Agenda

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group Board of Directors
BOARD MEETING
2-4:30pm, March 19th, 2019, Left Hand Water District Office
6800 Nimbus Road, Longmont, CO 80503

Welcome and Introductions  Christopher Smith  2:00 PM
Public comments on items not on the agenda  Christopher Smith  2:05 PM
Approval of Minutes  Christopher Smith  2:10 PM
Business Plan Discussion  Jessie Olson  2:20 PM
  -Presentation of memo (process, context, niche, services)  2:20 PM
  -Discussion of question 1 a, b, c (vote needed)  2:50 PM
  -Discussion of strategic plan meeting agenda items  3:50 PM
Adjourn  Christopher Smith  4:30 PM

NOTE: LWOG will make reasonable accommodation for individuals with known disabilities at meeting and events per our non-discrimination notice. Visitors needing accommodation are encouraged to contact any staff member to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of such event.
To: Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG) Board of Directors

From: Jessie Olson, LWOG Executive Director

RE: March board meeting agenda items

The purpose of this memo is to provide the LWOG BOD with an update on BOD agenda items in order to better inform and prepare the LWOG BOD for the upcoming board meeting. This memo follows items listed on the agenda for the upcoming 03/19/2019 meeting and includes other information-only items.

Meeting Minutes
Draft meeting minutes from February are attached (attachment 1) for review and approval.

Board Annual Forms
For those that have not yet done so, we need to re-sign all conflict of interest, confidentiality and whistleblower statements for the New Year. We will have copies on hand for those that have not yet signed.

Financial Report & Audit
We will include a quarterly financial report in next month’s board packet.

Business Plan Update
We will spend the entirety of the board meeting discussing the attached memo (attachment 2). Please review it in its entirety to prepare for the discussion and key decision points we’d like to make at the meeting.

Project updates

1. Adaptive Management, Stewardship & Monitoring
We continue to work on our “state of the watershed” report which will describe the results from our monitoring efforts this year, and a discussion of how sites are recovering from the 2013 flood. We’re hoping to create a template for the report that can be updated each year. We plan to have a draft complete by the end of this month.

2. Community Science Strategic Plan & Tools
We’ve been moving forward with two citizen science projects- flow monitoring and the “match the hatch” project we discussed last month.

3. St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan
LWOG has been helping the SMP team gain access to properties in Left Hand Creek for the purposes of conducting a survey. As a reminder, upcoming dates for webinar include April 3rd and April 25th.
4. **DOLA CDBG-DR Legacy Projects**

We are working with Lefthand Excavating and Biohabitats on this design-build project, and Yana is managing the project. Update this month includes:

- BOCO LISU was held on March 7 and we received Conditional Approval (pending referral responses).
- Floodplain models are being reviewed by BOCO. Other permits and compliance applications have been submitted and are in progress.
- Stream Restoration Permit (FPD, Grading) and LISU Response is in progress for target submission in early April.
- Anticipated construction schedule is as follows:
  - Reach 1: mid-April till late May (with majority of reveg to follow in Aug/Sep)
  - Reaches 2-9: Early-September thru mid-October (Using two crews, moving downstream to upstream)
- We have held landowner meetings to address final questions in advance of the final construction walkthroughs at Reach 1
- We are targeting late-March/early-April for the final construction walkthroughs at Reach 1.
- Pre-Construction Conference is scheduled for March 19
- We continue to refine the adaptive restoration/experimental aspects of this project, working closely with CU researchers in the experimental design and research methods.

5. **River Watch Water Quality Monitoring**

Glenn continues to collect monthly river watch data. We also met with City of Longmont to discuss their water quality data analysis needs. They may be interested in hiring LWOG to complete water quality data analysis tasks.

6. **Fish Passage Feasibility Study and Education Initiative**

We are beginning to develop an outline for the fish passage project and will begin research and writing stage of the project.

7. **SVCC**

LWOG continues to assist SVCC by attending monthly board meetings and leading the warranty related work on the EWP projects. We will be working with Aloterra to complete warranty related willow planting work by hosting a volunteer events on April 5th and April 14th.

**Update on Fundraising and Outreach**

- Monica has send over a draft contract for 10K with city of Longmont for this year, and expects to secure 20K next year. Thank you Monica for your efforts to make this happen!
- We received another 5K contribution toward Stewardship Partners program from corporate donors this past month.
- Reminder of upcoming presentations:
  - Yana (and Deb and I) will present our Adaptive Management Guide/conceptual model poster at the upcoming High Altitude Revegetation/Society of Ecological Restoration-Rocky Mountains Chapter conference on March 12.
  - I will give a presentation at the Boulder Nature Association Conference on March 16th titled: Restoring to the Future: A case study in Left Hand Creek Watershed.
- Update on our grant applications:
  - We were awarded another City of Boulder OSMP research grant (approx. 5K total)
  - We submitted an application to the CWCB Water Plan grant this past month for our Watershed Days event.
• I will be giving a tour to one of our project sites for Cal-Ag Water alliance and School of Mines in March.
• We published our first monthly newsletter this month, sent out via mailchimp.
• We continue to work on developing our Annual Report, which will follow similar format to last year.

Attachments:
  1. BOD meeting minutes
  2. Business plan memo
Attachments 1
BOD meeting minutes
Board Meeting Minutes 02/19/2019

Attendees

Chris Smith
Jessie Olson
Kathy Peterson
Colleen Williams
Audrey Butler
Mark Schueneman
Ken Lenarcic
Chuck Oppermann
Gabe Turek
Colleen Williams
Sean Cronin
Julie Trumpler
Sue Schauffler
Yana Sorokin

Welcome and Introductions

Chris S called the meeting to order at 2:08 and went through introductions.

Public comments on items not on the agenda

Chris S asked for items not on the agenda. Ken mentioned house bills discussed at Jamestown town meeting and provided a handout summarizing the bills.

Approval of Minutes (Chris S)

Sean noted typo.
Kathy moved to approve with corrected typo, Mark seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Policy Update (Jessie)

Jessie went through all changes and answered questions to Financial Policy (see handout) and mentioned Kathy reviewed draft of these as well before they were sent to the BOD.
Kathy made motion to accept the financial report. Sue seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Business Plan Update (Jessie)**

Jessie provided overview of draft business plan outline

- Internal document to define how we market ourselves
- Business Plan typically comes before Strategic Plan and Work Plan, so those may need some edits.
- Purpose is to be able to define and grow our services areas so that we can sustain our organization and have a longer term picture of our organization and our purpose.
- Some elements of the plan are internal exercises and may be viewed as appendices.
- Jim provided his take from the consulting and business development perspective
  - LWOG is offering a solutions set between project, science, outreach, and community development that we can bring to constituent groups
  - LWOG could package as a consultant shop for others
  - Jim wanted to help with corporate outreach and help develop credibility with the corporate community (to think like a business)
  - Jim is referring to co-investment rather than fundraising
  - Business Plan allows us to package this cleanly to bring to co-investors
    - Gabe mentioned the importance of breaking up stakeholder profiles to reflect unique interests, Jim agreed.
- Jessie went through each part of the annotated outline and addressed questions.
  - Discussion focused on how to define clients, relationship to our mission, reaching consensus about we approach the growth question, packaging our solutions set for others, providing external services while maintaining Left Hand identify, organizational longevity, tie to work and funding plan, long term strategic planning retreat, and development of business plan committee.

**Community Science Update (Yana)**

- Yana provided update on Community Science Project (see presentation)
  - Working with Citsci.org
  - Combination of strategic plan and suite of tools
  - Conducting Stakeholder Interviews
    - Board responded to Question 1. What are common issues/ questions/ knowledge gaps?
    - Board responded to Question 2: What could be improved?
  - Summary of Common Themes
    - Interviews led to separating common themes into three categories: (1) stakeholders, (2) community scientist volunteers, and (3) adaptive management plan
    - Showed slide of common themes and where they overlap
Introduced first potential project related to emergence timing and BMI
  ▪ It’s a good fit because it provides useful data for volunteers (fisherman), for us, and our stakeholders. It provides information related to climate change impacts. It can be done on public and private lands.
  ▪ Board Members discussed project and staff responded to questions.

**Forestry Health Update (Jessie)**

Jessie provided update about AIM grant potential opportunity.

**Adjournment**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.
Attachments 2
Business Plan Update
03/14/2019

To: Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG) Board of Directors

From: Jessie Olson, LWOG Executive Director and Long Term Strategic Planning Committee

RE: Business Plan Update

The purpose of this memo is to frame the discussion for the upcoming board meeting on March 19th. The discussion will focus on (1) understanding the board’s willingness to expand programs and services regionally, and (2) developing the agenda for the upcoming strategic planning meeting.

Process

The process we propose to undertake with the board is outlined below.

1. After reviewing the sections below titled “Context,” “Our Niche,” and “Current Services” discuss the following questions.

   a. Does the board agree that we are a “model” watershed coalition with programs and services and a business model that are transferable regionally?

   b. Does the board want Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group to have a bigger impact regionally – for the benefit of watersheds, communities, and the environment?

   c. Given the answers to the first two questions, should LWOG pursue opportunities to expand existing programs and services regionally?

2. Discuss key agenda items for the upcoming strategic planning meeting. If the answers to a, b, and c are yes, key agenda items would include:

   a. Discussing expanding services to encompass a broader range of “future” activities as described below.

   b. Discussing re-branding LWOG to maintain a robust local organization, with visibility and access to a broader customer base and to better match the scope of services provided. Consider potential modifications to organization mission, name, and organizational structure.

Context

- We are one of the few watershed coalitions that existed prior to the 2013 flood and had operated as an organization with an approximate $20K budget, focused primarily on mine related issues, primarily conducting water quality monitoring.

- We grew from the flood, implementing millions of dollars of projects, building a robust set of watershed programs that holistically address and respond to issues related to watershed health.
• Internally, this robust set of programs and services provide tremendous benefits to the watershed compared to what was available prior to the 2013 flood.
• Our board has supported growth of staff and the organization and has developed a unique niche as science-based organization, with a business model, programs, and tools for holistically addressing watershed health related to both the land and community within. (See list of unique attributes below). As a result, we have made a big impact to the local watershed.
• Now, nearly four years’ post-expansion, we have an opportunity to grow again using our successful management system and business model to have a greater impact regionally – for the benefit of watersheds, communities, and the environment.
• We see a market demand for this work outside of the watershed in places where coalitions are struggling, municipalities have limited staff resources, and grant funders are looking for broader applicability and impact of watershed work. We have already started this type of growth by contracting with St. Vrain Creek Coalition and assisting other coalitions with implementation monitoring programs.
• This growth opportunity should be considered entirely additive. It will not detract from the benefits and services that we provide to Left Hand and will come back to benefit Left Hand Watershed both directly and indirectly. For example, a robust local organization makes us well prepared to respond rapidly to the next disaster, mine issue, etc.

Our Niche- What makes us unique, what is our competitive advantage?

• Holistic Approach – We respect the interconnectedness of the river, land, and people, and work across boundaries to incorporate all aspects of the watershed as a whole.
• Place-based, Yet Transferable – Our organization is local in scale, but our tools and programs are proven to have broad reach and applicability for others.
• Sound Science – Our staff of scientists make evidence based decisions and approach all projects with a high degree of scientific understanding.
• Science Communication – Our staff of scientists are skilled at communicating with diverse audiences, including non-scientists, to foster collaboration and make progress.
• Grassroots-Led, On-the-Ground Solutions – We use a grassroots approach for bringing together diverse people with competing values, across multiple jurisdictions, to develop on-the-ground solutions.
• Community Science – We are leading development of tools for engaging local communities in science through place-based, participatory learning.
• Thought Leadership – We are thought leaders in the realms of science-based adaptive management related to holistic watershed health and resiliency.

Current Services

This is the list of services we currently provide and could market more effectively to a broader audience or region:

• Use our existing adaptive management plan/framework to implement adaptive management and monitoring in our watershed and in other front range watersheds.
• Identify and pursue grant funding for on-the-ground restoration projects on public and private land.
• Manage restoration projects from start to finish, or support partner organizations with specific project needs including, grant administration, landowner outreach, design review, permit acquisition, construction oversight, revegetation oversight, and closeout, among others.
• Conduct data collection, analysis, and reporting tasks related to adaptive management.
• Implement stream stewardship at a meaningful scale, using a comprehensive and prioritized approach. Provide one-on-one consultations, workshops, and educational tools.
• Use our community science tools and plans to engage stakeholders and community members in data collection related to watershed health and host trainings/workshops/events.
• Conduct water quality monitoring and/or analysis (metals, sediment, nutrients, etc.) to detect issues or evaluate restoration success.
• Serve as a hub for communication by providing outreach and science communication services to help communities better understand watershed issues, report relevant watershed news and information.

Potential Future Services

This is the list of services we could provide in the future, building off of what we already do:

• Develop restoration and adaptive management tools and protocols relating to other watershed health problems (e.g. forest health, abandon mine reclamation/restoration, trail planning, etc.) within and outside the watershed.
• Expand our existing adaptive management framework to be applicable for other watersheds and rivers in the state and beyond.
• Extend stewardship offerings to include forestry health, sustainable water use, recreation, climate change mitigation, and others.
• Develop and implement new community science efforts beyond our existing service for others.
• Add upland forestry health or invasive species detection and response, and/or other ecological assessment and science services.
• Develop a K-12 watershed education program and/or leverage partnerships to provide place-based watershed education.
• Help other communities facing disaster recovery by providing our model, services, and/or resources.
• Take overall program structure (watershed science, restoration, stewardship, outreach and education) and apply to another watershed or location.

Clients/Funders/Investors/Beneficiaries

• Individual Donors
• Corporate Foundations (e.g. Burns & Mac, REI, Patagonia)
• Municipalities (e.g. Keep it Clean, City of Longmont, LHWD, Boulder County)
• Non-profits (e.g. TU and watershed groups)
• Foundation grants (e.g. Gates FF, Walton FF)
• Government grants and agreements (e.g. USFS, DRMS, CWCB)
• General public
• Education Institutions
• Agricultural organizations