



Land Use Sector Working Group  
Meeting #9 - May 9, 2023  
1:00 - 2:30 pm - Virtual only

### Meeting Summary

1. Welcome
  - a. Present
    - i. Geoff Blakeslee (Chair)
    - ii. Carolina Manriquez (Co-Chair)
    - iii. Nathan Stewart
    - iv. Kristy Winser
    - v. Michele Meyer
    - vi. Ann Raiho
    - vii. Tim Sullivan (YVSC Technical Assistant)
  - b. Not present
    - i. Julie Baxter
    - ii. Todd Hagenbuch
    - iii. Tim Wohlgenant
    - iv. Michael Woodbridge
2. Update from the CAP Board meeting
  - a. Board to review CAP recommendations at the May 26 meeting to provide feedback ahead of the public open house
  - b. Good to have a little more clarity how we are going to go about prioritizing, summarizing. We want to be able to tell the public what is coming next.
3. Recap of the all CAP Working Group meeting
  - a. All CAP Working Group recommendations folder
  - b. Links to Working Group Google Forms for additional comment
    - i. Energy
    - ii. Transportation
    - iii. Waste
    - iv. Land Use
    - v. Economy
  - c. Review of Land Use responses
4. Group Review of Recommendations #5-12
  - a. Recommendations in their current form have been written more for practitioners than the public
  - b. Recommendation 5: Plant canopy trees to increase shading on sufficient riparian acres to help meet water quality standards for temperature in the Yampa

- i. Comments - keeping it broad keeps it flexible, getting trees at the right time at the right scale is important. What if pipeline is not there? What does it mean to maintain a pipeline? Investing in nurseries. Agreements.
    - c. Recommendation 6: Increase the area treated and benefitted by wildfire risk mitigation projects (including prescribed burns) that help reduce the risk of large, intense fires that limit potential for forest regeneration
      - i. Comments - not about protecting homes, but protecting the carbon sources in our forests by doing smart wildfire mitigation efforts
      - ii. Bears Ears good for scale and NEPA support
      - iii. Need a process for identifying when we are doing something, who is suppose to have done it
    - d. 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
      - i. Comments - County is trying to reign in regulations, good for public to understand how process works. How strategies from the CAP are going to be implemented?
      - ii. Partners - Maybe add River Network as a partner
    - e. Recommendation 8: Evaluate and develop smart siting/mitigation rules/guidelines for utility-scale solar development to minimize clearing of native habitat or productive agricultural lands
      - i. Comments - CPW focused on big game, wildlife impacts. We are trying to avoid land conversion. How do you create a process that drives toward already disturbed or less productive land?
      - ii. Companies are doing their due diligence and willing to do what is needed (meetings with CPW, addressing Routt County's concerns). Regulations and process will be in place before permits are submitted.
      - iii. Potential synergy with Energy Working group
    - f. Recommendation 9: Develop criteria for County Purchase of Development Rights grant awards to incentivize restoration and protection of carbon rich resources
    - g. Recommendation 10: Develop land clearing regulations and incentives for protecting natural habitat for new developments in the County and in municipalities
    - h. Recommendation 11: Include strong water conservation requirements, including limits on new turf installation, in updated City of Steamboat Springs landscaping standards and consider for County land use regulations. Expand existing urban water conservation programs with focus on turf replacement.
      - i. Comments - Mostly focused on new code. Existing codes are already strong (Water conservation district)
      - ii. Incentivizing and limiting turf is important for our future.
    - i. 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
      - i. Comments - Make an explicit linkage with Transportation Multimodal recommendation
5. Next meetings - June 13, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (if needed)
  - a. June 21 - Public Open House - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Allbright Auditorium - CMC
  - b. July - Public release of recommendations - move to quarterly meetings