



**BREN Coordinating Team Meeting minutes
May 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Barber Park Administrative Building**

Next meeting – July 12, 2016 at the Garden City Library

Present: Phil Bandy, Tamsen Binggeli, Kati Carberry, Tom Chelstrom, Mike Dimmick, Christy Meyer, Liz Paul, Derek Risso, Julie Scanlin, Becky Yzaguirre, Mike Homza (guest) from Stream Line Design, Megan Dixon (guest) from the College of Idaho, Scott Koberg (guest) from Ada County Parks & Waterways

Not present: Tim Breuer, Bill Carr, and Mike Somerville

9:10 Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

- Review of Agenda
- March minutes approved by consensus

9:15 Purchasing decisions – Discuss update to Governance & Operations Procedures

- Tamsen suggests that we amend Governance & Operations procedures to assist with day-to-day operations of BREN.
- Proposed amendment to Section 4 Miscellaneous – add “4.5 Purchasing. Coordinating Team Officers, with unanimous agreement, have authority to purchase goods and services directly with suppliers at a value below \$500.”
- Julie moves that we approve the above amendment, Christy seconds
- Discussion – We should try to get things donated when we can.
- For items that could be donated, officers will send out an email request to the Coordinating Team; no response indicates approval of purchase
- Accounting: \$4,245 BREN funds remaining

9:20 River Symposium

- Tamsen, Tim and Derek are presenting at the River Symposium on Thursday, May 19th at 1:30pm about the creation of BREN, the Boise River Enhancement Plan, BREN’s organizational structure and current activities, etc.
- The presentation is online using the Adobe Slate application
- Derek is willing to share the presentation with anyone who wants to use it and will email the link to the Coordinating Team

9:30 Anchor Statement Subcommittee – Market Research plan

- We are conducting a market research study to see what other non-profits are doing and where BREN fits in to identify how we are unique. It is common for non-profits to conduct these studies periodically.
- This will help us to define - Who is BREN? What does BREN do for people? What is the compelling work that we should do?
- We have already identified key organizations and non-profits in Idaho and are working to categorize their overall mission, services, and funding sources
- We already know that BREN is unique in that it is the only organization that focuses solely on the Boise River, made up of diverse stakeholders
- What is an anchor statement? Is it a mission statement? Is it a tagline?
- A tag line or slogan is 3-5 words that succinctly says who you are/what you stand for. Something you could put on a button. After the market research study, we may be able to develop this
- Internal questionnaire – We already have a lot of knowledge about BREN and what we can do to achieve our mission. This questionnaire will help capture these ideas.

9:50 Fundraising Subcommittee – BREN Sponsorship Plan

- Grants that we have applied for that have been denied:
 - American Rivers – to write a Boise River Recreation Plan
 - Healthy Watersheds Grant – Would have provided multi-year funding to hire staff and grow the capacity of BREN. This was a highly competitive grant and they suggest we apply again next year.
 - Royal Bank of Canada – grant for work at the Hyatt Hidden Lakes Preserve to do a stormwater and weed management project
 - EPA Urban Waters - Liz applied for EPA urban waters grant to leverage off of the stormwater BMPs that the Riverside Hotel has been working on, education to incentivize stormwater work. We can apply again next year
- Remaining grant
 - 5 Star Urban Waters Restoration Grant - This is a green stormwater demonstration project (permeable parking) and riparian restoration at the Riverside Hotel. Will be announced in June/July. We are competing directly with ACHD. In March we paid Gary to take the before photos of the riparian area for documentation
- BREN needs to broaden scope beyond grants, look at who in the community will fund, is behind this kind of work
- Corporate and Individual Sponsors
 - Sign up for a business or organization that you have a personal contact, agree to follow up, passed around the list
 - We could get testimonials from our sponsors : “BREN Sponsor loves the Boise River because ____/relies on the Boise River for ____”
 - Inspired by “where is the Boise River” videos

- Phil – on the sponsor letter: expand on correspondence, other meetings and outreach activities. Such as the IDEQ conference, Idaho Environmental Forum, etc.
- Kati - keep talking about the good work of other entities and doing outreach for them to form and enhance relationships
- Julie - find out budgeting timeline for the organizations we are asking to sponsor us
- Partnership opportunity with the Watershed Advisory Council on outreach; leverage 319 programs and NRCS grants
- Phil - what about private foundations? It can be time consuming and difficult to get this kind of funding. Liz has a couple ideas.
- Kati - what about Whole foods bag donations? They have a form to apply. The Co-op has one too. Could apply for Payette Brewing “Kegs for a Cause” – does not provide a lot of funding but are good “friend raisers”.

10:20 Coordinating Team Project Discussion

- Given that we did not receive some of the grants we were hoping for, we need a Coordinating Team project to rally around for 2016. This is something we will all need to pitch in to and will mostly be a volunteer effort.
- We can leverage some current projects underway:
 - Work at the Riverside Hotel for the green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) permeable pavers is already underway. The owners want to improve the riparian area along the bank. We could partner with them to do this, and if we get the remaining grant, all the better
 - Riparian habitat project at Ann Morrison, continuation from last year
 - Team up with Phil on Eagle Comprehensive Plan. Phil has been accepted onto the Committee to update the Eagle Comprehensive Plan. One of our goals is to get cities/counties to put policies in place that support the Boise River Enhancement Plan. This is a chance to make it happen during the planning process.
- We could bring in a speaker to talk about floodplains, etc.

10:20 Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks & Waterways

- Scott is working on wrapping up Ridge to Rivers (5 agencies) management planning process.
- Ada County’s management within the Boise River system:
 - Ada County manages all of the docks at Lucky Peak. The Army Corp operates the storage capacity of the reservoir. Idaho State Parks owns much of the land surrounding the lake. The park includes Spring Shores and Sandy Point Beach. There is an estimate a million visitors a year, mostly in the summer.

- Ada County owns and manages Barber Park, which is the launch site for the Boise River in summer. Before the open the rental and concession stands they evaluate 3 factors:
 1. Ambient air temperature of >80 degrees for extended forecast
 2. Consistent flows, from 800 to 1500 cfs, with 900-1,200 cfs is the sweet spot (as measured at the Glenwood gauge)
 3. River debris. Works closely with Boise Fire Dive Rescue, Idaho Fish and Game, Ada County and more partners form this team. What needs to be moved or removed from the main channel? How about if we move it to a different area to create additional habitat where it is not going to be a hazard for floaters.
- Eckert Bridge in-stream project. In response to Barber Dam failure over a year ago that resulted in minimal flows downstream, Ada County created the Ada County Advisory Board, in which BREN is a member. In addition to working to prevent future incidents of Dam failure, the Board also proposed an instream project to improve fish habitat, as fish populations were likely impacted. This will involve creating debris to provide fish habitat upstream of the Barber Park launch site. The engineered rock and wood features are being designed by IDFG and will be installed during low flow conditions in fall 2016.
- Chel's concern is that the instream project does not impede water recreation.
- Instream fish habitat is one of the priorities of the BREN Enhancement Plan, which was used to prioritize this project among several options.
- Scott - input from BREN was instrumental in making this project happen.
- Scott - Ada County is open to other projects. There is a riparian/streambank enhancement project (first proposed by TU) along the greenbelt walking trail on Ada County land, upstream from E. Park Center Bridge near Bown Crossing.
- Julie asked Scott for testimonial of how Ada County has looked to the BREN Plan. He'd be happy to do that on behalf of the County and says it is great to see BREN evolve since the beginning and fill a void with the BREN Plan.

10:50 Coordinating Team Project Discussion - Project Preferences

- Katie – Partner with IDEQ & others to implement a riparian enhancement project
- Chel – Enhancement project at Westmorland Park, which is popular with river recreation community and in need of enhancement/planning work. Likes the idea of partnering with the Riverside Hotel on their project as well.
- Derek – Likes the Westmorland Park idea. Also, Scott mentioned Ada County's desire to partner with us on the streambank restoration project near E. Park Center Bridge; we should take him up on that.
- Becky –Ada County streambank enhancement; Westmorland Park enhancement
- Julie – The Riverside Hotel project, as it is already underway. Plus we could host the BASH there and all parties could use it as an opportunity to demonstrate good works

- Christy – Most interested in participating in Eagle Comprehensive Plan from an ecological perspective. Tremendous opportunity to educate partners in creation of the Eagle Plan.
- Mike – like the ideas mentioned. Another opportunity is to work more with the Ada County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee
- Tamsen – The Riverside Hotel project is already happening; we’ve already invested in it and it is good place for the BASH. The Eagle Comprehensive Plan Revision is timely and can have a huge impact if we get involved now.
- Gary - Long range planning - 50 year plan
- Phil - Partnering with the City of Caldwell on Plymouth St project. Encourage people to be involved in the public comment. Keep an eye on it.
- Megan - Eagle Comprehensive Plan, Canyon County land conversion

11:10 Website Proposal and Discussion

- The Ning platform is not going to be around forever. The contract is up in July and we should plan on cancelling at that time.
- BREN will need to transition to a new website
- Becky sent out a website questionnaire – has only received 5 back thus far
- Becky knows someone who develops websites for the Forest Service and has been looking into Word Press, which could be a permanent or interim option
- Becky spoke with a representative from Strategies 360. They are charging \$5,000 for evaluating the website, which is beyond our budget.
- The new website at minimum needs to advertise events.
- Gary has proposed \$1,500 to archive the website, which can be used by whoever builds the next website.
- Discussion – Instead of paying to archive the old website, can we instead use it to build a new one before July?
- Lots of discussion and questions about what "archiving the website" means
- We see value in archiving the website. The CT is requesting a written proposal with details to make an informed decision and to determine whether archiving all of the website is necessary
- Becky is going to get two more specific proposals in the next two weeks
- Gary will send the written proposal to Julie and the CT to evaluate. Julie will send the proposal to IWRRRI for possible funding.

11:40 Member and Public Comment Time

- This Thursday is a BREN brown bag event in which students from the College of Idaho are presenting their capstone project. This will involve a presentation, followed by discussions about dissemination of information as well as professions within the environmental field.
- Please join us for this important event! Thursday May 12, 2016, 11:30am-1:30pm, "C of I Capstone Project Focus' on Boise River Water", URS Building Training Room, 720 Park Blvd, 83712