

Seasonality Kick-off Workshop

Hosted by the Yellowstone Business Partnership

February 28, 2008

Yellowstone Business Partnership hosted a kick-off workshop for its Seasonality Project on February 28, 2008, starting at 1:00 p.m. Participants gathered in six locations around the Greater Yellowstone region (including Billings and Bozeman, Montana; Cody and Lander, Wyoming; and Idaho Falls and Pocatello, Idaho) and met using video-conferencing technology. This document serves as a "group memory" for the Idaho Falls portion of the workshop.

Participants in Idaho Falls met at the University Place Center for Higher Education Building in Room 313-32 for the video-conference portion of the meeting (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.) and then in Room 109 of the Bennion Student Union Building (from 3:00 to 4:45 p.m.).

Participants in Idaho Falls included: Kyle Babbitt (Kyle Babbitt Consulting), Basil Barna (Wilderness Systems and Technology), Scott Lyman (Idaho National Laboratory [INL] Business Operations), Jeff Patlovich (Fremont County), Tad Pearson (INL Transportation), Jan Ulrich (INL Transportation). Wendy Green Lowe of P2 Solutions facilitated the meeting. This document serves as a summary of the discussions and decisions that were made.

Workshop Objectives and Agenda

Wendy Lowe explained that the workshop had been designed to accomplish the following objectives between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.:

- Meet others in the sub-region who are interested in seasonality and transportation
- Receive a presentation on "Turning on the Off-Season" report
- Receive a presentation on regional transportation
- Consider the opportunity to participate further

Wendy explained that the group would then move to another meeting to address the following objectives:

- Discuss which cross-boundary challenges are a priority in this sub-region
- Discuss how the sub-regional team might want to invest \$10,000 to collect more data, conduct more analysis, or develop strategies to resolve priority challenges
- Sign-up to participate in:
 - Sub-regional Seasonality Team
 - Regional Transportation Roundtable
- Identify additional people to invite to participate
- Set dates for the next sub-regional team meeting

Wendy clarified the definitions for this project:

- Region – 25 counties surrounding and including Yellowstone and Grant Teton National Parks totaling 18 million acres

- Sub-region – Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, and Madison Counties. (Teton, Idaho is part of the Jackson, Wyoming sub-region)

The agenda for the first two hours of the workshop was as follows:

Time	What
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Welcome Objectives and Agenda Introductions Orientation to the Video-Conference
1:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Jan Brown (Yellowstone Business Partnership [YBP]) introduce YBP and the Seasonality Project
1:45 – 2:25 p.m.	Dr. Larry Swanson reviews the “Turning on the Off-Season” report and responds to questions
2:25 – 2:30 p.m.	Jan Brown reviews the grant funding that has been provided for this phase of the project
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Basil Barna provides brief historical review of transportation in the Greater Yellowstone region
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Questions and answers

The agenda for the rest of the afternoon was as follows:

Time	What
3:00 – 3:20 p.m.	Break and walk to other room
3:20 – 4:00 p.m.	Discuss which cross-boundary challenge is the highest priority for this sub-region
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Discuss possible ways to invest the \$10,000 to address this sub-regions challenges
4:30 – 4:50 p.m.	Discuss who else should be invited to participate
4:50 – 5:00 p.m.	Set future dates for the sub-regional team

Yellowstone Business Partnership and the Seasonality Project

Jan Brown (YBP) provided a brief introduction to YBP and the Seasonality Project and welcomed all in attendance. All sites introduced participants.

Turning on the Off-Season

Dr. Larry Swanson provided a summary presentation on the “Turning on the Off-Season” report and the major findings. He responded to questions from all participants. His full report is available at:

http://www.yellowstonebusiness.org/our_programs/socioeconomic_research/

Grant Funding for this Phase of the Project

Jan Brown reviewed the grant funding that has been provided for this phase of the project.

Transportation in the Greater Yellowstone Region

Basil Barna provided a brief historical review of transportation in the Greater Yellowstone region.

Questions and answers

Participants in all sub-regions asked final questions.

Which Cross-Boundary Challenge is the Highest Priority for the Sub-region

Following a break and move to another meeting room, three participants (Kyle Babbitt, Basil Barna, and Jeff Patlovich) reconvened to discuss cross-boundary challenges in this sub-region. Following is a listing of the challenges discussed (in approximate descending order of the degree to which they were discussed):

- Lack of knowledge about the sub-regional counties' growth management approaches and how those approaches interface/integrate (including land use maps, policies, transportation plans, pathways)
- Lack of year-round employment opportunities
- Lack of effective (and legal) model for implementing affordable housing
- Pathways
- Lack of a sub-regional identity

Participants agreed not to decide at this meeting which of the challenges is the highest priority, preferring to wait until more people can participate in the discussion.

Possible Ways To Invest The \$10,000 To Address This Sub-Region's Challenges

Wendy Lowe outlined the criteria for awarding the \$10,000 subcontracts within the six sub-regions:

- Each award will be a sub-contract to the YBP
- Each project should address the highest priority challenge (as defined by those who are willing to participate on the sub-regional team)
- Project options would include efforts to collect more data, conduct more analysis, or develop strategies to resolve priority challenges
- YBP would prefer that each sub-region recommend a project that would entail a partnership with an educational institution within the region
- The money can be split into two smaller projects

- The money could be combined with another sub-region (if desired)
- The project must benefit all counties within the sub-region
- The project must outline recommendations that can be integrated into a regional plan for overcoming seasonality challenges

In addition, Wendy outlined the expected schedule for completion of the sub-regional projects:

Date	Activities
February 28	Kick-off Workshop
March/April	Sub-regional team meets to further define a project addressing the highest priority challenge within the sub-region AND make a recommendation to YBP for a \$10,000 contract
May	Annual YBP Conference (focus will be on regional transportation)
June – September	Contractor implements scope of work AND sub-regional team meets to monitor and review preliminary results
September	Sub-regional team meets to draft report on the project
October	“Seasonality Summit” in Cody to share results with other sub-regional teams
November	Sub-regional team meets to finalize its report on its project
December	YBP delivers a final project report to the USDA outlining a plan for the entire region AND evaluating the collaborative processes used to develop the plan

Kyle Babbitt, Basil Barna, and Jeff Patlovich are all willing to serve on the Sub-regional Seasonality Team. Kyle and Basil will also participate on the Regional Transportation Roundtable. Wendy Lowe will contact the INL folks to find out if they are willing to serve on the Regional Transportation Roundtable.

Participants agreed to recruit more members for the sub-regional team before moving forward:

- Jeff will contact and invite county planners and other county staff
- Kyle will contact and invite chamber of commerce and economic development folks (hopefully with help from Jan Brown)
- Basil will contact and invite the Idaho Falls Community Pathways Organization
- Wendy Lowe will develop a one-page invitation to participate in the next meeting – for use in recruiting by Jeff, Kyle, and Basil

Participants agreed to schedule a next meeting (to include new recruits) for March 19, 2008 at the in the Annex Conference Room at the Fremont County Building, 125 North Bridge Street in

Saint Anthony. The meeting will run from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. People interested in attending are requested to let Wendy Lowe know by calling (208) 523-6668. Refreshments will be provided.

Seasonality Kick-off Workshop Participants

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