



BREN Coordinating Team Meeting minutes

March 8, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Meridian City Hall

Next meeting – May 10, 2016 at Barber Park Administrative Building

Present: Phil Bandy, Tamsen Binggeli, Tim Breuer, Tom Chelstrom, Mike Dimmick, Christy Meyer, Liz Paul, Becky Yzaguirre, Gary Payne (guest) from F.A.C.T.S., Mike Homza (guest) from Stream Line Design

Not present: Kati Carberry, Bill Carr, Derek Risso, Julie Scanlin, and Mike Somerville

9:05 Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

- Review of Agenda and documents
- January minutes approved by consensus

9:10 Leadership Exercise – what leadership skills do you have and do you want to develop?

- Current leadership skills and skill to develop were shared as a group
- Liz wrapped up with a reminder that we need to think about who will be our next officers and committee leaders

9:20 Guest Speaker, Gary Payne with F.A.C.T.S.

- F.A.C.T.S. is a non-profit focused on creating connective pathways along the Boise River from Lucky Peak to confluence with the Snake
- F.A.C.T.S. is composed of interested citizens and agency personnel from Ada and Canyon Counties – mainly agency heads who build, design and approve trails.
- The upper reaches tend to have a good pathway system; F.A.C.T.S. is interested in the future expansion westward.
- F.A.C.T.S. is affiliated with COMPASS, which has a great map showing where pathways exist, where they are planned, and where there are no plans
- COMPASS has also put up pedestrian counters that have garnered a lot of data about trail use – such as peaks during commuting time and use by school children after school.
- F.A.C.T.S would like to have a person from BREN join their monthly meetings that can provide information about the Boise River ecosystem, experience and access

- There is a lot of synergy between recreation and conservation
- Chel has agreed to go to their meeting next Wednesday in Meridian. Becky would like to attend meetings in the future. Chel and Becky are proposing to alternate attending F.A.C.T.S meetings.

9:45 Finalize 2016 Action Plan

- Thank you to Phil, Tamsen, Liz, Julie, Becky, Christy and Derek who worked to put the Action Plan together as well as all who provided feedback
- We don't have a paid staff person to make sure things get done, so it is important that the "Responsible Entity" column identifies who or what subcommittee is responsible for each action item.
- What subcommittee(s) are you on? What is identified for your group?
- Goal #1, objectives and actions were derived from our sustainability plan and organizational structure.
- Goal #2 – the Action Plan subcommittee decided that we need to bring someone in to help us identify what we want or need for the website. Stakeholder feedback will also inform this process (see website discussion below)
- Goal #3 – We haven't sent out many updates to BREN members; this is partly because we haven't had a lot to report on. We need to keep connected to membership to remind them that we exist and are doing good work
- Goal #3 – For performing outreach at other events beyond what we have here – such as Derek and Phil's presentation to DEQ and the Ada County 2025 planning effort that Phil attended. We have already attended several other events and many of us serve on committees. Tamsen will send out a Google Doc to everyone so that we can keep a record of these activities.
- Goal #3 – For BREN events, hosting 6 brown bags might be too much given that we are already behind for the year. For the 2 field trips, one can be a float trip we are scheduling for after our July meeting that will be open to BREN members. The BASH is an important fundraiser and way to celebrate our accomplishments.
- Goal #4, 9b – We have not asked Caldwell Mayor Nancolas for a proclamation of support yet. The Plan Implementation Subcommittee still needs to draft the language. The Mayor said he would be happy to have us present and bring forward the proclamation at a City Council Meeting. We can leverage a proclamation of support from Caldwell to approach other cities. The mayors in Eagle, Star and Middleton seem interested in flood response and floodplains.
- Goal #4, 10a – Rather than facilitate let's say "Promote". There are several projects that BREN has been involved in and has been integral in getting the projects off the ground – such as the Riverside Hotel GSI and riparian enhancement work and the Ada County in-stream fish habitat project. BREN can document, promote and educate the public about these projects.
- Goal #4, 10b – the Ada County Hazard Mitigation group is having an event in Caldwell this year that could provide an opportunity for BREN to talk about the floodplain values and protection.

- We need to get involvement with developers beyond Harris Ranch
- How to encourage stakeholder involvement – we could make a list or report card on our website that shows what our stakeholders are doing for BREN, how our interests align, and opportunities for collaboration
- Liz motioned to adopt the Action Plan with the provision that we change “facilitate” to “promote” for Goal #4, 10a. Seconded by Tim. Approved by consensus.

10:20 Discussion – how to obtain feedback from stakeholders to help develop Anchor Statement

- The anchor statement is basically a way for us to identify our core services and our “purpose for being”.
- Our Sustainability Plan indicates that part of this process should be to get feedback from our stakeholders to find out what BREN can do for them.
- This will involve creating a questionnaire or other method of feedback that we present to our stakeholders at events and/or by contacting them directly
- This should be coordinated with our effort to follow up with stakeholders that we have presented the plan. How can we work together to accomplish enhancement? How can we be more responsive? What are we going to ask them? How are we going to go about it?
- We may have different methods for obtaining feedback depending on the audience: small groups could be a one on one discussion, larger groups a questionnaire. However all feedback needs to be obtained in a way that can be easily synthesized into a meaningful way that informs our Team.
- Groups to approach include the Treasure Valley Partnership and COMPASS. Before going back to TVP, secure a proclamation – could ask Mayor Nancolas to invite us. Get agencies to set aside time for staff, have support from leaders of the agencies or mayor beforehand.
- We could have them rank a predetermined list of services/statements. How important are these various statements to you? How can BREN be helpful on various tasks/issues?
- Develop a questionnaire and get it to a targeted list of people. We could ask for general feedback via the website, e-list. We could have a brown bag (rapid planning) on this.
- Becky – we could do a charrette process. Invite stakeholders to join us and get everyone in one room. Becky will put together a proposal for one.
- **Anchor statement subcommittee**
 - **Becky** (lead)
 - **Tim**
 - **Tamsen**
 - **Phil**
 - **Christy**
 - **Mike Homza**

10:35 Obtaining Sponsorships for Boise River BASH

- The BASH is in October but we need to begin thinking about this now. There is a timing issue with sponsorship as funding is often allotted quickly at the beginning of an organization's fiscal year.
- Obtaining sponsorships is most successful when you have a personal connection, the correct person is contacted, and you are providing the organization with good publicity and exposure.
- We will likely use the same sponsorship packages as we used last year
- **CT members need to submit suggestions to Tamsen/Whitney by April 1**
- Assignments for CT members to connect with potential sponsors will be made during the May meeting.

10:45 Fundraising Subcommittee update

- The Fundraising Subcommittee has applied for three grants to-date:
 - American Rivers Connecting Communities Grant (did not receive)
 - Five Star Urban Waters Restoration Program. Awards announced in July.
 - Royal Bank of Canada Blue Water Community Grant. Awards announced in April.
- IRU also applied for the EPA Small Urban Waters Grant, which is a stormwater education and interpretation project. BREN could be a partner for this. Awards will be announced at the end of March.
- BREN is applying for the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program (EPA and US Endowment for Forestry and Communities). This is due Friday, March 11th, and will provide general operations money for 4 years to help build BREN's organizational capacity and social infrastructure with the focus on protecting floodplain. Outcomes include a community-developed flood plain protection action plan.
- The grant was inspired by an article by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation "Are we doing our best to restore watersheds? Lessons from a 10-year watershed restoration strategy." It is recommended that everyone read this.

10:55 Outreach Committee Update

- The Outreach Committee will be setting up their next meeting soon (will post it on the website) and get moving again on the Brown Bags.
- We have a list of brown bag topics and speakers, but please email ideas to Julie

11:00 Website discussion

- The current BREN website may not be supported in the future and BREN may have to develop a new site.
- The Action Plan subcommittee determined that we need someone to guide us through the process to determine what kind of website we need for BREN, including one that can be scaled up in the future, if needed

- We don't necessarily need someone that can write code – we need a person that can facilitate the discussion that understands different website options
- The cost of website design varies greatly – an interactive website like our current one would require assistance by a large scale website developer, while a WordPress website can be created for a much lower cost (maybe even free)
- Becky will check with Red Sky or Strategies 360 to see if we can find a consultant
- Idaho Nonprofit center may be another group that can help us make mindful choices

11:15 Member and Public Comment Time

- Harris Ranch is offering to pay the legal fees to have BREN incorporated. Tamsen will send out an email to the CT about the offer and set up a meeting to discuss.
- The Riverside Hotel project is going to start within the next few days and BREN can be a part of documenting, promoting and educating the success of this project (the level of this effort will depend on whether funding becomes available). However, there are things we can do now. Liz proposes that we pay Gary Grimm up to \$300 to take a first round of “before” photos. This will give us panorama views and quality photos that can be used in brochures and educational materials. There is consensus to pay Gary Grimm to do this.