**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #15 Minutes**

North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition – A VSWCD Initiative

USBR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Grant

“To mobilize a diverse group of North Fork Payette River Watershed stakeholders to identify watershed challenges, develop Watershed Restoration Plan and identify funding sources for plan implementation.”

**Date/Time:** May 9, 2024| 9AM-11AM MST **Location:** Zoom & VSWCD Office  
**Purpose:** Set goals and activities for upcoming NFPRWC workshops, discuss outreach for stakeholders, plan breakout group goals/communication expectations

**Minutes:**

1. **Discussion Items**
   1. April 25 Feedback: “The last meeting was well attended but the meeting did not set aside enough time for people to talk in groups together. Filling out the form with any kind of good discussion with others at your table was impossible. Nor was it possible to pick 4 top priorities especially when many of them were so connected. And then to get to sign up for work groups? That just got lost.”
   2. April 25 Workshop results
      * + How do we plan to use worksheet results? Group/individual submissions. Look at Lenard’s results sheet (in One Drive and Google Drive) SC please review these results and send feedback to Durena, Lenard, Daina.
   3. June 12 Workshop 4-6PM

* Cascade American Legion Hall is the current venue
* Presentation from watershed expert (HABS?)
  + - * Dani Terhaar will present on HABS
      * Judy A: at least half the meeting should be designated for community discussion and work to encourage learning and participation
      * Discussion on roundtables or classroom discussion style with presentations. The WCEDC started with roundtables and was successful. Melissa Jayo suggested that people have time to move around, sit at a round table, listen to short presentation, and then have discussion and work time. Tables can work at the American Legion Hall. Tables might also be designated with work group focus like development or recreation.
  1. June 12 meeting flow and topics
     + - Meeting flow: participants should be able to move around and visit different working groups. Participants can either join established groups or form new interest groups.
       - Starting conversations: most people attending already have a problem they want to address on June 12. Group leads and watershed experts start conversations in each group with technical information about watershed issues. VSWCD can also share current watershed projects as examples to get participants to share more ideas.
  + Consider addressing that we cannot completely change the reservoir, but we can reduce toxicity. Presenters need to speak briefly and with less technical information so that the public can use it. Maureen Pepper suggested having brief conversations during presentations to allow discussion and engagement.
  + Dani T can present HABS information and a few watershed experts can break up the presentation with discussions that focus on watershed topics
  + Lenard: not all people will contribute to a large group discussion, which is why it is important to also offer small group discussion
  + Melissa Jayo: it is difficult to engage everyone on the same topic, although their activities may be very important for water quality. We have to offer specific and engaging conversations for these people.
  + Focus on this point: **“everyone can make a difference if you focus on your actions creating positive change and inspiring your neighbors”** This point should come from a community leader. Offer a simple list of actions that residents can take to improve watershed health and benefit from.
  + Jordan Messner is willing to present information on stream flow temperature and impacts to water quality with ideas on how to improve water quality.
    - Neil Shippy as a possible discussion leader?
    - Jordan M: working with the major landowners and irrigation districts can make a major positive impact along with working with smaller landowners
  + Melissa Jayo: we can talk about State and Federal funding opportunities at this meeting
  + Answer the question: “How can the NFPRWC help you improve your life/land and the watershed?”
  + The irrigation districts are very interested in watershed improvement efforts. There has not been funding to meet the demand. It would be good to tie in past efforts with new efforts. Durena and/or Art should send background information on these projects to Jordan.
* Schedule Community Outreach training with James Elmore UI Extension for mid/late May
  + Durena/Daina will find a time to get admin trained with digital skills (open to other SC as well)
* We need more SC representation. Forest Service, local schools, etc. Ideas?
  + Please send a sub in your place if you cannot attend upcoming SC meetings.
  + Boise Forest Service and Payette Forest were both represented at the last Coalition event

**Announcement: we are moving coalition files/communication from GSuite to OneDrive to work better with government domains.**