

Steering Committee Conference Call Summary

November 18, 2009

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (MST)



Sawtooth Vision 20/20 --
Shared Strategies for the Future

Participants: Sara Baldwin, Carol Cole, Paul Hill, Linda Hoffman, Angenie McCleary, Gary O'Malley, Kim Pierson, Keith Reese, Patricia Young, Susan Hayman, Diann Strom

Next Meeting Date:

An in-person meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the new YMCA in Ketchum. For those needing to call in, dial-in information will be sent out as this date approaches.

Opening

Patricia Young welcomed the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Steering Committee (Steering Committee) and led roll call. Gary O'Malley commented that Charlie Thompson will not be able to join the call, so Gary will represent Charlie when it is time to talk about the Redfish to Stanley trail.

Susan Hayman reviewed the agenda noting that there are many process details to finalize; future meetings will be more action-item oriented. The goals of this meeting are to identify which emphasis areas people want to take the lead on, set the annual calendar and develop a plan on working with workshop participants.

Susan reviewed the June 19 meeting action items. The majority of the June 19 action items were completed. The only task remaining is for Gary, Paul and Patricia to prepare a 1-2 page "update" letter for distribution to the mailing list.

Patricia provided a summary of the July 10 conference call. During this call the Steering Committee discussed:

- Housing and actions being taken by the City of Stanley. Keith and Hannah agreed to check on this and report back on how the Steering Committee can support the effort.
- The need for Custer County representation and the need to follow up with Cliff Hansen to find such a representative. The representative need not be Cliff, but should be someone employed with the county. Keith committed to talk with him, but has not had an opportunity to do so yet. Keith and Gary agreed on this call to contact Cliff.
- Drafting a grant application. The application was written and submitted.

Grant Implementation

National Forest Foundation Expectations

Patricia announced that the National Forest Foundations awarded the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 with a collaborative support grant for \$5,000. The Steering Committee would have liked to have received the \$10,000 grant, but are excited to have at least received the \$5000 grant.

Reporting requirements

The grant funding runs from September 15, 2009 through September 15, 2010. The National Forest Foundation expects to receive a report from the Steering Committee at the end of the grant year. There was some question about the need for a six-month update report – Patricia will review the grant requirements and report back to the Steering Committee.

Scope and budget for EnviroIssues

The majority of the \$5,000 grant will be spent on support from EnviroIssues.

The budget breaks down as follows:

- Communications - \$970. The communications tasks include developing a contact spreadsheet and listserv. EnviroIssues will coordinate Web site updates with the Sawtooth Society since they host the Vision 20/20 Web site.
- Steering Committee support - \$3,530. The Steering committee support tasks include electronic communications, agenda development for quarterly steering committee meetings, meeting facilitation and documentation of meetings.
- Annual community update workshop - \$500. This portion of the budget includes renting meeting space from the Stanley Community Center and provides \$250 travel reimbursements for a facilitator. It does not include facilitation support for the workshop.

As for communications, the following items were discussed:

- **Listserv type:** EnviroIssues plans to utilize a system to distribute the Steering Committee's news and links to their meeting notes/materials, but not allow listserv members to "reply all" to the group. This means any messages to be sent from Sawtooth Vision 20/20 would need to be sent to EnviroIssues to send to the mailing list. "Reply to" information would be provided in the e-mail.
- Keith asked that any communications regarding action items contain a link to the Web site where contact information for the action leaders can be accessed.
- **E-mail header:** An email template has been developed by EnviroIssues. Gary will check with the Web master to see when the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 header will be available to include in this template.
- **File size:** Gary requested that he be sent any documents that need to be posted to the Web site. Currently file size is not an issue, but if it should become a problem then Gary will inform the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee discussed that many people in Stanley have access to DSL and/or broadband Internet, but the Steering Committee should be sensitive to dial-up users, too, when considering file sizes.

Steering Committee Meetings

Winter Meeting

The Steering Committee decided to schedule its winter meeting for February 11 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the new YMCA in Ketchum. The Sawtooth Society meeting is February 11 and 12th, so having the Steering Committee meeting in conjunction with this would be valuable since it could be face-to-face rather than via phone. The YMCA has a phone line for conference calls, so that will be an option for those who cannot attend in person. Use of the phone is \$40 per hour up to \$120 maximum. This does

not include long-distance charges. The Forest Service or Sawtooth Society will provide a conference line number for this purpose.

Spring Meeting

The Steering Committee decided to schedule its spring meeting in conjunction with the Annual Community Update. The tentative date is June 10, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the USFS meeting room. Those unable to attend in-person will be able to call in.

Spring Community Workshop

Setting a date

A half-day Community Update meeting is tentatively scheduled for 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., June 10 at the Community Center. The Steering Committee wants to pursue a social aspect to the Community Update meeting, and thought that a potluck might be a good option. The potluck would follow the meeting at 6 p.m. and would be open to the entire community. It could help recruit more Sawtooth Vision 20/20 interest and action leaders. The potluck will require organization by someone local. It may be easier for the Steering Committee to provide the main dish and have the community bring sides and their own beverages. Holding a BBQ is another option.

The USFS will make the Community Center reservation since it only costs \$50 for the Forest Service to rent, while it would cost the Sawtooth Society \$250; thus saving the Steering Committee \$200. However, based on the grant requirements, the money "saved" must still be used for the workshop.

The Steering Committee decided to send a Save the Date notice in January 2010 about the June 10 meeting date.

Agenda development

The Steering Committee decided to develop the workshop framework at their winter meeting in February 2010. During this meeting they will make task/role assignments and determine agenda items.

The Steering Committee recommended that the agenda include an overview of the Vision 20/20 process, progress on action items and ways for the community to become involved. The goal is to keep the meeting open and encourage the community to become involved and supportive of the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 effort.

Funding

Patricia led the group in a discussion about funding strategies, both for the workshop and overall for next year and beyond. Patricia explained that Vision 20/20 needs a budget of \$5,000 to \$10,000 each year in order to have Steering Committee support services, as well as the workshops. She has identified two funding needs, which are listed below:

1. Funding for ongoing facilitation of the collaborative group
2. Funding for the workshops

Patricia explained that while the National Forest Foundation grant application was successful, it is about \$3,000 less than needed this year. The Steering Committee can apply for the National Forest Foundation grant one more year; however it is not automatic and is competitive. Additionally, at the current grant rate, it again would not cover the spring workshop.

To host a half-day workshop, the cost is \$3,000 which would cover facilitation and workshop notifications, press releases and a summary. The summary would be descriptive and include the agenda and presentations. The cost for a full-day, strategy-style meeting would be higher. \$10,000 or so annually would be needed for a sustainable effort.

The Sawtooth Society has committed some funds towards Vision 20/20, as has the USFS indirectly through employee time, material support, etc. In order to have sustaining funds, the Steering Committee should consider other potential funding sources, such as Blaine County, Custer County, City of Stanley and other groups to commit funds in their budgets. Even if each entity provided \$1-2000 apiece, this could add up to the amount needed.

Apart from the USFS and Sawtooth Society, many potential funders don't know what Sawtooth Vision 20/20 has accomplished. The Steering Committee needs to visit with county commissioners in conjunction with county staff who may attend the spring workshop.

Fundraising with local governments may be dependent on the successes the Steering Committee can report at the 2010 spring workshop, and how the Steering Committee can document the action items that are off the ground due to the efforts of the Vision 20/20 group.

Given this, next year may be a better year to ask for local government funds since the Steering Committee can directly show successes to potential funders. Linda explained that counties/cities receive funding requests from nonprofits during the budget process. Angenie noted that Idaho State statutes require governments to adopt their budgets by the first Monday in August. Budgets are final as of the first Monday in September, and governments must make budget amendments if changes are needed.

Angenie said that Blaine County prefers budget requests no later than May. Budget meetings begin in February and final decisions on requests are made by July. In addition, counties can only make one year commitments as they have to have a new budget each year. Blaine County has a funding request application process and sometimes requires presentations and/or hearings with requesting organizations. Angenie will ensure that the Steering Committee receives the Blaine County application. Angenie recommended that if Blaine County staff and/or commissioners attend the spring workshop, the Steering Committee should plan another meeting with the county in July to help educate county officials and staff about Sawtooth Vision 20/20.

Patricia, Paul, Gary and Carol will draft a funding strategy for discussion during the winter meeting in February 2010.

Action Item "Management"

Identifying action leaders and liaisons

Patricia reminded the Steering Committee that the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 action table has a list of priorities and the names of people who volunteered to be action items leaders. In addition, the Steering Committee needs to identify committee members who will serve as liaisons to each of the five focus areas.

The role of the liaison is to be a support person for action leaders. The liaisons determined at this meeting are as follows:

- 1) Fish and Wildlife – Patricia is the liaison.

- 2) Historic, pastoral and scenic – Paul is the liaison for historic issues. For easement issues, Paul will get support from Gary. For land development issues, Paul will get support from Linda.
- 3) Economic community stability – Keith is the liaison.
- 4) Recreation – Kelly was originally selected as liaison; however Steve Frost, Recreation Program Manager for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, may have broader involvement and slide into Kelly's role if he doesn't have time to do so. Gary will talk to Kelly about the liaison position, and Kelly will talk to Steve about joining the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee would like both Kelly and Steve Frost to be involved on the Steering Committee.
- 5) Natural, sustainable ecosystems – A liaison for this priority area is needed. Patricia recommended recruiting Stefanie Marvel, who works with fire and riparian issues. Patricia will talk with her about the role.

Action strategies

Susan will send a one-page form to action leaders and action liaisons and request that they fill it out and return it to her. The one-page form identifies action leaders and their goals for the year, including milestones and dates. The form will also help identify whether they need anything from the Sawtooth Society or Vision 20/20. The form will help ask questions on how they are progressing with their goals. The form will be brief and should not take too much time to complete. Susan will send the form to the Steering Committee for review prior to sending it to the action leaders and action liaisons.

Action Leader Reports

Pole Creek OHV

Paul and Gary gave an update on the Pole Creek OHV. Paul explained that they had planned to apply to Idaho Parks and Recreation grant to do the major ground work next summer. However, the USFS will have to do a more extensive environmental impact statement (EIS) than originally thought, so some work will have to be deferred until 2011. This work includes the more expensive items, such as a bridge across Pole Creek. The USFS has confirmed that there are some tasks that can be worked on during 2010 while the EIS is being written. The USFS is willing to work with the Steering Committee to do so.

Gary noted that there are about 10 miles of trails that will be closed as part of this project. The intent is that the USFS will allocate funds from other sources so it can close and rehabilitate the trails.

In addition, the Idaho Park and Recreation grant does require matching funds, such as dollars or in-kind. The rehabilitation costs may apply as a match. Carol commented that, generally, work completed prior to grant award cannot be counted as a match. There may be other elements of this project that can move forward, such as sign work. It is important to keep the momentum going on this project.

Steve Frost will be working on this project for the USFS. His background, experience and interests fit well for this project. Paul also reported that the Task Force is still together.

Land exchanges and easements

Gary explained the current status of land exchanges and easements. The land exchange for the four state-owned parcels within the SNRA is ongoing. The principals have been meeting post-Tamarack. The USFS is working to locate other sources of gravel within or around the SNRA that could be part of an exchange.

Gary said that there will be a second meeting with the USFS on December 1. The USFS will share what they have found thus far, which will help determine the path forward on the exchange - either the state's needs are met or there will need to be a third party to make a three-way land exchange. After the December 1 meeting, Gary will be better able to report on the timing and outlook.

Gary noted that so far there has been a lot of positive discussions and interest at the state level. In addition, there has been ongoing communication with congressional delegations.

As for easements, Gary said that the primary Pardo family easement, known as the Rodeo Grounds, is ongoing. Several years ago an appraisal was conducted, but it has expired. Since then there have been a number of conversations about an easement, including interest from the Trust for Public Lands (TPL). TPL is helping to facilitate the conversation and acting as a third party. TPL has met with the Pardo family and agreed to move forward with the easement over the next few years.

At the right time, it might be helpful to have grassroots support from the community, as well as Sawtooth Vision 20/20 members. If they agree with the need for the easement, it may be beneficial to write letters of support to the congressional delegation. Letter should also be sent to the Chief of USFS to recommend that this project be on the agency's short list of items for the President's budget. It is up to the congressional delegation to make sure it is a priority for appropriations for the 2011 fiscal year. If it isn't in the President's budget, then it will have to be added by the congressional delegation, which is difficult given the limited land and water conservation money available. Gary will know more over next few weeks on the shape of things on national level and will report back.

Redfish Lake to Stanley Trail

Gary provided an update about the Redfish Lake to Stanley Trail. There are funds available in the appropriation process this year to purchase the land fee simple to make the trail possible.

The Pole Creek field work will be done next summer, and in 2011 the trail work could start to make the Redfish Lake to Stanley Trail a reality. USFS has already started the hazardous tree clearing analysis and discussed alignment. The project will require completion of an environmental assessment. The project will also require coordination with the City of Stanley on the trailhead starting at the park because there will be planning and funding issues.

Gary noted that this trail will be a tremendous benefit to Stanley and to visitors. It is being designed to be handicapped accessible, and adaptive sports groups are very interested in the project. Gary thanked Congressman Simpson's office for being supportive of the project.

Other Action Item Reports

- The Sawtooth Society helped print 5,000 brochures to educate people on the meaning of Smokey Bear fire signs related to behavior, which relates to Item 41 Fire Education under Sawtooth Vision 20/20. Most of the 5,000 brochures were distributed in September; more will be distributed next year. This printing and distribution could be considered a Sawtooth Vision 20/20 accomplishment.
- Housing - Keith reported that there are no new housing updates. The USFS is working on housing for their employees. As for housing for others, there are ongoing discussions with the City of Stanley regarding the CIEDRA property. The city owns a 40-acre parcel and wants to do

something with 30 acres for their employees. Currently there is no momentum from the general public.

- Carol noted that a landowner removed a diversion on Elk Creek that will result in improved in-stream flow. She also noted that the SNRA is working with the USFS for better Web site presence.
- Kim noted that the USFS is trying to recruit a private land administrator position to fill the position vacated by Ruth Wooding.

Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Update

The Steering Committee discussed whether to send an update to workshop participants prior to the February 2010 Steering Committee meeting, or wait until the June 2010 community update. The Steering Committee decided that the update would be most effective at the June 2010 community update workshop, so workshop participants can ask questions and make comments.

The Steering Committee discussed sending “teaser” information out earlier in May. In addition, the Steering Committee meeting notes should include a section listing accomplishments, so the public can see what’s going on and know they can participate. In June all the accomplishments will be pulled together.

Closing

Patricia and Susan thanked the Steering Committee members for participating in the conference call.

A final point of discussion focused on the distribution list. The Steering Committee decided to list the Steering Committee member and action leader e-mail addresses on the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Web site. As for other Sawtooth Vision 20/20 participants, their information will not be shared on the Web site. If information needs to be shared to the distribution list, then send it to Susan. Susan recommended that the Steering Committee reconfirm contact information for the Steering Committee members and action leaders prior to posting it.

The action items are listed below.

Action Item	Responsibility
Follow up with the City of Stanley on progress with housing	Keith and Hannah
Contact Cliff Hansen about Custer County representation.	Keith and Gary
Check grant information regarding six month grant report.	Patricia
Check-in with Web master about e-mail header.	Gary
Send documents for Web site to Gary.	Envirolssues
Send “Save the Date” e-mail in January 2010.	Envirolssues
Reserve Community Center for June 10, 2010 workshop	USFS
Ensure Steering Committee receives Blaine County grant app.	Angenie
Draft funding strategy prior to February Steering Committee mtg.	Patricia, Paul and Carol
Talk to Kelly about the Recreation liaison position.	Gary
Talk to Steve Frost about serving as the liaison for Recreation.	Kim
Talk to Stefanie Marvel about serving as the liaison for NSE.	Patricia
Send action leader information sheet to the Steering Committee for review prior to sending it to the action leaders.	Susan