TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Most SMPs involve local community members throughout the various phases of the planning process. What the involvement from community members looks like varies from SMP to SMP. During this peer call we'll learn about the approaches that the Yampa and Big Thompson teams took to engage their community. In particular we'll discuss the use of data visualization software like Tableau and Maptionnaire to gather and display their input. You'll learn from your peers their methods to involve local community members, how they reported findings back out to the community, and the lessons they learned.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Learn about different approaches to engaging community members and best practices for reporting findings back out to the community.
- Connection, learning, and problem-solving with your peers.
- Continue to build a community of practice among SMP leaders, developing relationships and learning to collectively enhance work on SMP/IWMPs throughout the state.

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:10a.m.   **Welcome, Agenda Overview and Updates –** Mikhaela Mullins, River Network
- Overview of the Peer Learning Network and schedule of events for 2021
    - June field trip
    - Online community
    - Recent website updates

10:10 – 10:20a.m.   **Colorado Water Plan Update** – Nicole Seltzer, River Network
- Colorado Water Plan updates
- SMP 5-Year Outcomes Memo

Nicole reminded the group that the Colorado Water Plan created a specific avenue and funding for SMPs across the State. The Water Plan is currently being updated, so in the next 8-10 months SMP leads have a unique opportunity to let CWCB know about progress that has been made in the last five years and where SMPs are collectively headed; this is our chance to voice our on-the-ground needs. CWCB is currently conducting a series of goals workshops; visit engagecwcb.org for more information.

River Network is currently drafting a memorandum that documents the accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations of SMPs. This document should inform Water Plan recommendations and entice more SMPs, and will be completed in its final format by the end of May 2021.

10:20-10:35a.m.   **Peer Learning Breakout Activity -** Stacy Beaugh, Strategic By Nature
- As a group come up with 2 – 3 topics that you would like us to cover in future peer calls and Ask a Practioner videos.

- Report back to the larger group

Groups came back with some great ideas! Stay tuned for some interesting and informative future peer learning calls and ask-a-practitioner videos.

10:35 – 10:40a.m.   **Topic Overview** – Mikhaela

10:40 – 11:25a.m.   **Panel Discussion: Lessons from Community Planning** - Mikhaela

Panelists:
Nicole Seltzer, Science & Policy Program Manager, River Network

Nicole Seltzer discussed **Yampa IWMP** methodologies for collecting, organizing, and analyzing community/stakeholder input. Because their IWMP covers such a large geographic area, they hired 2 half-time outreach coordinators and enlisted help from staff of 3 non-profit groups to gather information about three different focus areas: agriculture, environment, and recreation. They conducted approximately 150 interviews and one-on-one meetings in a creative and iterative process. According to Nicole, in hindsight she would try to "begin with the end in mind;" they ended up with hundreds of pages of notes, a mix of different types of data to standardize, categorize, and map. They compiled the information into a master spreadsheet, used Google Sheets and Google Site for online data storage and an interactive website, and engaged a consultant for ~$10k to support use of Tableau Public for data organization and sharing. They developed a website and presented a guided tour of their findings to the advisory committee. They also created a 2-page paper summary that they mailed back to all of their interviewees, and are planning neighborhood meetings this summer.

All of the data were dialed down to 11 potential focus areas, which were refined and prioritized by the advisory committee into 3 foci: environmental flows/shortages for agriculture, riparian health, and agricultural infrastructure. View Nicole's presentation here for more information.

Will Davis, Project Coordinator, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition

Will Davis described work completed by the **Big Thompson** Watershed Coalition (BTWC) for their SMP that covers a 15-mile, highly managed/urban stretch of the Big Thompson River. Their original plan of webinars, interviews, and public meetings was foiled by covid, which led them to successfully using Maptionnaire software. The program was user friendly, if expensive. See Will's slides here for more information on pros and cons of this program. BTWC's questionnaire consisted of 11 questions that were a mix of general questions (with narrative responses), interactive mapping (on values and improvements), and demographic questions (related to stakeholder group type). For the 8 values and 15 improvements, users could drop points on a map and include additional comments to accompany the point. The questionnaire was open for approximately 2.5 months, and BTWC received responses from 273 individuals representing 9 stakeholder groups. Respondents dropped almost 1000 points,

generating both quantitative and qualitative data. BTWC took this information and distilled it into 8 main themes or goals, and these aligned well with needs identified in the parallel river health assessment.

Presentations were followed by comments, questions, and conversation related to software logistics for both Tableau and Maptionnaire, using urban conservation as a tool for agricultural engagement, the utility of each of the methods for the different landscapes they cover (e.g., interviews worked well for hearing from rural communities in the Yampa Basin, while the Maptionnaire program was successful in a more urban area where it could be advertised through social media, Next Door, etc.), among others. Both groups plan to overlay the results of community input surveys with environmental health assessment results.

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

Additional Resources – Check them out!
- Join our online community here!
- New: Middle Colorado Final Report
- New: South Arkansas River Stream Health Assessment
- New: River Rally registration is open!
- Community and Learning Web Page