

**Meeting Minutes for CMR Community Working Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 17, 2013**  
**VFW Hall, Jordan, MT**

**Attendees:** Damien Austin, Steve Becker, Monte Billing, Jennifer Bolinger, Karla Christensen, Arnie Dood, Jason Holt, Melissa Hornbein, Destanie Melin, Dean Rogge, Peggy Hagner, Mark Good, Karl Christians, Terry Selph, Dennis Jorgensen, Kit Fischer, Bill Berg, David Allen, Virginia Murnion, Diane Ahlgren, Rick Potts, Jennifer Boyer, James Barnett, Cameron Sapp, Bill Milton, and Carie Hess

10:10 Welcome & Grounding Question –Facilitator Bill Milton. Twenty-six people were in attendance.  
Self-Introductions & Answers to Grounding Question – How is your moisture situation?

Melissa Hornbein, Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, thanked the group for their efforts on behalf of the commission. She informed the group that the compact has been passed in both houses and will be signed by the governor on April 18, 2013 at noon. She stated that once the governor has signed the compact then it will be sent to the Secretary of the Interior to sign. That could take up to a few weeks and that on the date the Secretary of the Interior signs the compact that date will become the priority date. It was also mentioned that there are many water rights within the CMR boundary on small reservoirs, stock ponds, ect., that have not been filed and time is running out to file on those before the priority date.

10:20 Proposals

- Jennifer Boyer, Future West, introduced herself and stated that Future West is a non-profit consulting group that was started in 2009. It is their mission to help communities create the future they want. Future West provides the following projects and services:
  - ❖ Design public processes and community engagement
  - ❖ Research analysis (ie. Cost of community services)
  - ❖ Facilitation, strategic planning, and organization development
  - ❖ Land use planning technical support
  - ❖ Support local government with data collection, GIS and reports

Jennifer then showed examples from Park and Beaverhead Counties and discussed how the Atlas program could work for the CMR Community Working Group. She talked about the Core Team being the CMR members and their partners; she also discussed other possible partners such as Headwater Economics, Gage Cartographics, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. She talked about that there would need to be a core committee set up and that committee would direct the details of the project. This would include:

- ❖ Responsibilities
- ❖ Project goals
- ❖ Design
- ❖ Regular meetings
- ❖ Content
- ❖ Applications
- ❖ Editing

After this committee is formed the next step would be to draft the table of contents that would focus on 25 to 30 data sets and create a base map. Once the draft table of contents and base map are completed then they would go to the full group for comments and feedback. The final draft will be presented to the full group, partners, and funders for final approval then will be published. Jennifer then shared a potential budget to create an Atlas for the CMR and the 6

county area. She talked to the group about potential funding opportunities as well.

- Dennis Jorgensen - briefly talked about his proposal to formalize a decision making process. He talked about how this process could interact with the atlas project among others in terms of selecting projects and identifying funding sources the group is willing to apply for.

12:00 Lunch

Questions for the break out session

Q1: Can/will an Atlas project enhance (add value) to the CMR Working Group?

Q2: Can we decide today to appoint a committee to develop a draft proposal?

Q3: How will the actual decision be made?

### **Group 1**

**Q1:** Yes with knowledge of past trends and economics

Useful for people coming to the area, objective look at the economy

Land use planning

Plan for implementation

Baseline data – look at past and look again in the future.

**Q2:** Needs to be diverse

More local voice (county representation)

**Q3:** How do you make sure you have correct representation at each vote? (enough of the right people)

Formal representation for each interest group?

Enforceable parameters (making sure a meeting is attended by some one from each group)

Appoint committees by issue as it arises.

### **Group 2**

**Q1:** An Atlas project can/would benefit the working group in the future.

Need to ensure buy in from the county commissioners, chambers, citizens ect..

**Q2:** Yes but need to have expectations

**Q3:** What is a quorum? Does it apply to the working group?

Veto by email – how many people will it take to table an issue.

Need to ensure everyone is aware of the process.

### **Group 3**

**Q1:** Yes

Momentum from the CMR compact suggests that the time is right for another project.

If data is reliable and trusted

Choosing the datasets will be key in importance.

Friendly to users and more likely to be used.

Straightforward presentation of data without opinions.

Overarching numbers /data on use may not reflect dollars spent.  
Credibility of the atlas may be higher because of diverse stakeholders.  
Example: the 1992 6 county road group resulted in sign road funding Federal highway bill.

**Q2:** Helpful to see outlines of the 2 existing county atlas'

Funding is a concern in some sectors

With a proposal in hand and a sample atlas funding is easier to secure/request.

Provided we can secure funding with Future West's help.

How much funding needs to be in place for Future West to get on board?

Yes if all 6 counties are represented geographically and issue representation. (Balanced stakeholder representation)

Get it rolling....NOW!

**Q3:** Suggest a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority

If info is available and distributed to all involved for review and vote.

Silence suggests you proceed

Reach out to past participants to determine if continued participation in meetings and votes.

Qualify consensus or supermajority in communication of results.

One month post meeting to make a decision raised at a meeting.

Those involved would bring back to their constituency and colleagues for decision and phone and email.

Meeting sign in sheets include a request for interest in voting (absentee Y/N) mailings ect.

Create a list-serve or share-point website.

#### Group 4

**Q1:** Yes it would give us direction.

It's to everyone's benefit to come to the table with the best information that you can.

You need all of the information you can possibly get.

This seems backwards. We need to identify the problems we are trying to solve.

Until we know what our priorities are, we don't know what data we need.

**Q2:** Until we know our priorities, how can the planning committee develop a useful proposal?

We could use a planning committee to help us figure out our priority questions.

We need a presentation to the full group before going ahead with the atlas.

Maybe we need a priority committee, not an atlas committee.

**Q3:** Voting is problematic: it's win or lose

Consensus is problematic: there are some things that we will never agree on.

Is there a way to identify the problems and agree to work on them?

We have no power, so do we need to make decisions?

So how do we decide? Majority, supermajority, consensus, we don't come to a consensus, we come to an agreement.

#### Group 5

**Q1:** Provides creditable, objective, easy to read information  
About natural, social, cultural and economic conditions and trends of 6 county area.

**Q2:** Yes

**Q3:** Strive for consensus, if not allow for 2/3 majority, if not it could be posted to facebook/website with a 7 day comment period where people not in attendance could vote or comment.

Jason Holt said that the group should not start counting votes.

Dennis Jorgensen stated that he feels that have a process will help with [seeking acceptable funding opportunities- and moving forward at important points when decisions are necessary.](#)

Bill Milton asked the question – what is your thought of how the group should vote consensus, majority, or supermajority?

He went around the group in a circle and in turn they all answered. Most felt that it would be best to strive for consensus but that if consensus could not be reached then a majority or supermajority would be the best. All in all there still was no direct answer to how the group could make a decision.

Jennifer Boyer mentioned that after hearing everyone's reflection on the question that most groups she has worked with do not have the ability to reflect in the same open manner without conflict.

Bill asked if the group at this moment in time could agree/ come to consensus to form an Atlas planning committee to see if we could identify the priority.

Jason noted that Laurie Riley had comprised a list back in August, and he was wondering if that list could be sent out to everyone with a statement that the list needs to be prioritized. Bill asked Carie to send out the priority list with that statement.

It was noted that by the end of the next meeting the group should know what their priorities are and can move forward with the Atlas project. It was also brought up that the group would need to get the counties and city planning board's priorities that relate to the CMR as well.

Wrap up

It was noted that the group could start with the existing planning committee and work from therewith the need to get county representation on the committee. It was noted that changing the rotation needs to be put on the next agenda as does the State Water Plan.

What went well- ability to bring thought to the table, forward movement, conversation, level of respect, thoughtfulness, evaluation of the process, came to a consensus to move forward with the Atlas project.

Announcements

Next meeting date is June 19<sup>th</sup> in Winnett

The Riparian Workshop for Eastern Montana Landowners is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> in Glasgow and flyers were at the sign in tables for people to take.

Garfield CD is hosting a rangeland monitoring workshop on June 5-7<sup>th</sup> with Land EKG registration is \$400 and you will

need to purchase you own monitoring kit. Jennifer Bolinger would get that information to Carie who will put it out to the group.

3:00 Adjourn