

Big Wood River Watershed Assessment
Stakeholder Group Meeting #3
Thursday, October 10, 2019, 3-5pm, Hailey, ID
Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Kristine Hilt (KH) – Blaine County Floodplain Manager
Jon Ambrose (JS)- Lead Consultant (Cardno)
Steven Rodriguez (SR)- Project Engineer (Cardno)
Jeff Loomis (JL)- Blaine County Engineer
Bryan Dilworth (BD)- Flood Control District #9 Commissioner
Patti Lousen/Nick Miller (NM)– Trout Unlimited, Hemingway Chapter
Brian Yeager (BY) - City of Hailey Engineer
Mike Peterson - Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Larry Schoen (LS)
Alan Reynolds (AR)
Josh Johnson – Idaho Conservation League
Len Harlig (LH)
Chris Corwin (CC) – Blaine County
Erika Phillips – The Nature Conservancy
Jim Phillips (JP)- Hiawatha Canal Company
Keri York (KY)- Trout Unlimited
Brittany Skelton (BS)- City of Ketchum Senior Planner
Rebecca Bundy (RB) – City of Hailey
Lisa Horowitz – City of Hailey
Forrest Maclean – Galena Engineering
Wendy Pabich - Consultant

Note:

This stakeholder meeting focused on providing updates to the Big Wood River Watershed Assessment since the previous stakeholder meeting including: new business, updates to the study, proposed ATLAS layout, propose methods to develop a project framework, and seeking input/questions from stakeholders.

Key Discussions:

New Business (KH)

- Cardno has provided draft layout materials to County for review
- The County has developed vision statements to incorporate into the study which are in progress
- Cardno has provided draft Atlas layout for review

- Cardno this week is performing field observations/verifications. Also looking at potential/representative project opportunity sites.
- County has received USACE funding for restoration between Bullion Bridge and Colorado Gulch Bridge

Updates from Cardno

- Jon Ambrose provides summary of work completed since previous stakeholder meeting
- Last time we had a proof of concept
 - Presented how we were evaluating river, since then, using GIS to demonstrate analysis
- Completed flood hazard mapping, erosion hazard mapping and project opportunity/potential identification
 - Project Opp ID: Looking to reduce hazards and increase ecological function
- Developed HAWS maps (Height above water surface)
 - ID floodplain low areas – potential hazard areas and project opportunities
- Completed HCMZ analysis (Historical Channel Migration Zone)
 - Extent of channel migration since 1943
 - Channel without resistance (levee, road prism, etc.) has potential to re-occupy an area where it has been
- Recent analysis and today's discussion has/will focus on erosion hazards since we covered flood hazard analysis previously
 - Looked at recent channel migrations using aerial photos
 - 2004 to 2015 and 2015 to 2017
 - Looking for trends of movement both laterally and down valley
 - Compare to bank armoring/stabilization layers
 - Compare to HAWS mapping and whether there are low lying areas in the vicinity or path to ID immediate high risk areas
- Worked on the layout of the ATLAS document
 - 11x17 portrait layout so the maps can be oriented with true north facing up and one page with an aerial photo (2015) and one with a HAWS can sit side by side
 - Likely layout will include: 2015 aerial photo, 2017 channel trace, flood hazard layers/labels, irrigation diversions, areas of interest, reach characteristics,
 - KH: HAWS maps very informative. Used these in the field the past two days and found them very useful when evaluating the site. Additionally, the intent will also be to provide the various GIS layers used and developed in this study to the public through the GIS department. Will allow the county to be able to see potential opportunities as well as provide an incredible tool for managing the river and evaluating projects.
 - **?: What are the dots (referring to the dots on the maps of Cardno's presentation)**
 - During the desktop analysis we identified sites that met certain characteristics or criteria (either for potential opportunities or hazard)

- Marked these locations in GIS for our use to identify certain locations in the field to observe/verify, as well as identify people with the most knowledge in of the area to potentially screen and evaluate for potential project opportunity
- **?: What is the meaning of “Project Opportunity/Risk”? Is it more holistic?**
 - Cardno: Yes, with risk we mean likelihood of occurring rather than evaluating consequence, such as nearby property, land use or infrastructure
 - (KH): We looked at the reach adjacent to the waste water treatment plant today. This is an example of a location where there had been recent bank erosion and the property owner wanted to install launched riprap behind the bank but within the HCMZ, which extended further into the property. With this information available (HCMZ layer), we can suggest allowing the river additional room to do what it likely wants to do and suggest placing bank stability treatments at the limit of the HCMZ where it can still protect the property owner’s home.
- **RB: What is the relationship between this risk mapping and the FEMA study?**
 - (KH) FEMA is not doing a detailed analysis of the entire river. They are updating the maps with more recent topographic data. They can do LOMR’s, but if there is a significant event again, then the map updates will be out of date again. They are also very expensive. We are not too hopeful about updated maps and modeling coming soon because of funding.
 - (JA) FEMA models and maps do not take channel movement over time into account.
- Erosion Hazard mapping layers
 - Locations of erosion from 2015 to 2017 and adjacent low lying areas according to HAWS maps were identified as high risk
 - Locations between the high risk areas or channel limits and the HCMZ were considered moderate
 - Plan to add buffers to certain areas for risk based on trends observed in analysis, such as if the recent channel migration is expanding the HCMZ in a certain direction.

Feedback/Questions?

- **(AR): Will you be providing any tools/techniques/expertise used in other regions that can apply here:**
 - Yes, we plan to incorporate some typical bmps and resources that can be used. But this document will not be proposing any specific projects.
- **(NM): Will this document address sediment?**
 - The document will not pinpoint sources of sediment and the transport issues, but will discuss the effects of sediment loading on channel and flood response, and ID reaches most susceptible to sediment loading
- **(LS): Regarding the layout, do the small technical charts/info items serve value? It can make pages look “very busy”.**

- Cardno: Good point, and thanks for pointing this out. We can potentially look at putting some of this info in simpler form up front in the document or exclude it if not needed.
- **(BS): Will there be a key page or glossary? Will there be links to states/counties that have policies for managing within HCMZ?**
 - We will look into incorporating in some fashion
- **BS: Can there be guidance on planting densities?**
 - We will look into incorporating in some fashion
- **Will there be a digital tool to guide users through the layers? ESRI Story map?**
 - The intent is to provide access to the GIS layers to the public. Cardno will provide the County all the GIS layers developed during the study. County may look to develop an ESRI storybook or similar in the future.
- **(BY): It is important for the private industry to have access to the data. If the data is used to evaluate projects, it must be made available to both sides so not to come across as one-sided in the review process.**
 - Data should be made available for all users through County.
- **?: Are the red colors from the HAWS maps the same as the red High-Risk Areas (referring to the HAWS map on the sample layout sheet and the Red High Risk Areas shown in the GIS presentation)**
 - (JA) No, they are different. The red in the HAWS maps is strictly related to elevation. We are still determining how to display all the information/layers in a discernable manner. Still evaluating where to include the dots/project opportunities into the ATLAS layouts.
- **(LH): This has been a great experience to see this. This community has a long history of being ahead of the curve in managing the river/floodplain. There is skepticism in the community about the ability to manage the river.**
 - (KH) I have been, and still am, thinking about this point a lot and how to communicate and share the information to the community with that in mind.
- **NM: Water Temperatures? Are we looking at it with this study? Does this study identify upwelling locations?**
 - (JA) This study will not identify all of this. The USGS has some data. For more detailed information we would suggest a FLIR (thermal imaging) flight that can measure temps with the infrared.
- (JA) The ATLAS will include sections, in addition to the reach by reach layouts and typical bmps, on: fisheries/habitat, hydrology, data gaps, further studies
- **(LS): Need to talk about wood and its role.**
 - (JA) It will. Historical photos would be great if anybody has any good ones that would serve the document.
- **(CC): Will the flooding component of the document evaluate property damage?**
 - (JA) That is not part of the scope. Cannot place any markers/photos of property damage in the ATLAS.
 - Discussion of FEMA claims

- **? Will there be a “how to” for the digital version (how to use the GIS layers)?**
 - The intent is to make the layers available to the public. Not sure of a “how to” at this point.
- **? Anything on climate change?**
 - (JA) The ATLAS will discuss climate change in the context of changing sediment and hydrologic inputs, and the effects on channel and flood response.
- **? Timing?**
 - (JA) Draft version first. Goal is to be done by end of the year.
- **? Draft reach maps? It would be easier to review if we had maps of areas we are familiar with.**
 - (KH) Happy to share with a disclaimer.
- **The word “risk” raises alarms. Is it possible to use a different term? Probability?**
 - (JA) We will consider alternatives to using certain “loaded” terms such as risk or hazard, but industry standard is Channel Migration, Erosion, or Flood Hazard areas.