

YBP Sustainability Project Billings Sub-region Red Lodge, August 28, 2008

Welcome

Facilitator, Barb Beck welcomed participants and they introduced themselves. She explained the purpose of the meeting was to have a progress report from researcher Dr. Ann Adair, have some discussion, and provide whatever guidance was appropriate to the project. Beck gave a short history of the project and explained that the emphasis was to look at cross-boundary challenges.

Progress Report

Dr. Adair reported that Tim has completed 75% of mapping component of the project. When done, anyone with Internet access will be able to use the map layers interactively with the hope that interconnections and relationships become more apparent. They are finding variation in the amount and quality of data available electronically from the various jurisdictions. A decision will need to be made on where to host this data, possibilities include YBP, Beartooth RC&D, or Tim's website.

Ann provided a handout with information from the U.S. Census Bureau on population trends and housing. The housing situation has not kept pace with the population increase for our counties. The group briefly discussed where the overall effort was headed and whether a regional planning entity will be established across multiple jurisdictions as an outcome of the project. After additional discussion of the presented materials, the group members asked that Ann provide the following items in the draft and final reports;

- Data sources and citations for all material,
- References to other relevant studies,
- Analysis and observations from the data and local plans,
- A matrix showing which of the list of issues were identified in the local plans, and
- A comparison of our area with the two state(s)' and/or national situation.

The group discussed ultimate outcomes from this research and the larger project and hope the following can be set into motion; looking at commonalities across the whole GYA region, creation of regional frameworks, raised awareness of shared issues, and recognition by many diverse individuals and groups that they share and have a stake in the same issues—even if sometimes that is for different reasons.

The draft report is due September 19. Because of the size of the map files, the document will probably be too large to e-mail to everyone. Barb will send out a note to let people know at what web address the report can be viewed and downloaded. The group is not planning to meet again prior to the summit.

Wrap-up

Barb reminded everyone of the upcoming summit in Cody. The summit will be held at the Buffalo Bill Historical Museum beginning at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7 and ending by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8. Lodging will be at the Cody Hotel. Check YBP's website www.yellowstonebusiness.org for details.

Notes will be sent out from this meeting.

Meeting Participants

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