

St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks Stream Management Plan Community Engagement Plan – DRAFT 9/26/18

The Purpose of This Document

The purpose of this Community Engagement Plan is to outline the process for ensuring that the voices of a broad range of community members will be heard and incorporated into the St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks Stream Management Plan (SMP). This plan will guide the work of the consultant team and may change from time to time based on input from the stakeholders. Additionally, the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (the District) is the “organizational home” of the SMP effort, and the District Board of Directors has responsibility for ensuring that the process and the final work product meet the commitments that the Board has made to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the many fiscal partners in this endeavor.

This plan is complementary to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and provides more specifics in terms of the purpose, goals and methods of community outreach. This document is also a tool to help members of the consulting team and stakeholders communicate when and how the broader community members will be involved, and what that involvement will entail. Therefore, if/when this Community Engagement Plan changes, these changes will be shared with the full, large stakeholder group.

The Community: Who are we targeting in this outreach?

St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks are valuable assets not only to the stakeholders and advisors but also to the broader community along these two creeks. These creeks and riparian areas provide recreational opportunities to families, habitat for wildlife, ecosystem services like drinking water supplies and flood attenuation, and many other important and treasured services to residents of Weld and Boulder Counties. For this reason, the SMP process will engage the broader community at several critical points in the process to ensure that the stakeholders and the consultant team are aware of community’s relationship with the creeks that can later serve as qualitative input for the SMP.

Anyone can participate in the SMP process—those who live in the area or want to be engaged for whatever reason. There is no membership list for this group; it is roughly “everyone.” This could include:

- any interested member of the public
- property owner
- recreators
- people with a vested interest in the watershed
- people with scientific or anecdotal knowledge about the watershed;

The Goals: What are the goals of community outreach?

There are a number of goals of the SMP community outreach:

1. Provide information to the community about the process to develop the Stream Management Plan
2. Gather input and ideas from the community for the SMPS’s vision and values
3. Collect input from community in map-based discussion of needs and priority areas
4. Present community with summary information on survey results and information gathered throughout the planning process.

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The Methods: How will we engage the community?

1. **Surveys.** This will allow the broadest range of involvement, for those that are unable to make in person meetings and events but are still interested in providing input in the process. We propose to utilize existing email listserves from stakeholders in watershed [Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group (LWOG), SVCC, the District, Boulder County, City of Longmont, etc] to distribute an on-line survey. Survey questions will be developed in concert with the stakeholder survey and recreational survey to ensure consistent messaging.
2. **Going to the people.** We will table at a minimum of 3 events where potentially interested community members will be already. Three events will be hosted by an LWOG project team member in locations distributed across the watershed and throughout the project timeline. The first event will occur on 10/13/18 at the **Longmont Farmers Market** (which is coincident with the Pumpkin Pie and Antique Show at the fairgrounds), Two additional events, at least one of which will be in Weld County, will be held in early and late spring 2019.
3. **Open Houses.** For those community members looking for more dedicated time and space to engage in the planning process, we will host workshop-style open house meetings located in Weld and Boulder counties. These meetings will include exercises to solicit feedback, including interactive activities. Generally, the format will include a plenary presentation followed by rotating stations with activities in 15-20 minute increments (also called a “World Café” approach).

Open House Meeting Materials and Schedule

At each open house, the consulting team will be available to provide a description of the planning process, opportunities for input, and help identify persons with local knowledge relevant to the project. Base mapping and graphics will be on display and will help provide orientation/common understanding of the watershed. A project fact sheet and summary handout will be prepared in advance of every meeting and go to the people events which will allow consistent messaging to those that attend or do not attend. As described above, these meetings may include World Café style activities. Details regarding the meeting purpose, intended outcomes, talking points, and materials for exercises/activities will be further refined as the planning process progresses.

Community Open House #1 (Tuesday October 16, Evening meeting at Altona Grange):

1. Allow interested community members to learn about the process to develop the plan.
2. Allow community members to provide feedback and ideas for vision and values.
3. Facilitate map-based discussion of needs and priority areas.

Community Open House #2 (February 2019, TBD South Weld County Building or similar):

1. Share technical information gathered in planning process.
2. Identify data gaps, errors or omissions, such as conditions in unassessed reaches.

Community Celebration & Open House #3 (June 2019, TBD):

1. Present final plan documents
2. Discuss phase II items and next steps in planning process

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“Going to the People” Meeting Materials and Schedule

The consulting team -represented primarily by Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group --will be available to host three of these events. In advance of each meeting, the consultant team will provide a “meeting outreach plan” which describes event purpose, intended outcomes, talking points, and includes copies of all materials to have on site. The consultant team will work with the District to select venue(s) and event(s) and the consultant team will help coordinate logistics as needed. All comments from the public will be recorded in writing and provided back to the consulting team for incorporation into the plan.

Anticipated Deliverables

1. Meeting outreach plans (one or two-page document) to distribute to participating team members in advance of each meeting, describing meeting purpose, intended outcomes, talking points, and materials to have on site.
2. Outreach materials (project summary sheets, surveys or other handouts provided at the meetings).
3. Comment-response table and marked up maps documenting all comments received as part of the community outreach process. Summary of survey results.

Documentation

Documentation is a critical aspect of the community engagement plan. The consultant team is deeply committed to transparency and to ensuring that all stakeholders and interested community members are aware of all meetings and events and the outcomes from those meetings and events. All the meetings and consultations outlined above will be summarized by the consultant team, and those summaries will be distributed to all stakeholders and posted on the District website for reference as soon as possible after the meetings and events.