

Santa Fe Cohesive Strategy Meeting

June 10, 2016

DRAFT Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Carmen Austin (NMSF – Las Vegas District)
Alan Barton (FWRI)
Steve Bassett (TNC)
Anne Bradley (TNC)
Michael Casaus (The Wilderness Society)
Porfirio Chavarria (SFFD)
Andrew Frederick (NMSF)
Greg Gallegos (SFFD)
Sage Garcia (Pueblo of Tesuque)
Todd Haines (NMSF – Bernalillo District)
Micaela Hester (NMSF)
Alan Hook (SF Water Division)
Sandy Hurlocker (USFS – SFNF)
Eytan Krasilovsky (Forest Guild)

Owen Ludwig (Forest Stewards Guild)
Michael Martinez (Pueblo of Tesuque)
Laura McCarthy (TNC)
Nick Olson (Forest Stewards Guild)
Andy Otto (Santa Fe Watershed Association)
Marlita Reddy-Hjelmfelt
Susan Rich (NMSF - FWFO)
Steve Romero (USFS – SFNF)
Ryan Suazo-Hinds (Pueblo of Tesuque)
Eddie Tudor (NMSF & SFCS Chair)
José Varela Lopez (Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD & NMFIA)
Jon Williams (USFS – SFNF)

Eddie Tudor opened the meeting with a round of introductions and moved into updates on action items from the last meeting.

Action Item Updates

Alan Barton reported the May 12th public meeting was a good kickoff for interfacing with the public. Overall feedback was positive. Talks by the Mayor and Governor of Tesuque Pueblo were well received. Alan distributed a handout with evaluations ([copy attached](#)). The evaluation team concluded that while turnout was good, we can do more to reach out to new constituencies through other types of events like field trips. The Communications Task Team will discuss this at its 6/13 meeting.

Several dissenting emails came from attendees who, although quiet during the meeting, were concerned with the Forest Service's prescription for Block E of the La Cueva fuel break. However, there is also community support: Block E is in response to citizens' request. A group of neighbors recently asked how to accelerate the project and are writing a letter of support. Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD is getting sign-ups from private landowners for its cost-share program. SFNF will share the Block E prescription so partners can use it to explain what is actually planned. Upshot is to make sound decisions and move forward.

People at the public meeting inquired about joining the Coalition. After discussion of different membership models and options, the group asked the Communications Task Team to research them and come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

Eytan Krasilovsky was given the group's go-ahead to post the revised Mission and Roles documents on the Fireshed web page.

Todd Haines distributed a handout on [State Forestry and NRCS funding opportunities](#), and will notify the group of others as they arise.

Andrew Frederick said someone from the Implementation Team will coordinate with the Landscape Resilience Strategy Team on getting shape files for a GIS map showing initial and past project sites in relation to the Fireshed boundaries.

Landscape Resilience Strategy Team Report – Anne Bradley

The team met to consider the Forest Service's Wildfire Risk Assessment Framework (GTR 315), a high-resolution, science-based framework for identifying and assessing values and risks, used for priority-

setting and evaluating opportunities for reducing wildfire risk in the landscape. Steve Bassett is testing the method using WUI and watershed values in the Fireshed. Based on the outcome the team will decide whether to use, not use, or use some parts.

Anne asked about deadlines for a final product. The LSR grant will reference the strategy but will not drive the timeline. Susan will coordinate with the Strategy Team with the goal of having a rough draft of the strategy and LSR grant application (at whatever stage they are) ready to share with Jim Hubbard and Vicki Christiansen during their visit.

Communications Task Team Report - Alan Barton

Topics for the next task team meeting are how to keep in touch with the public and development of a communications plan outlining a strategy for external and internal communications.

Mar Reddy-Hjelmfeldt is managing [GSFFC's Facebook page](#) and [SFFireshed](#) twitter account, and will soon set up Instagram and Pinterest. Mar urged members to take pictures of projects and events like the fire fair and video snippets about activities in the Fireshed and send them to her to post. Anne will connect Mar to TNC's media specialist regarding infographics.

Implementation Task Team Report – Todd Haines

Todd reported that the task team has not yet held a meeting but has been active:

- Pursuant to Todd's discussion with the Governor of Pueblo of Tesuque, State Forestry will enter into a formal agreement with the Pueblo.
- State Forestry offered to provide manpower to the National Forest for two units still to be completed.
- NRCS has approximately 14 private lands projects within the Fireshed area.
- At least 2 FHI projects were implemented in the Fireshed last year; may have one new project in line. There are Tree Farm projects as well.
- Forestry awarded \$305,000 in flow-through funds for the Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD's NFL project and \$300,000 for the Santa Fe Fire Department's Aztec Springs NFL project. Forestry added another \$60,000 for Aztec Springs in other funding. Both projects will begin in the next 3-4 months.

Eddie asked that these all be captured on a map.

Eddie report that Jim Hubbard made a commitment to match state investments dollar for dollar; has committed \$1.5 million so far, mainly to go to this effort and Taos. Part is going to the Forest Service to hire a project coordinator later this summer; pay a planner to complete the EA for Hyde Park project by the end of summer; contract with USGS to research fire history in Black Canyon and the southeast corner of the Fireshed; and LIDAR analysis using the County's data. Some may also go towards the non-awarded Joint Chiefs project in the Carson NF.

The New Mexico Association of Counties awarded Forest Guild a grant to do education and outreach in the Fireshed, and another for cost-sharing with landowners to reduce risk around 30-40 homes.

New Business

Pueblo of Tesuque RTRL Project – Sage Garcia and Ryan Suazo-Hines

The Pueblo was awarded \$198,000 to conduct a Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Program project over two years, and is developing a plan for another \$1 million for the next four years. The first year entails NEPA planning for 400 acres. The program encourages partnerships and can be used for work on aboriginal lands outside the Pueblo boundary. Tesuque Pueblo will amend existing MOUs with the Santa Fe National Forest to advance the RTRL Program. The Pueblo also has 20- and 22-acre projects underway that they'll complete by end of December. Michael Martinez will be contacting some members regarding work on RTRL project.

Tesuque Pueblo sent a pre-proposal for Resilient Landscape funding. The Governor has contacted Congressional staff to support the President's \$30 million nationwide request for this program, which allows tribes to work outside the reservation and so can be used for work we're doing as a coalition.

Field Visit

Eddie announced that Jim Hubbard and Vicki Christiansen are planning a field visit August 17-18. Susan will coordinate a committee to help plan and prepare. Members: Eytan, Porfirio, Laura, Andy, Jose, Alan H., Michael M., and someone for the Forest Service. Preparations to include project maps; preliminary draft landscape strategy; LSR grant application; write-up on the coalition focusing on the collaboration going on and investment to date in the Fireshed; field trip plans and logistics.

Updates

CFRP hasn't met yet so no news on those proposals. CFRP program may need letters of support for continuation.

Sandy met with Nambe Pueblo's Lt. Governor and Environmental Coordinator, will do a formal invitation.

Next Steps

- Explore ways to involve "new" people in Fireshed activities – **Alan B. & Communications Task Team**
- Provide Unit E prescription to Todd Haines – **Steve R.**
- Post finalized Mission and Roles documents on web page – **Eytan**
- Research options for membership categories and make recommendation to full coalition - **Alan B. & Communications Task Team**
- Draft maps for Hubbard visit showing (1) projects (thinning and burning) in the Fireshed to date, and (2) planned projects – **Andrew, Todd & Implementation Team**
- Notify coalition members of additional funding opportunities as they arise – **Todd**
- Prepare preliminary draft/outline of landscape strategy for Hubbard visit – **Anne & Landscape Resilience Strategy Team**
- Draft LSR grant proposal – **Susan and Jennifer Dann**
- Develop timeframe for communications plan – **Alan B. & Communications Task Team**
- Share Facebook page and Twitter links, add Instagram and Pinterest – **Mar**
- Connect Mar with TNC media specialist to discuss infographic – **Anne**
- Contact group to plan August field trip – **Susan (with Eytan, Porfirio, someone from SFNF, Laura, Andy, Jose, Alan H., Michael M.)**

Next meeting date and location to be announced.