



Land and Water Sector Working Group  
Meeting #9 - April 11, 2023  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m. - Virtual only

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and roll call
  - a. Present
    - i. Geoff Blakeslee (Chair)
    - ii. Carolina Manriquez (Co-chair)
    - iii. Ann Raiho
    - iv. Michele Meyer
    - v. Nathan Stewart
    - vi. Todd Hagenbuch
    - vii. Julie Baxter
    - viii. Michelle Stewart (YVSC technical assistant)
  - b. Not present
    - i. Michael Woodbridge
    - ii. Kristy Winser
    - iii. Tim Wohlgenant
2. Update from the CAP Board meetings
  - a. Initial response to language of draft recommendations
    - i. Board okay with the direct language of the recommendations.
  - b. City Council CAP Partner Engagement meeting (4/4/23)
    - i. Presentation well-received. Council recognized and acknowledged breadth, diversity and depth of Working Groups.
3. Review rankings
  - a. We want action in all of these, so not really ranking to choose, but just to inform the valuation process (evaluative criteria)
4. Formatted recommendations to be brought to April 27 All CAP Working Group meeting:
  - a. **Recommendation #1:** Develop program to capture current increased funding for climate-smart agriculture projects through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service programs.
  - b. **Recommendation #2:** Restore high elevation wetlands through Low-Tech Process Based Restoration techniques.
  - c. **Recommendation #3:** Increase capacity to accelerate the rate of tree planting on wildfire burn areas and other forested areas with need and potential for reforestation.

- d. **Recommendation #4:** Increase tree planting in urban and other residential housing areas with focus on opportunities to reduce turfgrass in parks and increase shading of buildings.
  - e. **Recommendation #5:** Plant canopy trees on sufficient acres to help meet water quality standards for temperature in the Yampa.
  - f. **Recommendation #6:** Increase the area treated and affected by wildfire risk mitigation projects (including prescribed burns) that help reduce the risk of large, intense fires that limit potential for forest regeneration.
  - g. **Recommendation #7:** Adopt land use regulations that establish or update appropriate wetland, stream and shoreline buffer widths and adjacent land uses and that avoid conversion of wetlands in new construction.
  - h. **Recommendation #8:** Evaluate and develop smart siting/mitigation rules/guidelines for large-scale solar development to avoid clearing of native habitat or productive agricultural lands.
  - i. **Recommendation #9:** Develop criteria for PDR awards that incentivize restoration and protection of carbon rich resources and increase outreach to landowners with climate significant properties.
  - j. **Recommendation #10:** Develop land clearing regulations and incentives for protecting natural habitat for new developments in the County and in municipalities.
  - k. **Recommendation #11:** Include strong water conservation requirements in updated City of Steamboat Springs landscaping standards and consider for County land use regulations.
  - l. **Recommendation #12:** Encourage cluster development and use of Land Preservation Subdivision (LPS) Exemptions to discourage and reduce the desirability of 35-acre subdivisions and to protect natural habitat.
5. Next meeting - Tuesday, May 9 - 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- a. Incorporate comments from all CAP Working Group meeting into formatted recommendations
6. Recommendations timeline:
- a. June - Finalize formatted recommendations
  - b. June 21 - Public Open House (5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Allbright Auditorium - CMC)
  - c. July - Public release of recommendations - move to quarterly meetings