

Meeting Notes

Environment System Group Meeting #4

June 24, 2014

This meeting included:

- A review of the remaining steps in Scenario Planning
- Summary of other System Groups' visions and goals
- Review, discussion, and informal polling on Vision
- Goals and Metrics group discussion and informal Goals polling

Steps in Scenario Planning

June-July – Vision, Goals, Metrics

- 2 System Group meetings
- Stakeholder, public and committee input

Finalize: Vision, Goals, and Metrics

August-October – Ideal Systems

- 3 System Group charrettes completes formal System Group meetings
- Stakeholder, committee and public input

Design Features explained, design features mapped, apply metrics to existing conditions to generate the System report card

November – January – Preferred Scenario

- Small workshop and charrette
- Stakeholder, committee and public input
- Exec Board select preferred

Combine Systems, stakeholder and public involvement and refinement, then select a Preferred Scenario

Comments:

There was a suggestion to develop and use a predictive model to assess watershed impacts that could result from actions proposed by other groups. There are existing models that could potentially be used, although the time frame is limited in Phase 1 and we will want to know what the group's goals are for the environment before determining how to predict or evaluate actions. Assessing watershed impacts is related to metrics; the discussion on modeling was tabled until the metrics discussion so that specifics could be discussed rather than hypothetical modeling needs.

System Groups Update

Layne Jones presented an overview of other system group Vision, Goals, and Metrics.

Some members want to provide comments/input on the other system groups' goals and metrics. Comments can be submitted to Andrea Clayton (tech lead), Laynee Jones, or admin@mountainaccord.com and they will be forwarded on to the appropriate person. Ultimately, it is up to each group to define their vision, goals, and metrics.

Vision Discussion and Polling

Joan Degiorgio introduced the draft vision statements which were distributed to the group before the meeting and are available on the Mountain Accord website.

Discussion:

The group discussed the individual attributes of each of the four vision statements. People favored the elements that connect the Vision to the goals and metrics.

A question was asked--How important is it that we mention agriculture? We likely won't impact it a lot. Is it relevant to what we are planning to do? In Wasatch County--this is a very important issue.

Vision #1--Metrics can easily be applied to it. Not subjective, not "flowery." The language is transferrable across all groups. Discussion around the words functional and resilient--some favor and some are uncomfortable with it. [Opinion] Resilient is a very important word to conservation biologists in terms of how ecosystems are impacted and bounce back. Statement lacks the words conserved and community and clear intent of "aesthetically pleasing."

Joan proposed that statements 2 and 3 be eliminated and key elements from them incorporated into the other statements. *Group concurred and decided to focus efforts on making the following improvements to Vision Statement 1: Wasatch that are preserved protected and restored such that they are... (include the word conserved). The Vision statement was revised during the meeting and projected on screen.*

Revised Vision:

The Central Wasatch is a natural ecosystem--comprised of air, land, water, soils, and wildlife--that is conserved, protected, and restored such that it is functional and resilient for current and future generations.

The System Group voted informally with a show of hands on their level of concurrence with the Vision statement that was revised based upon input from today's meeting.

37 System Group Members Participated

- 1) Concur 10 votes
- 2) Concur with minor point of contention 26 votes
- 3) Disagree with outcome but consent to move forward 0
- 4) Dissent 0
- 5) Waive or Abstain 0

The revised Vision statement will be sent to the environment system group and formal polling will take place via on-line polling before the next System Group meeting.

Goals and Metrics Discussion and Polling

Joan introduced the draft Goals.

Goals Discussion:

Goal 1: In general people are OK with this goal. *General agreement from verbal poll and show of hands.*

Goal 2: People have issues with the word “maintain.” There are some aspects of our air that are good such that we want to maintain. *CHANGE TO: “protect and improve.”*

Goal 3: Ecosystems are a challenging area. Sub-group thought it best to include terrestrial and aquatic. Question whether “ecosystem” includes the topic of habitats. *CHANGE TO: Protect and restore functional aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Incorporate “connected” into statement.*

Goal 4: Land sub-group thought identifying “preserving land for the sake of preservation” was a good broad approach for the resource. This should include public and private lands. Sub-group explicitly excluded the term “purchase” because we don’t know that buying land would be necessary or the appropriate mechanism (i.e. a Wilderness Bill may achieve the same result and no purchase would be required). Restore existing lands means: improving health of land, stream bank degradation, soils, for example. *CHANGE TO: Preserve additional lands, restore existing lands or Preserve additional lands, avoid developing in areas with functioning habitat. (Functioning lands are at high risk for impacts)*

A suggestion was made to incorporate a “negative” goal (these all read in a positive light). Along the lines of the proposed changes to Goal 4: don’t have any functional ecosystems impacted. (i.e., Guardsman’s Pass, Bonanza Flats)

Goal 5: *CHANGE TO: “integrated” governments.*

The Goals were revised during the meeting and projected on screen.

Revised Goals:

Goal 1: Protect, maintain and improve watershed health, water supply, and water quality.

Goal 2: Protect and improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for protection of public health, environmental health, and scenic visibility.

Goal 3: Protect and restore functioning and connected aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Goal 4: Preserve additional lands and avoid loss of critical ecosystems

Goal 5: Legal, regulatory, financial and integrated governance structures provide long-term and sustainable support for achieving the environment system goals.

Potential Goal 6: The group discussed whether greenhouse gas emission reductions belonged in goal #2 (air) or whether it warranted another goal related to climate change. Jeff Heilman indicated that an

additional goal would be acceptable if it moved the group to consensus. (Note: it will be more important to limit the number and particularly the complexity of the metrics so that evaluating them does not require more time, data, or resources than are available in this phase.)

The System Group voted informally with a show of hands on their level of concurrence with the revised Goals (1-5) based upon discussion points above.

- 1) Concur: 10 votes
- 2) Concur with minor point of contention: 23 votes (Note: 13 of the 23 minor points of contention are members who want an additional goal regarding climate change)
- 3) Disagree with outcome but consent to move forward 0 votes
- 4) Dissent 0 votes
- 5) Waive or Abstain 0 votes

The revised Goals will be sent to the environment system group and formal polling will take place via on-line polling before the next System Group meeting.

Metrics Discussion:

Goal 1 Metrics: Concern about how water quality is represented. The Stream Function Index will be incorporated to address this issue. Should we include preserving a certain amount of acreage of land/single family homes or some other metric? (Parking Lot this item for now). General concerns expressed include: measurability of the metric, baseline/thresholds (NRCS has a set of assessment tools that could be used to define the thresholds), and watersheds as captured by the study area.

Water Quality subcommittee should reconvene to discuss this information further.

Goal 2 Metrics: Brock suggested he might be able to define a better second metric. Some of the area communities have prepared GHG emissions reports that could serve as a baseline. How do we want to address Aggregate GHG vs. point source GHG. Could we measure a visual standard to get a better sense of air impacts?

Goal 3 Metrics: It is important to consider invasive species (monitoring the level of invasive species). Metric 1 focuses on habitat—could we emphasize departure index as a tool for monitoring vegetation types? [Laynee] As a group we can provide recommendations to the Executive Board as part of this process. We should avoid some areas (e.g., wetlands, wet meadows, alpine meadows). Need to include connectivity of wildlife corridors.

Time ran out before the remaining Metrics could be discussed.

Action Items

- Send revised vision statement to group to get comments; poll to seek concurrence on Vision and Goals before the next System Group meeting. (Responsible: Technical Team).
- Reconvene sub-groups to continue refining Metrics. (Responsible: Sub-group leads)
- Post maps from meeting on website (Responsible: Technical Team)

Name	Organization	Title	Phone	Email	6/24/14 Attendance
Co-Chairs					
Ann Ober	Park City	Assistant City Manager	801-577-5668	ann.ober@parkcity.org	
Joan Degiorgio	The Nature Conservancy	Northern Mountains Regional Director	801-238-2327	jdegiorgio@tnc.org	
Members					
Alane Boyd	Wasatch County		801-580-9692	alane@desertroseeenv.com	<i>ASB</i>
Allison Jones	Wild Utah Project	Conservation Biologist	801-328-3550	allison@wildutahproject.org	✓
Amanda Smith	State of Utah DEQ	Executive Director		amandasmith@utah.gov	
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Brian Suhadolc	Park City Resort		435-647-5499	brian@pcmr.com	
Brock LeBaron	Utah Division of Air Quality	Deputy Division Director	801-536-4006	blebaron@utah.gov	✓
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Henry Hornberger	Solitude Mountain Resort	VP of Mountain Operations	801-536-5711	henry@skisolitude.com	✓
Howie Garber	Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment		801-450-3770	howie@wanderlustimages.com	✓
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Jeff Niermeyer	Salt Lake City	Salt Lake City Public Utilities Director	801-483-6785	jeff.niermeyer@slcgov.com	✓
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John Guldner	Town of Alta	Town Administrator	O: 801-363-5105 c: 801-580-0486	JHG@townofalta.com	<i>John Guldner</i>
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Name	Organization	Title	Phone	Email	6/24/14 Attendance
Julie Kalar	Deer Valley		435-645-6668	jkalar@deervalley.com	
Julie Peck-Dabing	Salt Lake County	Open Space Program Manager	385-468-1811 C: 801-842-7038	jpeck-dabing@sico.org	✓
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Keith Hanson	Salt Lake County Service Area #3		801-330-3447	keith@canyonwater.com	
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Laura Briefer	Salt Lake City Public Utilities	Water Resources Manager	801-483-6741	laura.briefer@slcgov.com	✓
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Mary DeLoretto	UTA	Senior Program Environmental	801-741-8808	mdeloretto@ndeuta.com	✓
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ATTN: VP Resort Operations

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