



## 4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting

### MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 9 am – 12:00 pm

ZOOM Audio Meeting

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/92771192452>

#### ZOOM meeting protocols:

- Co-chairs will manage participant engagement
- No video please
- Keep speaker on MUTE
- Use chat box to communicate your questions or comments to the group.
- Please refrain from private messaging as it becomes part of the official transcript.

**In attendance:** Brad Worsley, Amy Waltz, Jaelyn Belcher, Jeremy Kruger, Rob Nelson, Anne Mottek, Brienne Pettit, Tom Mackin, Chris Jones, Aaron Green, David Dorum, Melanie Colavito, D Magna, Travis Woolley, Adam Cooley, John Hamil, Greg Smith, Spencer Plumb, John Souther, Todd Schulke, Joel Jurgens, Hannah Griscom, Jay Smith, Jamie Sanderlin, Dick Fleishman, Victoria Payne, Patrick Moore, Steve Rosenstock, Doyle Gaines, Henry Provencio, Diane Vosick, Randy Fuller, Paul Chapman, Joe Miller, Eli Jensen, D Dolecheck, Cerissa Hoglander, John Godfrey, Art Babbott, George Stedeford, Shaula Hedwall, Henry Provencio, Tom Holl, Alicyn Gitlin, Jowan T, Stephen Flora, Tracy Bazelman, Robbin Bundrock, Gary Gold, Jan K, Justin Schofer, Tahne Corcutt, Don Waye, City of Flagstaff, Tayloe Dubay, Elvy Barton SRP, Mark Nigrelli, Neil Chapman, Robbin Redman, Mark Bellis, Rick Tadder. Carol Covington taking minutes.

**Approve minutes from the April 22, 2020 Stakeholder Group meeting** — Worsley – approved as presented.

**Review action items from the April 22, 2020 Stakeholder Group meeting** — Worsley

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Spring Newsletter ideas to Dubay	Dubay	Done
2. Reach out to Center for Biological Diversity	Joe Miller	Done
3. Confirm TNC and TNC/USGS presentations with Wooley	Covington	Done
4. Reach out to Colorado Forest Business Fund	Vosick	Done

### Call to the Public

**USFS Update** – Jeremy Kruger offered a brief update to the status of the RFP. The solicitation closed May 12. He reminded the group that the USFS is unable to share any details about the submittals nor review committee. Dick Fleishman mentioned that the in advance of the June Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee meeting, public comments are invited and must be submitted no later than June 15. He suggested that the Stakeholder Group may consider a collective statement.

Henry Provencio mentioned that there is a group working to get cords of wood delivered to the Navajo Nation and Hopi. Since the Covid19 epidemic, they have delivered about 100 cords to impacted families.

This effort has been very successful, and has been fueled by the 4FRI restoration projects.

He went on to describe work on a digital timber sale manager to modernize and digitize timber sales process.

### **State of Arizona Possible Role in Support of 4FRI**

- **Conservation Finance brief update** – Henry Provencio shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#) describing a summary of 4FRI history and purpose. He summarized events leading up to the foundation of 4FRI. He noted that the initiative goals included a 20-year goal of treating 1 million acres, and that at the pace of the first 10 years, we will miss the mark. He underscored reasons to support the scale of the effort, including ecological, economic, and socio-political benefits. He briefly outlined a number of conservation finance efforts being discussed.

Spencer Plumb, National Forest Foundation, described that organization's efforts to secure funding include a wide range of entities. They have about 30 different contributors ranging from cities large and small, as well as recreation industries. Each contributing entity wants to help ensure water quality and recreational opportunities.

Henry Provencio highlighted that there are different conservation finance tools currently in use. He noted that there are conservation finances changes under development within the government.

The next steps include aligning benefactors with the correct tool, and accurately identifying where the needs are.

It was suggested that we look at a marketing program to educate the public about such a program if implemented.

Art Babbott added that Coconino County is working to better understand the spectrum of financial needs to boost forest industry. He wanted to make sure that as we engage industry, they are reminded of resources available to them from the County, Navajo County, and other sources of useful information.

- **Coconino County economic development/business fund** – Jay Smith described a discussion with the County Economic Development Director exploring the viability of a revolving fund program for forest industry. To explore this further, the County will be reaching out to industry to ascertain what the needs are. IE what size of loans might industry seek; what are the terms they would require; what are appropriate review criteria; is this something that would fill a void or is it not needed? The County will administer a survey to industry partners to explore further the options to offer loans for equipment or down payments for same. It was suggested that a part of this conversation there should be exploration of USDA matching funds.
- **City of Flagstaff – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of AZ (WIFA) - EPA** - Neil Chapman & Rick Tadder, Management Services Director/Treasurer – Neil Chapman described that FWPP was created in 2012 and at the time, was the only forest restoration effort funded through municipal bond. He introduced Rick Tadder and mentioned that Rick is working with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority on financing this initiative. Rick Tadder gave a brief overview of the work of WIFA. WIFA has expressed interest in doing the finance for the bonds. The City worked with financial investors to determine what options might be available. What came back was a 1.8% financing mechanism, with a principal forgiveness of one million dollars. These loans often come with federal requirements which can cause hurdles. The nature of the project, however, negates the need to navigate the federal

requirements that are arduous.

- **Don Waye (EPA)** – He described that he works for the part of the EPA that works with states on water protection. EPA likes the innovation behind this project idea and supports it fully.
- **Aaron Green (FFM)** – Getting ready to award a contract to increase scale of restoration work, and not limited to 4FRI area forests. It is an opportunity available to all state agencies. Input from diverse stakeholders. They should have some more information concerning a statewide shared stewardship agreement soon.

**Communication Work Group Update** – Tayloe Dubay – Ongoing call for new members for the communication working group. Summer newsletter production is in progress. A draft will be ready to review at the June Steering Committee and Stakeholder meetings.

**Multi Party Monitoring – Update from Board** – Bryce Esch shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#) summarizing the work that they are engaged in. She offered a brief overview of budget, and stakeholder developed indicators, and this year's priorities. Board members provided summaries in three broad categories:

#### **Aquatics**

- Cerissa Hoglander, Grand Canyon Trust, offered an update on springs monitoring in 4FRI restoration areas. The focus is on spring flow, aquatic and emergent vegetation, and stream channels.
- Hannah Griscom, AZ Game and Fish, offered a summary of the work being done to restore and maintain healthy streams in the treatment areas. The focus is on identifying gaps in knowledge to better understand how best to develop a hydrology monitoring plan, to monitor treatment areas.

#### **Forest Composition and Structure**

- Bryce Esch, ERI, provided an overview of data collected on pretreatment measurements. Trees per acre, diameter, regeneration rates, mix of vegetation types. They are actively working on data management to establish baseline information before restoration treatment. Post treatment data collection will begin this summer.
- Travis Woolley, Nature Conservancy, offered an overview of remote sensing data collection efforts and invasive plant monitoring. The focus of this data collection is on a fine scale and on a broad scale. Another feature being monitored is that of patterns of invasive plant growth.

#### **Wildlife**

- Hannah Griscom, AZ Game and Fish, described a monitoring project measuring pronghorn connectivity or the pattern of movement of pronghorn sheep in the study area. They are working on establishing a baseline data on activities and migration patterns.
- Jamie Sanderlain, Rocky Mountain Research Station, provided an overview of how songbird monitoring is taking place in the 4FRI study area. She described three areas of focus: pretreatment report on multi-scale habitat relationships; power analysis; pilot study of citizen science.

In summary, the goal is to use monitoring results to inform management and adaptive management success. Final environmental impact statement is being integrated into the monitoring plan.

**Use of Zoom meeting format for future SHG meetings** – Worsley noted the new meeting format. There were suggestions about incorporating zoom meetings on a regular basis with periodic in person. Several suggestions on intervals of in person meetings. Suggestions of meeting in the field; of offering zoom option even when in person meetings are taking place to honor wishes to maintain social distancing.

He invited members to offer their opinions in advance of the June Steering Committee meeting so that an outline of a plan can be presented for the entire group to discuss.

**Co-Chair Rotation** – Worsley called for volunteers to serve as co-chair of the group. Adam Cooley volunteered to serve as cold chair. Jay Smith will step up as the subsequent cold chair.

**Industry updates**

Novo Power –has been running very well. Sitting on 1 ½ - 2 weeks of inventory. Contract extension is under discussion.

Cooley – modification to sawmill

Tri Star - none

Canyon Creek - none

TGNC Campbell Global - none

**Working Group Updates**

1. Final Environmental Impact Statement WG (5 min) – Waltz – Working their way through the comments and suggested edits. Final EIS to be completed by October.
2. Industry/Biomass WG – Worsley – no updates. Next meeting is expected to focus on RFP.
3. Communication WG - (see above)
4. Multi-Party Monitoring Board WG (see above)
5. Comprehensive Implementation WG – Griscom – Offered a brief update of the springs they have been monitoring and have identified four springs that they will work to improve.

**Stakeholder Disclosures** – none

**Review Action Items**

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Steering Committee to develop proposal for zoom meeting structure.	Worsley	

**Adjourn 11:09 am**

---

**2020 Meeting Schedule** – these dates are posted on the 4FRI website.

- AZGFD Pinetop - 7/22, 9/23, 11/18
- Coconino NF Supervisor’s office - 6/24, 8/26, 10/28