

MWTP SC
Notes April 15th, 2024

1. Introductions and agenda (5 min)

- a. New Agenda Topics?
- b. Approve notes 3/13/24 - **Approved**
- c. Assign Notetaker for today: **Simon Buzzard (SB)**
- d. Attendance:

Deb Wambach, Ken McDonald, Shane Talley, Kylie Paul, Dwane Kailey, Blakeley Adkins, Robin Graham, Bill Semmens, Simon Buzzard

2. Application/Guidance Review and Revisions

- a. MDT to update SC Committee Roster (Robin Graham, FWP and Simon Buzzard, Wildlife Connectivity Manager NWF, MSWP) and SC Agendas/Minutes since October 2023.
- b. Section V – review and revision to funding guidance (DK, DW)
- c. Section VI – all guidance needs to be simplified and revised (DK, DW)
 - i. qualification of what is required in Part VI Section A to move an app forward (score well)
DW and DK working on V and VI updates, need done prior to May 1st.
- d. Consensus scoring by SC (DW)
Changed points available to provide more nuance in scoring. (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- e. Timeframe – update at 4/15 meeting
- f. **Action for ST: Sheila and Beth check word counts online application form.**

3. Six mile Phase 3 GO Letter

- a. SC send to applicant by 3/19 (DK) **was sent 4/5**
- b. Phase 3 process guidance to be drafted and sent with the GO letter (DK)
DK: Timeline is an estimate, pulled from standard language, will add this guidance to Teams for SC review and comment by May 3rd. “Phase III Feasibility Study Process” doc
Communications re: Phase 2 -> Phase 3 - can MDT draft language for applicant to share news about feasibility study?
DK: will review and get back to SC. Mentioned desire for MWTP to be the first to announce.
FWP: has comms capacity (Greg?) who can help.

4. MOLF notes & Dwane update for framework.

- a. **SC Review “MWTP Project Funding Process Updated” doc and provide comments by May 3rd**
- b. Framework strawman (is this part of the funding process?)
 - i. MDT – LOI with MOLF – **project-specific: needed after feasibility study is complete**
 - ii. MDT - 3rd party agreement, const of project - Project specific MOU with MOLF and applicant
 - iii. MSWP – MOLF and donors – Project specific or Statewide pooling, but latter likely not big deal
 - (1) MSWP met with MOLF re: process between MSWP and MOLF, project vs. statewide pools of money – update (KP)
 - (2) How does this work in other states? Or at MOLF for other purposes? (MSWP)
DW: Ideal to have this defined as soon as possible, KP: sometime mid-June.
 - iv. Determine SC decision making process for statewide fund pool allocation to projects.

This money could support upcoming projects that are MWTP-led or other MDT-led WAP crossings projects (i.e. could go to any wildlife accommodation project occurring in MT, non-necessarily via MWTP).

DK: MSWP and MOLF should decide where general funds go.

KP: But would MDT be interested in receiving?

5. Future WCPP Project Applications (KP) - **Tabled**
 - a. How does MDT help support advance projects to be able to apply for WCPP funding?
 - b. whether/when/how people (via a local government or other eligible entity) can apply to WCPP funds if haven't yet gone through MTWP PP process...
 - c. KP to elaborate

6. Next Meetings: (10 minutes)
 - a. Schedule Application Review and Scoring meetings, etc. for November cycle
 - i. SC/PIT notify applicants Go/No Go Feasibility Study (3/19) – **Done**
 - ii. Feasibility Study Phase – MDT Lead – **MDT will schedule**
 - iii. Future Working Meetings – **DW will schedule**
 - iv. Schedule for Communications Plan & Schedule of Deliverables
 - (1) Tom action item Agenda #7
 - b. Begin May 2024 cycle prep – **Need to begin NOW**
 - i. Check Schedule of Deliverables – make any adjustments?
 - ii. Schedule meetings – **DW will schedule**
 - iii. Outreach emails to contacts, press release, etc. – **Greg at FWP**
 - (1) Approve email (TM, ST draft ahead of mtg)
 - (2) Send on April 16, including Nov results – **ST planning to work with Tom, send to DW**
 - (3) Press Release May 1 – cycle open! - **ST planning to work with Tom, send to DW**

7. Communication Plan – May 2024 Cycle (DW, TM 10 minutes)
 - a. Need to update plan after November cycle to V3.0 – *Teams* – dates for May cycle (TM)
 - i. Updates only to include changes in the dates of outreach to public
 - ii. New pdf of plan to be saved new version and posted to website.
 - iii. TM to make changes and post for review – **SC review and comment by May 3rd**
 - b. Should we include outreach to public announcing successful projects advancing to Phase 3? (KP) – **ST to discuss with DK**

8. Public Outreach on Planning Tool and Partnership in general (KP, MSWP)
 - a. What outreach is currently being conducted?

FWP: talking about it within FWP regions, TWS presented on it. But re: public is just website.

ST: presented at grizzly bear subcommittee meetings
 - b. MDT/FWP outreach other than call-out for applications?
 - c. Anything directly in response to EQC?
 - d. What is goal of listserv and getting more people on it?

- i. Desire to share other types of information?

Social media – ST to share social media posts to MSWP

KP: MSWP working on Tips and Tricks doc – put on Teams by end of April

- 9. Schedule of deliverables – Tom to keep updated and share as regular agenda item (TM 10 min) – **update this every 6 months.**
 - a. November 2023 – May 2024
 - b. May 2024 – November 2024
 - c. MDT – Feasibility Study for selected projects
- 10. Recent Colorado Summit #2 update (KP) (10 minutes) – **Doc by KP saved in Teams summarizing CO summit.**
 - a. What does Partnership and Program success look like after the November cycle? (KP, All)
 - i. Does the Partnership need to identify and plan for other goals, benefits, needs beyond the Project Program?
 - b. Next MT Summit
 - i. Interim mini-Summit?
 - ii. Next full Summit

DW: Let's get more MWTP projects going, so we can host a potential full summit in 2025 at the earliest. Agencies would need to decide on this and help give direction. A summit would take resources and time. Governor's office support would help.

KM/DW: Objectives need to be clear. Could we set up a subgroup to help conceptualize what would need to come together (e.g., Planning, funding, messages, goals and objectives). What other steps, timing, legislature?

KP: Could there be a mini-summit that doesn't take too much lift because there's a lot of interest in the state re: wildlife crossings?

Exploratory committee – Create a straw dog of objectives, etc. – ST recommend talking to CO folks, review MT summit docs, can dig through MDT files related to the summit.