

Groundwork Watershed Coordination Meeting

Meeting Notes

3/24/2011

Intro

- Introductions of attendees
- Meeting Goal: apply 10/10 meeting's collaborative process toward trying to achieve a coordinated effort on the Urban Greening Grant
 - This is an opportunity to practice for future grant coordination efforts
 - Mike handed out a narrative summary of the results of the 10/10 meeting
 - Groundwork invites others to help take over leading these types of meetings.
- Progress toward goals outlined in 10/10 meeting: Groundwork and Jacobs are working on hiring a watershed coordinator.
 - Expected to have funds in place and a person hired by this summer.
 - One function is to help identify and fill data gaps... targeting information needed to successfully author IRWMP grants.
 - Will also help reach out to resident groups in the watershed to identify challenges they are facing and facilitate solutions.
- 10/10 Meeting summary
 - Vision
 - Environmental Justice Elements
 - Actions
 - No major objections voice to the summary as presented.

Activity 1: What is special about the Chollas Watershed?

- Opportunities for restoration
- Cultural diversity in neighborhood
- Biodiversity
- Pollution levels
- We already have a watershed plan
- Open space weaves through neighborhoods
- Park shortage makes open space even more important to residents
- Dechannelization opportunities exist
- Water quality compliance measures and TMDL's have been prepared already
- We've demonstrated progress toward our goals... excellent motivator
- Scale of creeks feels accessible for residents
- Watershed has received a disproportionately low level of funding
- Topographical pattern – canyons weave through neighborhoods

What is a stakeholder?

Keys to success of teams

What can make us fail?

Activity 2: What are the Urgent Items Facing our Watershed?

- Complying with the MS4 permit
- Reducing pollution
- Make the watershed cause more visible
- Stakeholder collaboration
- Coordinated grant strategy
- Identifying other grants to pursue
- Public health through activity
- What do we lose if we don't connect to nature
- Build community capacity through school programs
- Natural vs. mechanical means of water quality improvements – is space/funding available?
- Sustainability/maintenance issues
- Safety and community pride
- Link restoration with economics
- Big \$\$ grant funding programs are beginning to sunset
- How do we make things happen without big grants
- Permitting process needs to be eased

Group Reports

SD Canyonlands – Eric Bowlby

- Currently working at the YMCA, King-Chavez, and other places to connect kids to nature.
- Working in Manzanita and adjacent canyons to create trail connections and loops, and to identify restoration and water quality improvements
- CEP committee is working on trail standards, canyon master plan process, and park land dedication

Jacobs

- Working on Northwest Village Creek...
- 2 + acres of restoration area
- Hoping to pursue a phase 4 connection across the creek with a bridge
- Plans are currently in City review for entitlements

- IRWM money is currently promised for upper portion
- Southern portion has grant app in to the Urban Stream Program

City of SD Stormwater Department

- Department has 2 fundamental priorities: compliance with MS4 permit and flood control
- Likes the idea of leveraging funds to address other priorities too.
- Southcrest park: implementing pervious parking lots, installing large hydrodynamic separator
- 43rd and National: biofiltration project.
- Beta Street Alley: Infiltration project. Trying to capture first quarter inch of runoff. Applying for Urban Greening Grant.
- Streamview: Planning to use islands and sidewalks to install infiltration strips.
- Memorial Park
- City is willing to partner with private entities on project on private property.

Coastkeeper

- Has been concentrating on LID implementation on school sites.
- Regularly does volunteer-based water quality monitoring.
- City needs nonprofits to help document and showcase the effectiveness of City restoration done to date.
- ****Dick's note**** We could set up a program for “long-term restoration effectiveness monitoring” that tracks water quality impact of restoration sites on water quality over the long term, which would help the City quantify benefits of restoration projects, which would facilitate their ability to implement projects and partner with other groups.

Interest expressed in setting up an email list to facilitate ongoing coordination toward grant applications. Use Google groups. Dick to set it up.