

DRAFT SUMMARY

2022 April BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 20, 1:00 PM (MDT)

Fairfield Ambulance Training Center

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Linda Berger

Morgan Case, TU

Meg Casey, TU

John Chase

Erling Juel

Steve Leathe

Dave Martin

*Jessica Ramirez, BSWC

Lee Signalness

Tracy Wendt, Staff

*by phone

A quorum was present.

Review/approve 2022Q1 meeting summary

- John moved to approve, Linda seconded, all voted in favor to accept meeting summary

BSWC Quarterly Report

- Led willow cutting and planting at Muddy Creek near new bridge. 9 volunteers, 300 willows, ¼ mile of Muddy – almost 2,000 people engaged with this event on social media; event was just 2 weeks ago, will check on them and take photos over time to survey success.
- Doing Instagram and Facebook updates. March was “Women’s HerStory” month that featured MT women in conservation; April is Trash Bingo; May will be Watershed Awareness focused on historical photos of the Sun River watershed
- Water quality monitoring starts tomorrow; so far has entered data from last year’s field season. Social media is an important part of outreach and Jessica has been doing a great job expanding our presence.
- Coming events (included in update presentation)

Executive Director Update

- New WRP Overview – SRWG’s 2012 plan was one of the first DEQ did. Plan is based on EPA requirements and focuses on water quality and the TMDL. SRWG got funding from DNRC to update this plan, which was informed through a special meeting of the Water Quality working group, smaller meetings of targeted groups, and reviewed by board and committee members. It has been a real process, with a lot of great productive feedback. The new plan is broader than water quality – intended to address all of SRWG’s strategic values, many of which overlap with one another. This will help us not have to have multiple plans – the WRP is cohesive, including our project matrix, 10-year workplan, strategic plan, etc., and provides for a long-term full spectrum planning document. Currently in the process of incorporating the extensive feedback received from DEQ earlier in the month. Dave Martin was involved in SRWG’s TMDL in 2002 and helped review this WRP draft. He commented that he likes that this WRP integrates all our previous planning efforts and will be a great tool when we pursue projects and grants. The WRP broadened our Strategic Values so SRWG can work on more types of projects and with more partners.
- Grant Updates

- 2021 WMG – complete, closed out. Paid for WRP, administrative tasks, mileage.
 - 319 DEQ – bridge replacement at Muddy Creek. Complete, closing out next month.
 - Master Plan for Muddy Creek – draft rec'd from consultants. Tracy and Erling working on edits/comments. On pace to be done end of June.
 - Applied for more funding for Muddy Creek Planning to bridge the gap between completion of master plan and construction funds – preliminary design advanced to 70%, start on permits, landowner outreach (pending award announcement)
 - 2022 Capacity Building WMG – not awarded but DNRC provided good feedback and we'll re-apply in May. Will include stipend for Jessica's time, interactive project map, other administrative tasks.
 - WaterSMART Capacity Building \$200k over next 2 years – applied. To cover Tracy time administrative tasks, part of salary for field technician to do water quality and weed tasks
 - Will be applying for other grants to provide match for Muddy Creek and J-wasteway construction
- Give Great Falls
 - May each year through Chamber of Commerce. Goal is to raise \$5k to be matched by GID for total of \$10k.
 - 2022 Events (see final page of this summary)
 - Board expressed support and appreciation for the variety of outreach events SRWG is attempting. Good variety of outreach.
 - Next board meeting is July 20 in Augusta at 1 pm, hoping to get people from that area to attend, with happy hour afterwards.

Committee Updates

- Financial Committee (documents included with board packet)
 - 2022 Budget YTD – ahead in partner contributions, largely from extra money from Winter River Fest, 2021 year-end contributions that came in after Jan 1, memorial contributions for a Sun River enthusiast who passed away. No questions or comments from the board. No changes to budgeted amounts, so nothing to vote on.
 - 60-Day Cash Flow – this document was originally created when we had a much tighter budget. SRWG is in good shape cash-flow-wise. We need to find a way to improve our accounting process so we have more control and better communication.
 - Quarterly Reports – included in report.
 - Board expressed appreciation for our improved financial situation.
- Projects Committee
 - Project spreadsheet (included in board packet). Committee approved some new projects this quarter via the project screening tool and they have been added to the project matrix. Some pre-planning efforts included in the WaterSMART Capacity funding application, such as cataloging fish barriers (environmental and physical), water quality follow up study from 2019 Trend Analysis project, drone survey of the watershed to show “baseline” conditions as we move forward with new work and to provide outreach materials. Regarding drone: would like to use Tanner for drone, but need to document it well to show it's not a conflict of interest – need to get pricing from others who do this kind of work to confirm his rates are reasonable (cost-comparison). Water quality study would likely be done by a grad student at MSU's water quality extension – wouldn't cover full funds for grad student but will apply for other sources if we move forward with this.

- Next steps for committee include reviewing past plans (CMZ report, Kellogg report, Muddy Creek master plan, etc.) that have been developed to identify projects for future.
- Committee Chair noted we're in an important project planning phase right now – not a lot of projects on the ground, but this strategic planning period is important to get us there. It is important to keep feeding the matrix.
- Project matrix was included in the board packet.
- Executive Committee – nothing at this time. This committee is board officers: Erling, John, and Perk. SRWG elected not to have an “at large” member for this committee at this time.
- Governance Committee
 - This summer the committee needs to meet. Currently committee is Perk and Linda with support as needed from Erling. We need to work on recruiting board for underrepresented areas and interests (Augusta, canyon, agriculture, Teton county). We can't serve the whole watershed if we don't have representation from the whole watershed.
 - Action item for next meeting: come with a couple names for consideration, whether you've talked to them about their interest or not. Consider inviting prospective board members to the board meeting in July – see if they show up, give them a chance to meet us and see what we do, how we operate, no commitment. Board members restated the importance of having producers, people who make their living off the land, work in the watershed, participate in our board. Dave Martin announced that he would prefer to leave the SRWG board at the next election (1st quarter 2023) to concentrate on other commitments. He was very complimentary of the work SRWG has accomplished. Dave represents Lewis & Clark CD; we need to find replacement who represents that area. Tracy will update the board candidate spreadsheet before the next meeting. Tracy will be reaching out to Katie Vivan – she knows the owner of the Sun River Ranch and has other good contacts in that area, so will ask her to help get some folks to come to the meeting. Erling suggested Josh from Sun Canyon Lodge as well. Tracy really hopes to get a good turnout at the Buckhorn happy hour, like the Celtic Cowboy happy hour we had in 2018.
 - Cascade CD has been working on a questionnaire for potential board members, their skill set, etc. We could copy this model and use it. Committee to discuss. The first test of this is to see if people bother to respond and return the questionnaire.

Board Administration

- Future board meetings (locations proposed; TBD)
 - July 20, 2022, 1 pm – Augusta Community Center
 - October 19, 2022 (WMWG meeting prior) – Fort Shaw. Community Center?
 - January 18, 2023 – Great Falls
 - April 19, 2023 – Proposed, Fairfield
- Water Quality Working Group should meet this summer. Date/location TBD. Will likely be via Zoom and after WRP is complete.

This summary has been approved by the SRWG Board of Directors.

Board Director Signature



Date

07/28/22

Coming Events:

April 20	Sun River Water Management Working Group meeting, 10 am at Fairfield Ambulance Training Center; followed by lunch, then SRWG Board Meeting at 1 pm. Both meetings are open to the public.
May 2-6	Give Great Falls – online giving campaign
<i>June 4</i>	<i>Kids Fishing Day at Wadsworth Pond</i>
<i>June 10</i>	<i>Voyagers Game featured nonprofit (???)</i>
July 9	Weed Whacker Rodeo
July 20	SRWG board meeting, Augusta (exact location TBD)
<i>July 24</i>	<i>Rain Barrel Workshop</i>
July 28	2 nd Annual SRWG Baseball BBQ at the Voyagers Game, 7 pm
August 1	Suds for the Sun pint night at Mighty Mo
August 20	Bashin' Trash River Cleanup
October 19	SRWG Water Management Working Group Meeting at 10; SRWG Board Meeting at 1; location Fort Shaw (TBD)