

There were 30 attendees throughout the retreat. Represented were CO Parks & Wildlife, Town of Palisade, Strive, Mesa County Health Department, Congressman Tipton's office, Tamarisk Coalition, City of Fruita, City of Grand Junction, Orchard Mesa Irrigation, Mesa Land Trust, Urban Trails Committee, Riverfront Commission and Riverfront Foundation and several citizens.

Riverfront Properties Overview

- Where do we have gaps to complete the trail?
- Riverfront Project in 2015 is different than the Riverfront Project in 1987
- Is there a way to highlight the economic, health, ecological, etc. values of these priorities?
- Google Earth has now captured all of the Grand Valley trails
- Gaps in the Riverfront Trail:
 - Las Colonias (27 ½ Rd) to 29 Rd – Two properties to complete a trail to take traffic off of C ½ Road and avoid crossing 29 Road
 - Two properties left
 - Skinner – Need to be creative
 - Bennet – No
 - County has on their radar to create a parking lot near 29 Rd
 - Major safety issue of getting people across 29 rd (vision for underpass if trail complete)
 - 33 ½ Rd to Riverbend Park at 36 ¼ Rd
 - Four parcels by Clifton Water are owned by CPW – CPW's mission is to improve habitat, hunting and public access which increase adjacent private landowner's concerns. It is important that CPW holds on to the parcels for the long-term vision of connecting the trail. The challenge is to balance the primary mission of the agency while creating trail access.
 - The whole area is "rare" lowland riparian habitat, it's a wildlife corridor, when you put people on that area directly, the wildlife corridor is impacted
 - Is the canal a way to accomplish this? Utilizing the canals is a significant and contentious issue.
 - Palisade Riverbend to Cameo
 - To get riverfront trail access instead of frontage road along Monument View
 - Azcarraga easement to 19 Rd
 - Public easement across Rigg property
 - Need partnership with Adobe Creek Golf Course
 - Property that is for sale in Fruita
 - "Lake Weedunno, LLC" easement
 - Old Fruita Bridge (17 ½ Rd) area and the bridge itself (note that the s. side right of way is still public)
 - State Park in Fruita to Kokopelli Trail in planning stages; need funding

In summary, there is still more trail opportunity but we need to be aware and have the funding in place to make these happen.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is challenged with balancing wildlife focused goals with historical State Parks challenges – e.g., hunting access, protection of T&E and other sensitive wildlife species. They are funded by user fees, so the properties they manage are constantly subject to the goals of those user groups.

Strategy #1:

What kind of things should we be doing to support Strategy #1: Cultivate the economic, cultural, and ecological goals of the riverfront corridor?

Priorities from Fishbowl Session #1:

1. Tell our story
 - a. Who our partners are and honoring them
2. Quantify and cultivate economic value (broader than the trail, ecological values and jobs from restoration too)
Connectivity

Strategy #2:

What do we do to support Strategy #2 – Support Multiple Uses of the Riverfront Corridor?

Priorities from Fishbowl Session #2:

1. Let people know how to use the riverfront (user interpretation) – signs, wayfinding, designated areas, inventory of properties, explanation of permit process (what are we going to coordinate)
2. Codifying how do we advise - IGA, cooperative agreements, policies, commercial activities, conveying policy, public safety (RFC needs to establish how we are going to coordinate)
 - a. Define how involved the Riverfront will be in the river use
3. Take leadership convener around these issues; leaders in drafting policy, we do not want to get into the enforcement of anything – be more active in advising on what the policy should be (outcome rather than action item)

Strategy #3:

What actions do we take to support the strategy – to inspire stewardship of our river systems?

Priorities from Fishbowl Session #3:

1. Build expanded capacity; diversify funding portfolio (overall organizational activity)

Action Items: Assignments, timelines, accountability, benchmarks

****Tell our story**

People: Brad, Traci, Claudette, Bonita, Steve, Karen, Cliff, Larry, Bennett B. , Shannon (w/ Stacy's help on behalf of TC)

Chair: Karen

(Note: record Brad's presentation, link to Katie's past presentation)

****Quantify/cultivate economic value**

People: Mesa County Department of Health, Claudette, Frank, Katie, Kathy, Michele, Bob, Greg, Stacy

Chair: Frank and potentially co-chair w/ Greg R., support from Katie

(Note: we are going to support Mesa County's efforts on doing the "heavy lifting")

****Connectivity (trail)**

People: Bennett, Ture, Kathy, Traci, Michele, Frank

Chair: Bennett B.

****User interpretation (how to use the riverfront)**

People: Karen, Michele, Kathy, Greg Linza, City of GJ Parks Rep.

Chair: Michele

****Codify/define advisory (how and what)**

People: Brad, Stacy, Katie, Jason, Ture, Michele, Pete

Chair: Pete

****Building expanded capacity/diversifying funding**

People: Michele, Jason, Karen, Max, Stacy, Cliff, Karen, Riverfront Foundation

Chair: Cliff

Timeline: For coming up with action plans for each of these items...

- Once per month meetings for a few months to develop game plans
- Six month deadline for an initial outlined game plan for each item (November 2015)

Accountability: How do we make sure that this happens?

- Monthly meetings of the Riverfront Commission Chairs of committees to provide an update
- Update at IGA meetings as well

Next Steps:

- Some sort of worksheet that can help the chairs format their action plans (Stacy)
- Summarize this for the IGA meeting as soon as possible for input (Brad, Frank)
- Synopsis of retreat to the partners (Michele, Stacy)
- July Foundation Meeting presentation (Frank)