



**BREN Coordinating Team Meeting minutes
January 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Caldwell Police Department Community Room**

Next meeting – March 8, 2016 at Meridian City Hall

Present: Phil Bandy, Tamsen Binggeli, Tim Breuer, Kati Carberry, Bill Carr, Tom Chelstrom, Mike Dimmick, Liz Paul, Julie Scanlin, Mike Somerville, Becky Yzaguirre, Caldwell Mayor Garrett Nancolas (guest), Mike Homza (guest) from Stream Line Design, Mark Hummel (guest), Megan Dixon (guest), and Scott Pemble (guest)

Not present: Christy Meyer and Derek Risso

9:10 Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

- Review of Agenda and documents
- November minutes approved by consensus
- Liz Paul indicated that she will no longer be working for Idaho Rivers United starting February 2016, but will continue to serve on the Coordinating Team for BREN.

9:20 Administration & Communication Subcommittee update and recommendations

- The subcommittee presented a budget describing the how administrative and communications tasks are currently getting done and the relative costs associated with those tasks – estimated at \$15,000 per year.
- This is a very basic budget and does not include fundraising activities, website technical work, planning, in-kind contributions, etc.
- The website is out-of-date, a significant effort could be made to update it and make it more mobile friendly. How much would this take? We need to answer this over the next year. Gary is willing to put in effort and get members to help.
- IWRRI has been willing to cover material costs, like copies, and paying for the domain of the website. Julie will encourage IWRRI to continue to support BREN in this way.
- The budget needs to include expenses for materials, domain, etc.
- Determining actual in-kind contribution and OH rate will be useful for grant seeking

- At some point we could hire an administrator to run BREN – CT could act like a board and we could have an Administrator and/or Executive Director as staff
- All agree that we need to have a permanent funding source before looking to hire someone.
- The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley agrees to continue to act as the fiscal sponsor and to perform these services in-kind unless it becomes too cumbersome (i.e. complicated grant requirements, an increase in donations, thank you letters, etc.).
- How did the other WaterSmart Program grant recipients do? Chel spoke with several groups – many are struggling to maintain staff. The Jordan River Commission, which receives discretionary funding from all participating cities, seems to be the only group that is financially secure and implementing their program on a large scale.
- The future of the WaterSmart program is unclear – was not funded for 2015 and 2016. We should talk with Congressman Mike Simpson. Timing is late but he has his hands on the purse strings.

9:40 Fundraising Subcommittee update

- In December, we applied for the American Rivers Connecting Communities Grant (\$25,000 + \$15,000 in-kind). We are waiting to hear back (early Jan).
- The grant is for a reach-by-reach recreational analysis and includes a significant outreach component.
- The recreational analysis will build upon and be an extension of the Boise River Enhancement Plan
- Chel noted that there are a lot of “plans” already in place that we need to integrate into the plan, such as the Boise River Trail Plan (2009)
- What is the intersection of ecology and recreation?
- The Connecting Communities grant will be a great way to make contacts with stakeholders in Canyon County, such as hunting and fishing groups.
- All agreed that they Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Program (part b), due March 14th, is an upcoming grant that we should look into.
- Mike Somerville mentioned that now that we have the BOR grant under our belt, we have the “know how” to help us get additional federal grants.
- Bill Carr to speak with his colleague Mark Snider for fundraising advice and assistance for BREN
- **Fundraising subcommittee** - Mike Dimmick, Tamsen Binggeli, Whitney Byrd, Kati Carberry, and Bill Carr (joining). Liz Paul will also assist the group. Julie can help with materials, if needed.

10:10 Small Group Discussions – What should we focus on in 2016?

- Small groups discussed and prioritized the following ideas for 2016:

- Host conference and invite all major stakeholders to discuss the Enhancement Plan and ideas for projects
- Develop and share language for a Proclamation of Support (or ordinance) for the Plan
- Partner with stakeholders to facilitate and implement on-the-ground project
- Sponsor educational and networking events (programs, field trips, float trips)
- Develop list of services BREN can provide community
- Fundraising – Work to obtain direct support from local government’s discretionary budget
- Fundraising – Apply for grants

10:30 Guest Speaker, Caldwell Mayor Garrett Nancolas

- Caldwell Mayor Garret Nancolas has been mayor for almost 20 years. Before that he worked in Planning and Zoning and on the City Council.
- Mayor Nancolas focused on the revitalization of downtown Caldwell, including the daylighting of Indian Creek and a trail system to connect several parks:
 - The Indian Creek waterway has become a focal point for the revitalization of downtown. They have a farmers market along the creek, festivals, and cultural activities. They are building a plaza that will feature an ice skating rink in the winter and splash pad in the summer. There are pedestrian counts of around 500 people a day, events jump up to 7,000 people
 - Caldwell has acquired property on both sides of Indian Creek and is working on a continuous pathway along the waterway.
 - Within the floodplain of the Boise River, Caldwell has determined that parks, including sports fields, bow range, picnic areas, and dog parks, are of high value to the community, and minimize flood damage.
 - Caldwell is building a new bridge (downstream of Silver Bridge) for vehicle use and repurposing historic Silver Bridge for pedestrian use.
 - Caldwell owns all of the property on the east side of the river between Silver Bridge and the inner rail (around 10 acres). This area is where the old Oregon Trail came down from the steep canyon wall and there are wagon ruts that you can still see. There are plans to convert this area to the Oregon Trail Commemorative Park. This park will be more of a nature reserve where they will work to maintain natural grasses/flowers and riparian zones along the river as it would have been historically.
 - Caldwell is working to expand its trails system to connect to Middleton and Star; and negotiating with Nampa and FACTS to expand the pathway toward Lake Lowell along the Dixie Drain; and to connect the other way to Ada County
- Chel mentioned developing portage along instream obstructions within the Caldwell limits; Mayor Nancolas says he will mention it with City Engineer.

- Lessons to share with BREN: Partnerships from the outset are of the utmost importance to avoid major setbacks and foster collaboration among agencies.
- What would BREN need to do to obtain an endorsement from City of Caldwell? Mayor says the City of Caldwell is more than willing to support the Plan. BREN is welcome to come and make a short presentation at the council meeting. At the end of the presentation, have a proclamation or letter of support ready to sign. We can also send a letter and the Mayor will bring it to the attention of the Council. Call 455-3000 and get the City Clerk to put BREN on the agenda.

11:00 Continue Small Group Discussions

- Group 1
 - *Tier 1.* List if services develop proclamation language, educational/networking events, apply for grants, continue rollout, provide letter of support for entities to obtain grants.
 - *Tier 2.* Host conference, direct support from local governments.
 - *Tier 3.* On the ground projects.
- Group 2.
 - Partner with stakeholders to facilitate and implement on ground project
 - Sponsor educational and networking events.
 - Fundraising: grants and support from entities.
- Group 3.
 - Outreach, networking, proclamation, services.
 - Funding, discretionary budget.
 - Projects and ordinance

11:25 Plan Implementation Subcommittee update

- Phil Bandy shared with the group the list of people that have received hard copies and email correspondence regarding the finalization of the Boise River Enhancement Plan.
- We need to add to the list people that have already got digital copies at the BASH and other BREN events if possible. Julie and Tamsen to work on this.
- We need to follow up with all of our contacts, but also determine individuals we should focus on for moving the Plan forward.

11:35 Flood Control District Event

- Flood Control District 10 is putting on a workshop on March 31st and April 1st, possibly to be held at BSU.
- They have hired a contractor, Kevin Colton, to organize the event.
- The focal point of workshop is developing 5 year plan for the Flood Control District, but also to showcase examples of enhancement (site visits) and learn from experts in the field, such as Peter Goodman and Ann Riley.
- Mike Dimmick will share the agenda and details as soon as it is ready
- The event is not open to the public at this time.

- Tamsen will get Mike Dimmick 6-10 digital copies of the BREN Plan for this event.
- Mike Dimmick mentioned that the FCD has a new commissioner, Jim Payne, and that they are in the process of hiring a Special Projects coordinator.

11:40 Outreach Subcommittee update

- Julie Scanlin presented the updated Outreach Plan, with the 2 primary objectives: Expand BREN membership and Engage BREN members in learning, collaboration and enhancement.
- The Outreach Subcommittee will be meeting soon – Julie to post on website
- Everyone is encouraged to join and share any events that BREN should be involved with.

11:45 2016 Action Plan discussion

- The Team discussed the ideas and prioritized identified in the small groups.
- Due to lack of time, the Team has decided to meet at a later date to set priorities for the year and develop an Action Plan

12:00 Member and public comment time

- Megan Dixon, teacher at the College of Idaho, Environmental Studies Program. She is looking for opportunities to give students real world experience, such as field work or research, and would love to create a program with BREN. Connecting with groups like farmers, like at a sustainable agriculture conference (C of I in fall). She also mentioned the upcoming travelling exhibit by Smithsonian on water that will be located at several libraries (locations TBD). This may be an opportunity for BREN to do outreach.
- Julie and Tamsen plan to connect with Megan to discuss ideas.
- Scott Pemble from the City of Caldwell also attended. He is interested in BREN and Mayor Nancolas' remarks to our group.
- Gary Grimm shared that he was accepted to present at the River Management Society (RMS) and the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) Conference that will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise from May 16-20. Gary will be speaking about establishing interactive networks, which will include BREN as an example.
- Tamsen shared on Derek Risso's behalf, his acceptance to the same conference. Derek's presentation will focus on the establishment of the Boise River Enhancement Network and the development of the Enhancement Plan.

12:10 Meeting evaluation

- The meeting in Caldwell was good and especially worthwhile to invite the Mayor to join us as a guest speaker.
- Parma would be a good location for an upcoming meeting.