Urban Waters Partnership Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2013 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Denver Botanic Gardens – 1007 York Street, Denver

Mission: The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership collaborates across jurisdictions and disciplines to engage communities, and to protect and restore the South Platte River and Watershed.

Welcome and Introductions:
Introductions around the room. Attendance list at end of these notes.

Work Group Updates:

Geomapping

Our platform is live and we're trying to move to a different hosting agency. Seeing date updates already from the Dept. of Interior – thanks!
Please look at the "I commit" document that was passed out. Please make sure to regularly enter your project data – it really helps everyone. It will be a clearinghouse for information. Also, please fill out the data maintenance form, sign and date, and return. The person in your organization who is responsible for updating the data should sign the form. Devon or Stacey will re-send info on getting access.
Water Quality – Barb Horn, CWQMC Outreach Chair, and WQ Workgroup

Water Quality

Barb Horn, Barb Horn, CWQMC Outreach Chair, gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on the CO Water Quality Data Sharing Network. She emphasized a desire to have everyone work together and not reinvent the wheel. Partners indicated they do not necessarily have all of the data they need, nor do they have the resources to obtain all of the data they need.
CWQMC is dedicated to facilitating WQ monitors and data sharing. Data types include chemical, physical, streams, lakes, and reservoirs and GW safe – data owners approved AWQMS/WQX-STORET platform/schema.
Elements

- Inclusive
- Get you more for less
- Min data elements/documentation
- Puts responsibility on user
- Leads to increased delivery/analytical capacity
- Needs critical mass

CDSN Tool Kit Includes:

1. Database management system and delivery tool
2. CDSN Google Map – GIS interface – get data, exceedance tool
3. Web GIS Application and simple analysis, GIS downloads
4. Web service live feed of AWQMS data (in progress)

Estimate that $500,000 has been saved – proven cost effective for analyses development by entities. Cost effectiveness of this collaborative effort. can help identify cost/cost effectiveness of how to upload individual data sets (front end heavy, but makes it easier in the long run.)

Working on "how to get data off" for general public, non-techies. Could potentially be addressed through the geomapping tool. Barb – working on "webservices" to do this interface. They are building the bridge between the techie and the general public

Results from UWP Water Quality Data Survey:

- 32 groups surveyed
- 26 collected WQ data
- 26 public data
- 20 don't have public data

Next step – survey partnership about what/how to use data to inform, format, and content of tool being developed

Watershed-Wide Education and Engagement Workgroup

- Held a meeting to identify points of collaboration
- Keep It Clean – potentially this curriculum could be used nationwide!
- Programs, Progress, Plans, Collaboration opportunities
- Unified Voice; Utilize consistent messaging.
- Digital copy of graphic
- Share Kic-Net approach
- 39 trash survey. Hope to incorporate Greenway Foundation work into this compliation (they weren't able to make the meeting).

(Discussion – and confusion on April World Water Date. Confirmed that the UN has world water day on **March 22nd** There is a different international theme each year. 2014 theme will be Water and Energy. Past themes include: 2013 Water Cooperation; 2012 Water and Food Security; 2011 Water and Urbanization; 2010 Water Quality; 2009 Transboundary Waters. 2008 Sanitation

Funding – Group hasn't met recently. [There will be opportunities for work in this area coming out of the Systems Thinking / Priorities conversations]

Review Systems Thinking Process and Draft Report (Hardcopy was distributed at meeting and was mailed out prior to meeting)

There was a brief presentation on the report.

Work Session o Partnership Priorities

Rusty Collins with CSU Extension introduced the criteria to consider for each of the 8 Priorities. Criteria were listed as follows:

1. Questions/Clarification
2. Anything Critical to Add?
3. Do we have consensus?
4. Where does it fit? (Workgroups or volunteer, etc.)

Priority #1 – Partner Support

- Access technical expertise
- Recruit project team member
- People or expertise missing?
- What is the intent of quarterly meetings? A: Educate members, present projects, network, work around particular topic,
- Way to present sub-group findings
- Need to come to meetings with a specific need or issue
- What does it mean to be partner?
- What value do you get as a partner?

Have consent? YES

Where does it fit? Leadership? Fits with the Steering Committee

Priority #2 -- Featured Projects

Discussion: Where does it fit? Ideas may come from existing workgroups, leadership group can provide overall guidance. Sentiment that the existing workgroups may be the lead for projects. Bottom up approach for project development, based criteria that are developed by the leadership.

- How do the criteria look? Anything to add?
    - Funding? Use as a way to get funding?
    - Some workgroups should inform criteria
    - Way to increase visibility
    - Way to promote branding
    - Provide learning opportunity for others
    - Figure out what projects group wants to work on
    - Give stamp of approval = more value
    - Will the project be effective?
    - What does it cost?
    - Means something to group as a whole
    - Sustainable or acceptable to be one time thing?
    - Feature to whom? Audience research
- Look for opportunities to brand Urban Waters Partnership
- Audience Analysis – feature to whom? Which groups?
- Other workgroups can inform this criteria
- Have checklist/team based on category. Ideas/what's on checklist come from groups
- If we give our "stamp" to a project it adds value
- Geomapping group has some criteria
- Each group presents a project at each quarterly meeting – rotates
- Is it important to "brand" ourselves or is it just important to highlight our individual organizations/groups? Needs some more discussion
- Branding/name recognition would be very helpful for this group
- Should be meaningful to entire group
- Do projects need to be sustainable or is one time ok?

Have consent? YES

Fits where? Leadership? Workgroup brings ideas to leadership

Priority #3 -- Stormwater

- Synergistic leverage point
- Biggest contributor to non point source pollution in urban areas.
- Different from other priorities on list – doesn't fit the same. Is it part of the other priorities?
- What does this look like in implementation?
- Critical to add?
    - Storm water project vs. programmatic should have MS4 groups involved?
    - How do we holistically approach these projects?
    - Green infrastructure is changing the nature of storm water management
    - Doesn't need to be a "priority" because its covered in everything else – more of a strategy to address other issues
- How can we holistically support these site-specific projects?
- Recognize as largest non-point pollution contributor in urban areas
- Projects vs. Programmatic approach

- Have MS4 involved as part of this – having a unique perspective helps make informal decisions
- Is this a strategy to achieve the other stuff we do?
- Remove from priorities?

[Discussion not concluded on this topic]

Priority #4 -- Map and Analyze Water Quality Data

- Karl Hermann proposed a basin-wide water quality assessment.
- Knowing where pollutants are coming from can help know what to do and where and we need to look for data gaps.
- Project should go beyond mapping
- *Shared vision of assessment as a goal*
- Where pollutants are coming from – what can we do about it? Go and do it!
- Identify gaps/needs in data – creates future projects, helps focus us
- Human Health? Aquatic life? What? WQ stops too soon
- Sediments – very important source of contaminants – is this a gap? Add sediments
- Assessment should try to address some of our overarching goals/vision, share the vision with assessment as a goal
- The UWP has a needs assessment project concept team developing a concept for funding through CDC Foundation

Need to define better what questions we want to answer

The group decided to put aside the other 4 partnership priorities discussions until the next meeting.

CDC Foundation Proposal Update:

We are seeking feedback from CDC. Work on these concepts will continue in early 2014. Thanks to all who have contributed to this point!

Partner Updates

Denver Water – working on a Source Water Protection Plan. First meeting this week in Deckers. (ISDS – Septic systems). CUSP is working on this as well.

CUSP – helping with Waldo fire restoration; in S. Platte – will be doing lots of fire mitigation work.

Greenway Foundation: March 31 – Youth Urban Waters collaboration Day. (Jan 14th org day)

CDPHE – the WQCD – how d we fit in? Every five years we assess a quadrant of the state. Focus in 201 is South Platte

USFS -- Dana Coehlo – new hire in USFS State and Private Forestry – Urban and Community Forestry Program (replacing Susan Ford who retired). Will be starting her new job after the first of the year, and she'll be joining this group. USFS Roundtable on UC Denver Campus. USFS will also be paying attn. to linkages with state water planning process and South Platte roundtable. Basin Implementation Plans now have a Watershed Health Section.

- Reinvigorating Children's Forest project; will be building a steering team for Get Outdoors Colorado.

Jeff Cons Dist – fuels treatment, EQIP grants, EWP funds.

NPS -- few projects they are facilitating: Clear Creek, USFWS Master Plan for Rocky Mountain Arsenal…

EPA re-emphasize interest in Source Water Protection Plan.

Next Meeting: Will be Announced Soon

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 pm

Urban Waters Partner Meeting Attendance – 12-10-13

Organization	Contact Name
Colorado Parks & Wildlife / CWQMC	Barb Horn
GPRed	Steve Sherwood
Aurora Water	Melissa Toering
USFS	Kate Jerman
Jefferson Conservation District	Don Moore
GPRed	Jessica Osborne
USFS	Polly Hays
USEPA	Stacey Eriksen
USEPA	Karl Hermann
Greenway Foundation	Mary Palumbo
CDPHE	Aimee Konowal
CDPHE	Sarah Wheeler
CUSP	Amy Jacobi
USGS	William Battaglin
USEPA	Darcy Campbell
City and County of Denver	Dave Wilmoth
Bluff Lake Nature Center	Chris Story
Earth Force	Donny Roush
NPS-RTCA	Alan Ragins
Groundwork Denver	Rachel Hansgen
City of Englewood	John Voboril
Denver Water	Sarah Dominick
Capitol Representatives	Marge Price
USFS	Susan Alden Weingardt
Capitol Representatives	David Howlett
City of Englewood	Chris Neubecker