



**Stream Management Planning
Peer-Learning Video Call Notes**
10-11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 18, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rivernetwork-org.zoom.us/j/98236185333>

Meeting ID: 982 3618 5333

One tap mobile

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Additional instructions:

- Please mute your device.
- Please turn on your video camera, it needs to be enabled for the break-outs.
- Please have a sharpie marker and a post-it note handy!

Topic Introduction

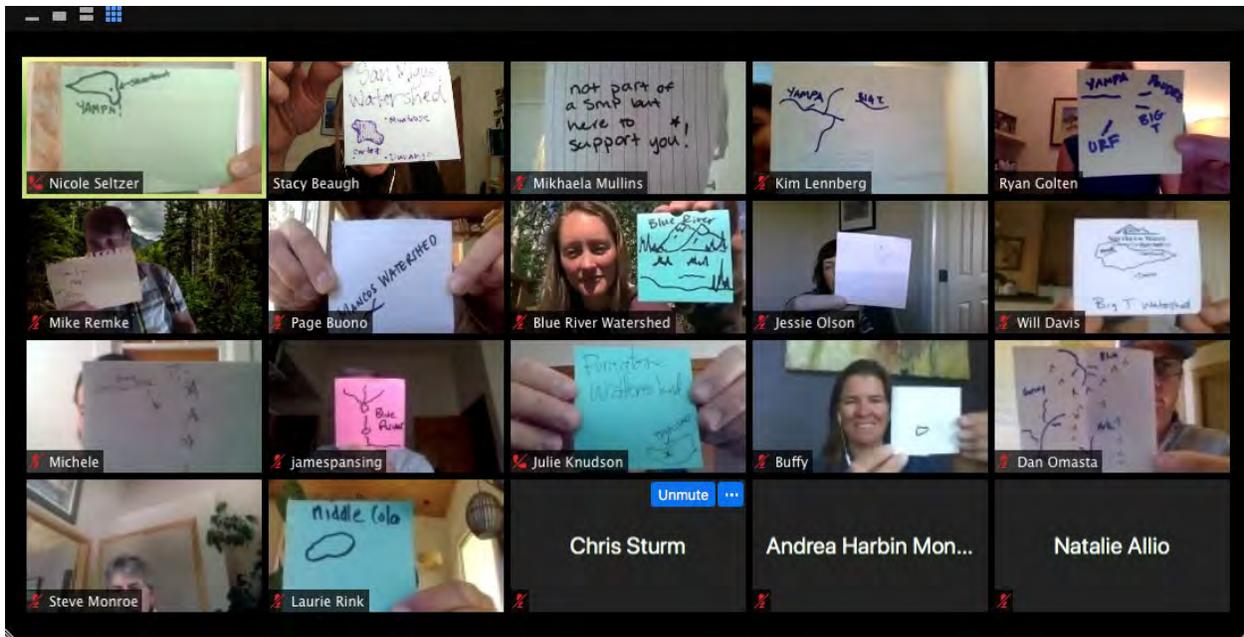
As we move into field season, many stream management planning processes are trying to push on through these uncertain times. This peer call will bring SMP leads together to discuss the challenges and opportunities of planning during the pandemic. You will learn how your peers are adapting their stakeholder processes and how they have revamped their approach to field work for data assessments. We'll also model the best practices for online meetings.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Connection, learning, and problem-solving with your peers around adapting stream management planning processes in the midst of a pandemic.
- Participate in a real-time lesson about online meeting best practices.
- Continuing to build a community of practice among SMP leaders, developing relationships and learning to collectively enhance work on SMP/IWMPs throughout the state.

Agenda

- 10 – 10:05 a.m.** **Welcome, Agenda Overview and Video Call Logistics**
Stacy Beaugh, Strategic By Nature
- 10:05-10:10 a.m.** **Chat Box Introductions - Stacy**
- Name
 - Role on your SMP/IWMP
- Visual Activity**
- SMP/IWMP Location



From chat box:

- Nicole Seltzer, Yampa IWMP, Project Manager
- Stacy Beaugh, San Miguel River, Facilitator
- Will Davis : Will Davis, Big Thompson SMP, Project Coordinator (focus on stakeholder outreach)
- Page Buono, Mancos Watershed SMP, Facilitator
- Natalie Allio, Upper Arkansas River Basin, Coordinator
- Michael Remke, No specific SMP, Research Support at Mountain Studies Institute
- Chris Sturm, many SMPs, funding partner
- Buffy Lenth, South Arkansas/Arkansas, River Health and Restoration
- Mikhaela Mullins, River Network, Denver
- Michele Meyer, Yampa River IWMP, Stakeholder Committee Chair
- Kim Lennberg, Big T SMP (aquatic biota/water quality river health assessment lead), Yampa IWMP (remote assessment project manager)
- Erika Donaghy, Executive Director of the Blue River Watershed Group, working on the Blue River IWMP with our partners TU
- Laurie Rink, Project Manager, Middle Colorado Integrated Watershed Management Plan
- Dan Omasta (Blue River IWMP, Gunnison River IWMP, Upper Arkansas IWMP), Coordination
- Jessie Olson, Left Hand Watershed Center Adaptive Management
- Ryan Golten - Big Thompson (facilitation/process design support); Yampa IWMP (ditto), former Upper Roaring Fork IWMP facilitator; Poudre River Health Assessment facilitator
- Andrea Harbin Monahan, CWCB, Funding partner
- Julie Knudson, Purgatoire River, Watershed Coordinator
- Steve Monroe - Mancos SMP - Independent Contractor
- Jay Pansing - Blue River IWMP - President Blue River Watershed Group - Member Core Team

10:10 – 10:20 a.m. Introduction to Community of Practice
Mikhaela Mullins, River Network

Mikhaela let everyone know that this SMP/IWMP peer learning network is a community of practice. She shared the history of our group since 2017, and introduced the idea of using a community of practice as a framework for SMP/IWMP work. The main benefits she highlighted are connecting people, enabling dialogue, and generating new knowledge.

Benefits of community of practice from chat box:

Trying not to repeat the same mistakes in SMPs - learning from each other

Learning from one another

Helps us all feel like we're contributing to this - ownership

Not reinventing the wheel when it's not necessary

Tying individual efforts to collective action

Best practices, what works

Making the process as inclusive as possible and identifying our "common concerns"

Sharing successful methodologies and dead ends

Finding creative solutions to common problems

Identify resources that have worked in other places

10:20 – 10:55 a.m. Panel Discussion: Planning in a Pandemic

Panelists: Adapting Stakeholder Processes, *Ryan Golten, CBI Inc.*
 Facing a New Type of Field Season, *Jessie Olson, Left Hand Watershed Center*
 Creative Monitoring and Volunteer Engagement Approaches, *Mike Remke,*
 Mountain Studies Institute

- Presentation (20 minutes, about 7 minutes each)
 - Introduction
 - What impact is the pandemic having on your SMP?
 - How have you adjusted your stream management plan?
 - What have you learned from implementing these adjustments?
 - Have the adjustments spurred any unexpected but beneficial long-term changes to your programming or will you go back to business as usual once this is over?
- Q&A (15 minutes)

Ryan Golten: Upsides to remote meetings are that they're easier to attend, often more efficient, breakout rooms are simple and useful, they reduce waste (screen sharing, no printouts, etc), and allow for creative participation options (surveys, polls, breakouts). The main challenge to remote meetings is that building relationships and trust takes more time and doesn't always work as well as meeting face to face, and that sensitive conversations are particularly difficult. Other challenges are missing the creative organic discussions that often come during breaks, lunch, before/after in live meetings; equity (high-speed access, data plans); and the fact that technology can be a barrier. For SMP/IWMPs, this underscores the importance

of coalescing a stakeholder group to get people on the same page. Conversion from in-person to online meeting requires more planning, more one-on-one connections ahead of time, and more time in general, but it can be done! Data gathering can be easier and more efficient if done online. Conducting river health assessments and stakeholder assessments is more difficult but doable. Emphasis is more on one-on-one outreach instead of public meetings, use of smaller focus groups, and online maps. Data to decision making step can be done online. There may be some lasting benefit to remote meetings, and for now, pre-work is key!

Jessie Olson: Left Hand's adaptive management process had lucky timing with COVID closures. We were still able to continue reporting, project implementation, and community outreach tasks. We had to cancel several community science events but are now adapting to changing conditions. We cancelled our big event in September. Positives: New way (old way?) of doing outreach has led to more one-on-one relationship building. It's more efficient – no travel time, multitasking is possible. Planning ahead pays off in a crisis – fundraising early gave us a cushion. Field efforts and volunteer efforts happening with new protocols and limitations, but still happening. This uncertain time underscores the importance of investing in your own watershed – now more than ever, people are connecting to their home watersheds and their sense of place has never been stronger. New marketing campaign?

Mike Remke: MSI staff are conducting a lot of fieldwork and are working on building protocols that follow CDC guidelines. Lucky that science gives clear guidance, but reality is that guidance is constantly changing and that following guidance isn't always realistic (e.g., amidst fire season, particulates in the atmosphere cause coughing and shortness of breath, some of the primary symptoms of COVID). MSI is creatively engaging volunteers – seed ball program in 416 fire area is a good example. We pre-made seed ball kits, had everyone watch a video, and then go for a family hike to deploy the seeds. Socially distant fieldwork has required adjustments because field research often means working in close proximity with your team. We adopted flexibility on a crew-by-crew basis through the idea of family units. This works because we have open and honest communication and honor everyone's comfort level.

10:55 – 11:20 a.m. Break Out Discussion

- Introductions
- What impact is this having on you? Other leadership in your SMP?
- Make a goal – identify one new action/idea you will implement to help you/your SMP move through this challenging situation.

Ideas from chat box:

Identify community representatives for stakeholder groups

Virtual tours with projects/producers

I'd like to use MSI and Lefthand's field work guidance for our teams up here.

Paid local reps to help with ag outreach

Find creative solutions to communicate and reach out

Identifying stakeholders can be a long and somewhat difficult task

Short narrated drone flight tours in place of site tours

To consider having in person, smaller group field visits. They can work and people are happy to get outside!

I think the breakouts are really effective to encourage conversation and would like to work that into our future Advisory Committee meetings

New idea to use short surveys with stakeholders to help determine best ways to reconvene our process.

Really appreciated the conversation about both the opportunities and challenges with one-on-one, smaller group engagement.

11:20 – 11:25 a.m. Best Practices for Online Meetings & Evaluation

Nicole Seltzer

- Evaluation of session
 - Please complete the poll
 - In your chat box write:
 - One thing you liked about this meeting
 - One thing you would change for the future

11:25 - 11:30 a.m. Wrap-Up/Adjourn – Stacy

- Peer-Learning Schedule and Topics Poll
- Additional Resources (see below)
- Volunteer Match-Ups for Hands On Learning

Stacy asked Ryan: Can you go into more depth on what it takes in terms of prework? Ranges from both logistical, relational and structural. On the relational front, how do you build in time to simulate the visiting that people get in group meetings and thinking about how to make an online call and make it more engaging and people to feel more comfortable. Need to get them into a creative mindset to think about opportunities and be candid. Make sure people know how to use the technology and ensure the meeting will work well. Also know when to know when to not even both with online and go straight to modified in-person. Always takes longer for people to join the online meeting and build in transition time into the agenda.

Laurie is considering an in-person stakeholder meeting at the library as well as a zoom meeting. Has anyone tried to combine? Challenge is equalizing participation between those online and those in the room. This can be done with intention and some pre-work (consider 2 facilitators). It may be difficult to get the technology set up. Some places have “zoom classrooms” that are wired for this type of thing.

Julie K learned that some older folks can hear everything better when people use their phones, and they are planning on continuing to do this even after COVID.

Will asked if Stacy pre-selected the breakouts or if zoom chose them randomly. Zoom allows for both options.

Nicole concluded the meeting with a list of tips for successful and productive online meetings:

- Don't assume everyone knows how to use software features and give a quick rundown at the start.
- Mute everyone for background noise.
- Have a detailed agenda.
- For larger groups, consider using the chat box for introductions.
- If you're doing verbal introductions, call on people or have a pre-set order.
- Limit meetings to 1.5 hours if possible. Consider breaks if meeting needs to be longer.
- Include participatory exercises to break up the conversation.
- Try to make sure no one talks for longer than 15 min at a time.
- Consider listening pairs instead of breakout groups.
- Link slide to google slide deck so people can move their names around to "take the temperature of the room" and see where along the spectrum people fall on a particular topic.
- Use polls to judge where you are in a conversation (e.g., support, don't support, can live with it, need more information).

Additional Resources – Check them Out

- Recently Completed Assessment Reports
 - [Upper Gunnison](#)
- New: [Community and Learning Web Page](#)
- [Ask a Practitioner Video – Citizen Science](#)
- [River Network Rally Workshops Zoom Best Practices Video](#)
- <https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/civic-engagement-webinar/>