



Board Meeting Minutes 03/19/2019

Attendees

Chris Smith (with proxy for Sean Cronin)
Jessie Olson
Sue Schaffler
Ken Lenarcic (with proxy for Pat Cypher)
Monica Bortolini
Kathy Peterson
Gabe Tuerk
Yana Sorokin
Chris Wiorek (with proxy Mark Schueneman)
Julie Trumpler (arrived at 2:58)

Welcome and Introductions

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

Public comments on items not on the agenda

Chris S asked for items not on the agenda. None were received.

Approval of Minutes (Chris S)

Kathy moved to approve the minutes. Monica seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Plan Discussion (Jessie)

Jessie provided presentation overview of memo (see memo).

- Reviewed our history and existing before the flood.
- Discussed growing from the flood.
- Discussed leveraging the board's cohesiveness and leadership to develop a suite of programs and tools that are relevant both here and in the larger region.
- Explained that now we have an opportunity to grow again to have a greater impact regionally.
- Showed that we see demand for our programs and tools, and provided examples.



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- Described that the benefits we could gain would be entirely additive to what we are already doing in Left Hand.
- Described our niche (see memo): holistic, living laboratory, science and communication, leading new and smart ideas, and doing work on the ground.
- Reviewed our services (see memo): adaptive management, restoration projects, monitoring and assessment, water quality, stewardship, community science, and outreach and education.

Chris S asked everyone to provide their thoughts:

- Chris W. liked the approach of providing a service to others and having an impact on a broader area while maintaining the benefits to our watershed.
- Sue liked the idea of extending the services and using Left Hand as a living laboratory as long as we are deliberate and don't lose focus on issues in our watershed related to mines, fire, water quality, etc. Suggested that we also look nationally for examples.
- Ken asked what the organization would look like if we merge. Jessie and Chris S. provided clarification that the growth approach is related to transferable tools and programs rather than merging with other coalitions. Chris S. provided the example of community scientists collecting data region-wide or developing an education program that could be used region-wide but with our existing board members still in the driver's seat. Ken asked for further clarification and discussion ensued.
- Kathy emphasized the importance of being deliberate with this approach and also looking at the bigger environmental community. She was glad to see planning for longevity that also benefits the Left Hand Watershed.
- Monica noted that she has been working to add the adaptive management process to City of Longmont creeks and that this is a good example of how it could be applied regionally.
- Gabe asked about the plan to bring back profits from regional work to Left Hand Creek and Chris S explained how this is incorporated into staff billing rates.
- Chris S talked about how all diverse stakeholders on the board should be bringing their needs to the table.
- Chris W asked what would happen if we didn't pursue this opportunity? Jessie explained that the organization would shrink.
- There was a discussion about corporations and broader regional interest.
- Julie T thought that the Left Hand Creek Watershed will be best used as an example of watershed health and protection to help a greater region.
- Ken requested to see a list of products that would be offered regionally and discussion ensued about example services and how to present this information.
- Chris W asked for the planning effort to address how this would look in five years.



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Jessie turned discussion back to the questions in the memo. Chris S. asked board members to answer questions listed in the memo. Board members agreed that we have transferable programs and services. Board members agreed that the board wants Left Hand Watershed Oversight Group to have a greater impact for the benefit of watershed, communities, and the environment. Board members agreed that staff should pursue selected opportunities to expand programs and services to others, but first want to see details and examples, and also have further discussion at the strategic planning meeting about what these services are and what they may look like in five years. Further discussion ensued.

Jessie turned the discussion to the agenda for the strategic planning meeting. Board members agreed that we discuss (1) where are we now, (2) future visioning session, and (3) how do we get to where we want to be. Also include: what we look like if we don't do this, examples of services, ranking affinity to transferability, decision criteria to evaluate projects, deliverables associated with services, current demand, how would it bring benefits back to Left Hand, and other examples of this type of organization. Jessie reviewed details of the draft agenda and asked for feedback. Chris S asked Jessie to bring a collection of new names to the meeting.

Adjournment

The regular meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM.