

NPS Alliance Meeting notes
29 May 2008, DOW
9:10 am – 12:05 pm

Present:

Troy Bauder
Barb Horn
Jacob Bornstein
Holly Huyck
Loretta Lohman

Greg Naugle
Bonie Pate
Jeff Crane
Connie O'Neill
Larry Mugler

I&E Update

Barb provided the I&E update, noting that this is Lucia's invited committee and not actually an Alliance function. However, the committee has developed a basic information 101 Water IQ that follows a logic model and is an outgrowth of work done with the Water Education Task Force. It is anticipated that a "401" advanced IQ might be extended to the AWARE project. Currently there is a time crunch in having input to the update of CSAP standards.

There are currently 14 points in the IQ logic model matched with state K-12 educational standards. This work could link back to the Alliance. However, I&E was never discussed in the transition to the Alliance.

Greg thinks Lucia has developed a broad vision for I&E. Troy suggested that this committee keep their business open to input from all members of the Alliance so everyone fully understands this vision. Due to the large task involved in outreach, its success depends upon a high degree of buy in from all concerned players.

Fall Forum

Greg discussed the NPS role in the Colorado Watershed Assembly fall conference (October 1-3, Vail) in Lucia's absence. The Restoration and Protection Unit is working with Trees, Water and People to develop a half-day workshop the morning of October 1 on capacity building and stakeholder involvement. There will be a SWAP booth with NPS handouts along with the unit presence. NPS achievement awards are planned.

Discussion led to some suggestion of having unit folks available for some specific "mentoring" or work sessions throughout the conference because Jeff Crane says he is getting a long list of complaints from §319 grant sponsors—focusing on the process and the PIP and other requirements along with funding lag times.

Greg noted that EPA has had some changing requirements and the unit is working on getting things clear and published ASAP. There are options available, too, on Friday afternoon, either as a field trip or workshop to address complaints. Perhaps figure out topics needing discussion and setting up specific time slots with sign-up options. It was decided that Jeff, Barb and the Unit would work on getting some sort of sign-ups for the conference. Troy, Jeff, Holly and Bonie will work on checking out a mentoring workshop. The Alliance will have a display. Loretta has a booth we can use, but needs some help with ideas and content.

Four possibilities include

- Eagle River
- Sediment projects - Black Gore or river restoration - Holly noted that this is now very unlikely

Continuation of Logic Model Discussion and Structure of Four Priority Areas

Barb began the discussion expressing frustration that there was zero feedback on the logic model proposed via email. She also reinforced that the purpose of using the Logic was largely to help the Alliance develop specific, results-oriented goals and folks shouldn't get bogged down in the model itself.

The Alliance Logic model, based on last year's prioritization meeting, has four priority areas:

1. Technical Assistance
2. Outreach/Education/Information
3. Monitoring
4. Administration

The group began by working on the technical assistance section which currently has three activities listed:—

1. Provide feedback to project proposal abstracts
2. Provide feedback to the unit on submitted proposals
3. How to best tell the NPS story

The discussion centered on how should this year's effort work for the first two items. Bonie noted that folks respond to a specific task request. Holly suggested advertising for specific expertise areas, perhaps skipping to proposal feedback. Greg said abstract feedback is needed to identify any flaws early on, and input on submitted proposal is key to assuring good proposals are considered for funding..

Need a timeline for concept delivery, meeting and/or virtual review sign up, dates, and how to share review results.

The steps suggested include:

Address Alliance perception, refine structure and ask unit, but assume that the unit wants a concept and proposal review. Poll members on technical skills and assign concepts accordingly with time slots on concept review/discussion day.

Follow the same assignment process for proposals.

Outcomes and outputs are needed in the Outreach/Education/Information section of the logic model. The current Activities are pretty well defined. The group ran out of time before getting to the Monitoring and Administration portions of the model. The unit will develop a schedule with both EPA and WQCD deadlines for the next meeting so that coordination with the Alliance technical review process can be incorporated into the overall schedule.

Colorado and San Juan and Gunnison River Basin Targeted Outreach

Areas for targeting include the San Juan, Gunnison basins for watershed planning and the Colorado for on-the-ground work where there is a watershed plan in place.

Mancos River working group needs help in capacity building before grant; Uncompahgre has a watershed planning grant and are considering a larger, holistic management plan. Perhaps the Alliance could do presentations on various components like mining in Ouray.

Other areas, Upper Lake Fork, Eagle River monitoring and watershed plan update, Peru Creek.

Looking at end of August guidance publication which translates into late October abstract/concept deadline with early November review meeting. December would be proposal deadline.

Lake Fork leaders—Ed Rumbold, Marcella Hutchinson
Eagle River leaders—Holly Huyck, Bonie Pate

Action Items:

- Forum – Jeff Crane, Unit
- Booth – Loretta
- Logic models – Barb, Troy
- Combined meeting with WETF – Jacob, Troy

Division, unit are trying to work internally to developing a SAP template. Troy noted that CSREES will have a BMP on watershed monitoring available soon.

Next meeting August 22, DOW, 9 a.m. to discuss targeted outreach and NPS role at CWA conference. Holly Huyck will facilitate.