



**COLORADO BARK BEETLE COOPERATIVE**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**10AM – 2PM Friday, January 17, 2014**  
**Colorado Mtn. College**  
**107 Denison Placer Rd., Breckenridge, CO**

**List of Attendees:**

Don	Kennedy	Denver Water	<a href="mailto:don.kennedy@denverwater.org">don.kennedy@denverwater.org</a>
Abbie	Cobb	NWCCOG	<a href="mailto:acobbcbbc@gmail.com">acobbcbbc@gmail.com</a>
Jan	Burke	USFS	<a href="mailto:jburke@fs.fed.us">jburke@fs.fed.us</a>
Sloan	Shoemaker	Wilderness Workshop	<a href="mailto:sloan@wildernessworkshop.org">sloan@wildernessworkshop.org</a>
Rich	Edwards	CSFS	<a href="mailto:rich.edwards@colostate.edu">rich.edwards@colostate.edu</a>
Casey	Cooley (phone)	Div of Parks and Wildlife	<a href="mailto:Casey.Cooley@state.co.us">Casey.Cooley@state.co.us</a>
Ron	Turley	WAPA	<a href="mailto:turley@wapa.gov">turley@wapa.gov</a>
Peech	Keller	USFS	<a href="mailto:cpkeller@fs.fed.us">cpkeller@fs.fed.us</a>
Jan	Cutts	USFS	<a href="mailto:jcutts@fs.fed.us">jcutts@fs.fed.us</a>
Howard	Hallman	FHTF/Greenlands Reserve	<a href="mailto:future1946@yahoo.com">future1946@yahoo.com</a>
Beth	Huron	CSU Extension - Summit	<a href="mailto:bethh@co.summit.co.us">bethh@co.summit.co.us</a>
Brad	Piehl	JW Associates	<a href="mailto:bpiehl@jw-associates.org">bpiehl@jw-associates.org</a>
Liz	Mullen	NWCCOG	<a href="mailto:lmullen@nwccog.org">lmullen@nwccog.org</a>
Tony	Vorster	CSU	<a href="mailto:Vorster.tony@gmail.com">Vorster.tony@gmail.com</a>
Paul	Evangelista	CSU	<a href="mailto:Paul.evangelista@colostate.edu">Paul.evangelista@colostate.edu</a>
Joe	Pandy	Mountain Parks Electric	<a href="mailto:jpandy@mpei.com">jpandy@mpei.com</a>
Mike	Jolovich	Ranch Creek Ltd	<a href="mailto:ranchcreek@rkymtnhi.com">ranchcreek@rkymtnhi.com</a>
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Chuck	Vale	CDPS, EM	<a href="mailto:Chuck.vale@state.co.us">Chuck.vale@state.co.us</a>
Rusty	Collins	CSU Extension – Denver	<a href="mailto:Russell.collins@denvergov.org">Russell.collins@denvergov.org</a>
Kristen	Pelz	CSU/CFRI	<a href="mailto:Kristen.pelz@colostate.edu">Kristen.pelz@colostate.edu</a>
Rob	Davis	Forest Energy Corporation	<a href="mailto:rdavis@forestenergy.com">rdavis@forestenergy.com</a>
Tony	Cheng	CSU/CFRI	<a href="mailto:Tony.cheng@colostate.edu">Tony.cheng@colostate.edu</a>
Mike	Eckhoff (phone)	CSFS	<a href="mailto:mike.eckhoff@colostate.edu">mike.eckhoff@colostate.edu</a>
Pam	Motley (phone)	West Range Reclamation	<a href="mailto:Pam@westrangereclamation.com">Pam@westrangereclamation.com</a>

**ACTION ITEMS from January 17, 2014 meeting:**

- *Convene the Vision WG soon to finalize the CBBC's vision document for the spring meeting (April 18). Vision WG will also discuss possible name change for CBBC.*
- *All "deliverable groups" need to meet to begin working on their topic for the fall stakeholders' meeting. See page 3 of minutes for listing of all group leaders/ groups.*

- *CBBC members will participate in CSU's Center for Collaborative Conservation survey.*
- *Continue with Mapping Project collaboration with CFRI*
- *Draft an Accomplishments Report*
- *Create a **Hazards and Values Management Report***

**The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM. All were welcomed and introductions made.**

- M/S/P Brad Piehl/Howard Hallman to approve the minutes of the October 2013 Steering Committee meeting.
- Abbie explained the 2013 actual budget and proposed 2014 CBBC. There is funding for a fall meeting included in the '14 budget. All agreed this was a good idea as long as there were focused ideas for the meeting. The 2014 budget was approved by all. See attached budgets for details.

**Discussion of Facilitated Visioning Session**

After a productive early history with the crisis phase of the bark beetle epidemic, the CBBC has been struggling to find its next focus. A desire to coalesce around a new vision brought the group together yesterday in a session facilitated by Rusty Collins from the Denver CSU Extension Office. The SC worked together well and accomplished 80% of desired outcomes. Rusty presented his recap PowerPoint (attached to minutes) from the work session and garnered input from all.

A discussion of what the *function* of the CBBC should be resulted in the following list:

1. ***Facilitate and empower communities to enhance their resilience to ongoing forest disturbances***
2. ***The Mapping Project will provide a "tool," rolled out at appropriate scales, for communities' self-assessment of their vulnerability to forest disturbances and chart a path forward for reducing those vulnerabilities***
3. ***Helping communities understand what resiliency means***
  - *What does it look like?*
  - *Understand inevitable hazards and the risks posed by forest disturbances*
  - *Preparedness, Response and Recovery*
4. ***Write an accomplishment, or impact report***
  - *Close the gap between expectations and reality (there's only so much forest management can accomplish and community expectations need to be appropriately set). What can realistically be done to manage the impacts of forest disturbances? What does vegetation management accomplish?*
  - *Report on number of acres already treated, tied to goals of treatment*
  - *Report on scope and quality of values protected*
  - *White paper or report – What can or can't management do? And then write policy around it to inform both state and federal legislative initiatives*
5. ***The Story – what can we show?***
  - *Crisis is behind us but problems remain*
  - *Recovery underway even while final mitigation ongoing*
  - *What are the factors that aggravated the problem*
  - *Can it be narrowed to wildfire personal protection*

- *We have always wanted defensible space, but our work is not done, the number of slash piles is a prime example, can we collaborate with groups about this issue?*
- 6. *We need to **define the Problem** – Inevitable and ongoing forest disturbances pose hazards to human communities embedded in forested environments and these hazards threaten community resiliency.*
- 7. *What are the **Hazards**?*
  - *Fuel, falling trees, post-fire, impact on recreation safety, flooding, etc.*
  - *What are the social values at risk from these hazards?*
  - *What interventions reduce this risk?*
  - ***ACTION: Create a Hazards and Values Management Report***

### **Fall Meeting**

**Following is the list of specific deliverable groups that will address the topics below in preparation for a fall summit meeting that will tell our story to the public and policy makers.** Names in blue/italics are the group leaders:

- Mapping (geospatial atlas) – *Kristen Pelz*, Joe Pandy, Don Kennedy, Ron Turley, Brad Piehl, Sloan Shoemaker, Casey Cooley
  - ✓ Group will use Kristen’s maps to look at what’s been done and how that relates to current conditions
- Narrative/Accomplishments – *Jan Burke*, Jan Cutts, Kristen Pelz (Kristen will serve as liaison between the Narrative and Map groups)
  - ✓ Accomplishment report of the MPB mitigation activities (both public & private lands)
  - ✓ Develop a pamphlet or white paper describing all of this – also show photos, tell stories about what’s occurred, what aggravated certain events, what vegetation management has/has not accomplished, what hazards still exist, etc.
- Hazards, Values & Interventions – *Tony Cheng*, Chuck Vale, Howard Hallman, Mike Jolovich, Rob Davis
  - ✓ Tell a story of what’s happened in areas, what are the lessons learned, best practices, how can we help?
- Understanding what Resilience and Recovery Means – *Brad Piehl*, Ron Turley, Chuck Vale, Sloan Shoemaker, Rob Davis, colleague from Missoula
  - ✓ Develop document that will connect the dots, close the gap between expectations and reality, case studies, actual events
  - ✓ Resilience defined as: the capacity of a system to absorb and recover from a disturbance
  - ✓ CBBC can provide tools for self-assessment from a community vulnerability point of view
  - ✓ Explain “what’s in it for me?”
  - ✓ What does resilience mean? Facilitate communities to empower their resilience. Disasters will occur, how ready are they? The beetle may be gone but the problem has not gone away. The general public does not understand the connection back to the forest.

All agreed that a fall stakeholders meeting on October 17 was a good idea. Liz can help with the marketing if the meeting with NWCCOG's mailing lists, etc.

**List of agreed-upon CBBC Work Groups still needed:**

- Vision – Sloan Shoemaker
- Wood Utilization – Mike Eckhoff
- Fundraising – Abbie Cobb
- Communications/Marketing – Bruce Ward
- Research – Tony Cheng?
- Implementation & Monitoring - ?? (We need to get clear at the next Steering Committee meeting what the purpose and function of this WG is)
- Wildfire (mitigation, response, recovery) – Chuck Vale
- Mapping (ID where we focus or make decisions) - ??

It was requested that WG's provide written updates to the CBBC SC as needed.

Based upon the future directions of the CBBC, a name change may be needed. Sloan will work on this with the Vision WG.

**CFRI/CBBC Mapping/Modeling Projects**

In 2007, the CBBC mapping process, which identified areas of concern with forest mortality, set the stage for political action. Since Jeff Kitchens left CO in 2009, most of the mapping work has fallen off. There was a great need to update maps showing current areas of mortality, where treatments have been done, what remains to be done, and what trajectories the forest is on based on natural regeneration. Tony Cheng and CFRI interns presented the mapping products that were developed in 2013. Kristen Pelz ([Kristen.pelz@colostate.edu](mailto:Kristen.pelz@colostate.edu)) presented an ARC GIS map that includes information on USFS service treatments, vegetation layers, and beetle mortality areas that she has compiled into an "atlas". Possible additional information to include:

- Natural resource information
- Treatments done on private land
- Utility work
- Other data layers – get your requests to Kristen at CFRI as soon as possible (email address above)

A second CFRI project, Colorado Ecology Forecasting, was presented by Tony Vorster ([vorster.tony@gmail.com](mailto:vorster.tony@gmail.com)). Using a NASA product, Tony has developed a map addressing the severity and extent of the LPP mortality in the Fraser Experimental Station. Tony is developing a model for estimating MPB severity which he's ground truthing based on Fraser data. Once refined, the model will be upscaled to a larger area (like the CBBC counties) and provide a "continuous" map of mortality severity. See attached PowerPoint for detailed information. The following link will also take you to a video explaining the project:

<http://www.earthzine.org/2013/07/22/tracking-the-beetle-modeling-mountain-pine-beetle-mortality-in-colorado/>

**Future CBBC Projects – where do we go from here? 2014 Goals/Workplan, Strategies for Success**

A focus for the CBBC is critical to the organization's success. Rather than spending time wordsmithing the vision document, Sloan will re-convene the Vision WG to finalize this information for the spring meeting.

**CBBC participation in CSU's Center for Collaborative Conservation**

All agreed that this would be a good project to be involved in. Brad Piehl will be the contact for this.

**The next CBBC Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 18, 2014, 10AM – 2PM at CMC in Breckenridge.**