map- REW

- Both species moving down into AZ
- Map available on REW's website
- Evolution will certainly play into the movement into AZ
- Southeast AZ there were reports of presence

WRI Project Update – end 2.0, start 3.0 (Kara/Tony/Jake/Gabe/Tamsin...etc)

Colorado River 2.0 update:

- o Take Out Beach and Onion Put in should have some success with cottonwood plantings, there also were plants put in at Take Out and in the upland at Onion that looked great. Used cut tamarisk to fence in new plantings, also fenced in plants and didn't get eaten by the cows. Need to check back in July or early August to see if truly succeeded in establishing some of these.
- o Jake- wrapping up last stages of implementation for 2.0.
- o Starting 3.0 on private lands on Kane Creek- recreation sites were re-treated. Working on Matheson addressing white top and Russian knapweed. Gong to get TRO pulled out as well and doing some re-treatments. Good year for knapweed.
- **Lesson learned**- any type of glyphosate is very sensitive to temps- frill cutting has been much more effective when properly storing glyphosate between seasons. (do not mix with river water). Works on cut stumps ok but not frill. Life span of glyphosate is 2-3 years. Will work on completion report/lessons learned.
- Tony: wants to coordinate multi agency herbicide roundup. Plantings did really great with 2.0.
- Tony: Planted grass at 191- doing really well. Importance of over winter shade (eg snow) when planting.
- Tamsin: At Potash- started with UCC to remove shorter trees from riverbank opening up new routes. Focused on transplanting, mostly grasses. Have a large stage of grasses to plant this fall. Amazed at seed bank. Re-sprout treatment went well. Perennial pepper weed really came back. Kara: In working with Town of Castle Valley- put together handouts for private landowner Tamarisk or Russian olive treatment for anyone to use in this group. Would like feedback. Will send out electronically with a deadline for feedback.

3.0 appears to have been approved for funding.

- Gabe: Shifted into more of a maintenance mode of operation from first WRI project.
- Nicole Nielson: Prescribed burn did not happen so added to 3.0 to make that happen this fall. Bulrush needs to be burned.

Geodatabase update- Gabe and Tony

- Background: Compile all of the legacy treatments that have happened. First step of getting info in was low hanging fruit. Get all of this on the map, fill in gaps at a future meeting. The idea is to have a history of specific sites. Phased approach- third phase is to have anyone in the field to post to webmap, do it on their own. Don't have a deadline but wanting to be done this year
- Currently the info on legacy sites is sitting at Digitlab in Utah - use data that REW has to look at this from a broader scale.
- A challenge is that all of our data is very different so will take some time. Have standards for treatment currently, not completely for monitoring/maintenance.
- Shannon: Talked with Phoebe and she is waiting for some definitions before she can move forward with entering data.
- **Gabe to look into REW to send out tablet info to group**
These are the recommendations about tablets used for data collection on the Dolores River Restoration Project: The Dolores River Restoration Project uses last year's 64gb Apple iPad mini 4 (https://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/B018TEVTJO/ref=dp_olp_0?ie=UTF8&condition=all) If you can't find that model available the iPad mini 5th generation is also recommended. Be sure to get the wifi+cellular option, because the wifi-only iPads do not have GPS. If you purchase one of these iPads, these are the recommended cases https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00ID1HB0A/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o05_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1. Please keep in mind that this is just a recommendation and you should make sure that these tablets will meet your agency/project/data/computer needs. Contact John if you have any further questions.

Site Re-Assessment update- Duncan

- Presence/absence form was devised by Kara with input from Gabe and Tony. Duncan has been testing it out and will revise it if/as necessary so that by end of process we'll have a final version to use to set up a digital platform for this kind of data for our area
- Are collecting data at project sites that have not been visited for a long time with the goal of a basic/quick assessment to come up with a list of projects for what sites need to be re-treated and why and to help better manage where to put crews at all sites (all owners)
- Guide for typical vegetation/photos/evidence of use/ repeat photos/ private lands sites
- Funding coming through Gabe and Rim to Rims cooperative agreement and some from WRI
- **Share document for White River/ REW should provide rapid monitoring to Jake as well (Kara/REW)**

Visioning discussion

Review where we started, where we've been and the options of where we go next... (Group discussion with a powerpoint prompt by Kara)

Revisit Purpose of group – 10 year/15 year celebration

- Went back through the notes from the fall meeting to work through various questions
- Mission updates in 2018 : *SURP is committed to supporting, informing, and advocating for the restoration, protection, and maintenance of healthy riparian ecosystems in Utah's Colorado River Watershed.*
 - o does the word "advocating" create any issues for federal and state agencies- was agreed that the word in the context of this mission is acceptable
- Group agreed that mission change in 2018 was acceptable. Need to change mission on REW website

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION: We are sharing lessons learned.

Discussion about how and what we get the word out to the community touched on the fact that there are some things, like beetle and vegetation monitoring, that may be useful for the group to get the word out. But in general it was mentioned that other groups (Colorado Plateau River Guides, and others) already do this.

Shannon asked using RO planning and process guidance as an example: Is that through Rim to Rim or SURP? Discussion centered on the fact that we don't really have a mechanism to provide guidance as a group...and with the REW website housing our collaborative work do we need to? It was agreed that as long as items posted cite the sources that most things don't need group approval if the group is using them.

The core team, when it meets this summer/fall can pick up this topic as it was viewed that they might be the logical review committee.

- Core team: Tim Higgs, Tim Graham, Daniel Eddington, Jake, Tamsin and Linda is the last group that met as the core team with Kara and Shannon Hatch facilitating meetings. USGS has sometimes sent someone.

FOCUS OF THE GROUP: Are we a public group or a working group?

The question came up are we a tradeschool, news network or university? We discussed if we are a working group tools accessible to each entity or something else?

Second, do we facilitate work across political boundaries or set direction for projects coordination?

It was agreed that the actual management of each area is up to the land owner/agency and SURP doesn't set direction but rather provides guidance and information. We also agreed we are a working group not a public group although our meetings are open to anyone. It was agreed that all MOU signatories are welcome – and the city and county can send elected officials or staff.

It was agreed that USU and USFWS should be added to the MOU.

Goals and Strategies:

Agreed that SURP is the acronym of choice. The goals from the 2007 plan were reviewed and after some discussion Removed control and removal of TRO because that is not what we do

- The Organize volunteer groups goal was dropped - each entity does their own thing- REW can send out mass emails and announcements for each agency as events come up. Make sure to email John with any events.
- Consensus we do not need the last 3 goals.

FINAL GOALS per group discussion ended up being as follows:

- *Understand the effects of biocontrol on the ecosystem or in the riparian corridor.*
- *Act as a public resource for understanding ecological processes. "Being a resource" = Community outreach about riparian ecosystems.*
- *Coordinate proposals involving multiple partnering agencies*
 - Tony SURP helps coordinate Project proposals and restoration efforts. It is understood that REW and Rim to Rim cite SURP to leverage funding so that they can be there to assist.

Restoration/Strategic Plan Revision

Are we writing a plan saying "WHAT to do" or providing tools for communication across agency boundaries and tools for consistent decision making across boundaries?

We discussed do we need a new plan? Is this more of a riparian plan or a communication plan? This has been a struggle all along- should we now use the re-defined goals to line out the strategic plan (Castle Valley, San Juan examples of objectives under goals).

- Jake: Doesn't seem like we need a restoration plan but a strategic plan is more relevant.
- Shannon: 5 years for a strategic plan? Gabe: That makes sense
- *Group agreed that the most useful plan would be a plan that reflects our new goals list: how are we going to*
 - *Understand the effects of biocontrol on the ecosystem or in the riparian corridor.*

- *Act as a public resource for understanding ecological processes. “Being a resource” = Community outreach about riparian ecosystems.*
- *Coordinate proposals involving multiple partnering agencies*
 - *We are not going to do yet another plan for the Colorado River Corridor.*
- To move forward on this REW and Rim to Rim will send out a survey or set up a google docs sheet- include mission/values/goals- use notes as basis- then we will propose a vision of what the SURP strategic plan will look like