



**COLORADO BARK BEETLE COOPERATIVE**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**10AM – 2PM Friday, January 18, 2013**  
**Colorado Mtn. College**  
**107 Denison Placer Rd., Breckenridge, CO**

**List of Attendees:**

Sloan	Shoemaker	Wilderness Workshop	<a href="mailto:sloan@wildernessworkshop.org">sloan@wildernessworkshop.org</a>
Brad	Piehl	JW Associates/FHTF	<a href="mailto:bpiehl@jw-associates.org">bpiehl@jw-associates.org</a>
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>
Sally	Edwards	Xcel energy	<a href="mailto:sally@montanasky.net">sally@montanasky.net</a>
Jan	Burke	USFS	<a href="mailto:jburke@fs.fed.us">jburke@fs.fed.us</a>
Rich	Edwards	CSFS	<a href="mailto:Rich.edwards@colostate.edu">Rich.edwards@colostate.edu</a>
Peter	Grosshuesch	Town of Breckenridge	<a href="mailto:peterg@breckgov.com">peterg@breckgov.com</a>
Sandy	Briggs	Forest Health Task Force	<a href="mailto:ForestHealthTF@aol.com">ForestHealthTF@aol.com</a>
John	Rich	Private Landowner	<a href="mailto:jdrichland1@hotmail.com">jdrichland1@hotmail.com</a>
Matt	Sugar	QQ	<a href="mailto:matthewsugar@msn.com">matthewsugar@msn.com</a>
Cal	Wettstein	BBIMO – USFS	<a href="mailto:cgwettstein@fs.fed.us">cgwettstein@fs.fed.us</a>
Ronnie	Jordan	Phillips & Jordan, Inc.	<a href="mailto:rjordan@pandj.com">rjordan@pandj.com</a>
Howard	Hallman	FHTF/Greenlands Reserve	<a href="mailto:future1946@yahoo.com">future1946@yahoo.com</a>
Ron	Turley	WAPA	<a href="mailto:turley@wapa.gov">turley@wapa.gov</a>
Rob	Davis	Forest Energy	<a href="mailto:rdavis@forestenergy.com">rdavis@forestenergy.com</a>
John	Ring	BLM	<a href="mailto:jring@blm.gov">jring@blm.gov</a>
Shanna	Koenig Camuso	QQ	<a href="mailto:shannabk@msn.com">shannabk@msn.com</a>
Bruce	Ward	Choose Outdoors	<a href="mailto:Bruce@chooseoutdoors.org">Bruce@chooseoutdoors.org</a>

**Following are the actions/expected actions arising from the January 18, 2013 meeting:**

- *October 2012 meeting minutes were approved.*
- *Abbie will set up meeting of Exec Board and possible CBBC funders.*
- *Vision WG will meet again and rework Howard's vision statement.*
- *“ “ will refine the graduate student work plan (work with Tony Cheng & grad student).*
- *Comms group to develop a letter to new electeds about the CBBC and the work it does.*
- *Membership – please see the “Membership” section of the minutes for actions needed.*

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

- *M/S/P Ron Turley/Rob Davis to approve the minutes of the October 2012 Steering Committee.*

### **Financial Update**

- Cal reported that he has been working with the USFS for \$5000 in funding for the CBBC. It is more difficult than before since the bark beetle incident is considered officially over.
- Denver Water will participate, depending upon what others funders provide.
- CSFS is providing \$2500 for the graduate student.
- BLM has no money, John can approach the fire & fuels program for money.
- Forest Collaborative – still looking at funding sources. There may be some funding to split between collaboratives or directly to CFRI.
- WAPA – may have some funding for “hard” purchases but there are limitations on this.

It was decided that a meeting of executive committee and possible funders should occur via conference call. Abbie will coordinate.

### **Water Supply Protection Summit**

Shanna Koenig-Camusso and Matt Sugar were present, representing the Water Quality and Quantity Committee (QQ) of NWCCOG. QQ includes towns, counties, and water and sanitation districts in the Headwaters Region of Colorado. In relationship to NWCCOG, QQ functions similarly to the CBBC (and lobbies). QQ members are concerned about watershed issues, especially related to wildfire.

QQ held a panel discussion last summer about watershed protection. Based on the discussion, QQ would like to move forward by possibly partnering with the CBBC to hold a roundtable to address the following outcomes:

- ✓ Info sharing
- ✓ Funding sources for mitigation work
- ✓ Best practices
- ✓ Lessons learned
- ✓ Improved USFS permitting process
- ✓ A united voice for talking to federal legislators

There is work being done in this area now:

- ✓ The Water Research Fund is working on these issues
- ✓ Brad Piehl's group is looking at watershed hazards
- ✓ The Watershed Wildfire Protection Group (WWPG), started in 2008, was formed to look at these issues. This group is not limited to the Front Range. They are looking at both pre and post-wildfire mitigation.

QQ's exact ask for the CBBC would be to partner to address concerns about water supply protection that are not being adequately addressed rather than form another stakeholder group. Members represent smaller agencies who don't have the know-how to do this on their own. The CBBC doesn't delve specifically into pre and post-wild fire mitigation work, rather is looking at the longer term – what do we want our watersheds to look and function like? It was determined that maybe QQ could get the information it needs from the WWPG. A QQ rep will try to attend their next meeting. It was also suggested that perhaps a QQ rep could be part of the CBBC working group. More discussion will occur after the WWPG meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Working Group Reports**

**Vision WG** – The Vision WG has been working on a vision statement (disseminated to all at the meeting) for the public about what it thinks that our forests should look like in the future

A second part of that would be to map the desired landscape to graphically represent what that vision would look like across the landscape and to guide near and mid-term management activities. The CFRI will provide an intern to the CBBC to do the following:

- ✓ Identify an ecological baseline by compiling how the regeneration is going
- ✓ Model this out
- ✓ Include social values that could respond to the needs of the forest (water, power infrastructure, recreation, industry, etc.)

CSU has committed \$2500 for this and CFRI has some matching money as well. The Vision WG needs to meet with Tony Cheng and the graduate student to better define expectations and see where the CBBC can get the biggest bang for its buck. After the baseline has been defined, it will be important to establish priorities.

Additional visioning discussion included the importance of developing an implementable vision to inform and guide the USFS planning efforts, especially with their limited funds. Another important consideration is to include the private sector where possible to offset costs.

The Vision WG will also be looking at Howard's vision statement and refining it.

**Communications WG** – Lyle Laverty is working with the Comms group. Lyle was not present. It was suggested that the Comms group put together a letter to new electeds about the work the CBBC does.

**Wood Utilization WG** – The group was not able to meet as planned last month. They are considering what role they can play in communicating to a larger group about blue stain products. Bruce Ward will be joining the group.

### **Senator Udall Visit**

Since his summer visit with the CBBC was cancelled, Senator Udall came to this CBBC meeting. He greeted all and gave a few updates on successes related to forest health:

- ✓ The JR Ford project in Pagosa Springs has been a model for turning problems into profit.
- ✓ While the Farm Bill did not pass, the proposed 2013 authorization in the Farm Bill for insect and disease infestation, including the mountain pine beetle, has been doubled. Stewardship contracting is included in this.

Work for 2013 will include:

- ✓ Reauthorizing stewardship contracting, the Good Neighbor Act, and the Flame Fund.
- ✓ Identifying new sources of funding for mitigation efforts

### **Phillips & Jordan**

Ronnie Jordan, Vice President of Operations for the California Division of Phillips & Jordan took a few minutes to explain the mitigation work they have done in southern CA in the wake of the beetle infestation that occurred there. They are the largest tree removal company in the US with an excellent safety record. Most of the wood from the projects went to sawmills and the slash to co-gen plants. Ronnie Jordan sponsored the lunch for the CBBC meeting - big thanks to him from all.

**Collaboration with Front Range Roundtable (FRR)** – Brad Piehl mentioned a collaboration with the FRR at their last meeting in CO Springs and will continue to work on this. Possible opportunities for working with them include mapping projects and funding for collaboratives.

### **Membership**

- ✓ Cal Wettstein is retiring on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will talk to the 3 other forest supervisors about participating in CBBC meetings. Also, Sloan will talk with the new regional forester.

- ✓ Parks & Wildlife – Rich Edwards will contact Casey Cooley about this.
- ✓ US Park Service – Jill will make a contact and Brad will also look at it.
- ✓ CMC – Abbie will talk to someone there.
- ✓ BOCC rep – Abbie will talk to Liz Mullen at NWCCOG about this group.
- ✓ Municipal rep - “ “
- ✓ Saw log industry – Nancy Fishering says she is still interested. Sloan will call her.
- ✓ Recreation – Bruce Ward will take this position on the SC.
- ✓ Emergency Management – Abbie will contact the current rep and ask about interest.

#### **Other Updates**

- ✓ CSFS grants are due by the end of January.
- ✓ CSFS is in the process of hiring a new state forester – they have narrowed the search down to 15 final applicants and will be doing phone interviews in the next week. Joe Duda is acting state forester right now.
- ✓ The ban on prescribed burns has been lifted for slash pile burning. Broadcast burns will take a while.
- ✓ BLM – low on money, a 5-year stewardship project will be going out this spring to address hazard trees.
- ✓ Representative Polis’ Office – 2013 goals are basically the same as Sen. Udall’s.
- ✓ Power line negotiations with Xcel & the USFS came to a halt in Dec. They are re-negotiating now.
- ✓ Forest Health Task Force – sponsoring an upcoming series (7 months) in wildfire protection (in Summit).

**The next CBBC Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 19, 10AM – 2PM at CMC in Breckenridge.**