MONTANA WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORTATION

STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes
April 28, 2020

PURPOSE: To check in on the status of the Data and Information Work Group and other Steering Committee progress

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide high-level guidance on the Data and Information Work Group
- Share information about progress since last meeting
- Provide guidance to PIT Crew on how best to support Steering Committee given the changing environment

ATTENDEES:

- Steering Committee (Committee): Mike Tooley (MDT); Tom Martin (MDT Proxy); Ken McDonald (FWP); Kylie Paul (MSWP); Stephanie Adams (MSWP)
- Agency Staff: Bill Semmens (MDT)
- Planning and Implementation Team (PIT Crew): Deb Wambach (MDT), Renee Lemon (FWP), Hannah Jaicks (MSWP); Nick Clarke (MSWP); Laramie Maxwell (MSWP)

AGENDA:

1. **INTRODUCTION**

2. **DATA AND INFORMATION WORK GROUP**
    a. **Who are the members?**
        - MSWP: Liz Fairbank (Center For Large Landscape Conservation), Andrew Jakes (National Wildlife Federation), & Joshua Theurer (Adventure Scientists)
        - MDT: Paul Sturm (Great Falls District Biologist); Gabe Priebe (Traffic and Safety Bureau Chief); and a GIS Specialist is to be determined
        - FWP: Renee will work with Charlie and Ken to identify representatives

    b. **What is the high-level guidance from the Steering Committee?**
        i. Committee members agreed with the guidance from the work plan. The work group should identify data and information needed to make decisions about wildlife and transportation. This should include inventorying existing data and identifying data gaps. The group can also explore a data sharing mechanism and provide recommendations on how analysis products should be used, managed, and made available.
        ii. MSWP suggested the work group consider predicted and modeled human population growth and development trends and how those

scenarios, projections, and modelling can inform future policy and practice.

iii. MSWP also suggested that the work group make recommendations on how to address data gaps.

c. Next steps

i. Committee members agreed the PIT Crew should organize the first work group meeting in May and report back to the Committee at the next meeting in August.

3. Progress since last meeting

a. Charter

- The charter, 2020 work plan, February 10th meeting notes, MDT and FWP Memorandum of Agreement, and this meeting's meeting notes will be posted to the website.

b. Proxies

- MSWP: Liz Fairbank (MSWP Data and Information Working Group Representative) & Brooke Regan (MSWP Co-Coordinator)
- MDT: Tom Martin (Environmental Services Bureau Chief) & Kevin Christensen (Chief Operations Officer)
- FWP: Deb O'Neill (RMU Planning and Policy Specialist) & second proxy to be determined

c. Communication resources white papers

- The PIT Crew is drafting white papers that identify the current communication capacity and resources of each organization, and will provide an update to the SC for the August meeting.

d. Funding white paper

- Brooke Regan (MSWP) is drafting a white paper that will identify existing funding resources and gaps, as well as alternative funding sources. She recently reached out to Deb and Renee and will present to the SC at the November meeting.

e. Communication emails to summit participants and governor's office

- The PIT Crew drafted high-level talking points summarizing Committee work since the summit.
- The PIT Crew has also drafted one email update to summit participants and one email update for the governor's office.
- The PIT Crew will circulate drafts of the talking points and emails to the committee for review and edits after the meeting. Next, Laramie will send the email update out to non-agency summit participants. Deb and

Renee will send the update to agency summit participants. For the email to the governor's office, Deb and Renee will send the email jointly on behalf of the Committee copying Committee and PIT Crew members. The emails will be sent in May.

f. Agency MOA communications

- Both MDT and FWP are intending to roll out the MOA internally in the next week or two. They will post the MOA on the website, and then put out a joint press release announcing the MOA.

4. **How can the PIT Crew best support the Steering Committee given the changing environment?**
    a. MSWP suggested video conference meetings if it is not possible to meet in-person. MDT agreed.
    b. Committee members agreed this work remains a priority and they are on track with the work plan. The onus is on the PIT Crew and Data and Information Work Group to maintain progress checking in with the Committee when needed.

5. **Review and Close**

ACTION ITEMS:

- The PIT Crew will convene the first meeting of the Data and Information Work Group in May.
    - The PIT Crew will help them get started and facilitate the group similar to how the PIT Crew assisted the Committee using higher-level guidance from the Committee's work plan and Summit Recommendation 4A, Action 7.
    - The PIT Crew will report on work group's progress at the next Committee meeting on August 5. If needed, the PIT Crew will request guidance from the Committee in the interim via email.
- The PIT Crew will send draft talking points and emails regarding updates to the Committee. The Committee will review the documents and provide input within two weeks. The PIT Crew will send these communications to summit participants and the governor's office by the end of May.
- Renee will work with Ken and Charlie to determine FWP appointees to the Data and Information Work Group. In addition, Ken will determine his proxy.
- Tom will work with Lynn to determine the third MDT representative on the Data and Information Work Group
- MDT will add the charter, 2020 Work Plan, February 10th Committee meeting notes, the MOA, and the April 28th Committee meeting notes to the website.
- The PIT Crew will draft Communications White Papers to present to the Committee at the August meeting.
- The MSWP Funding Work Group, with contributions from MDT and FWP, will complete a draft Funding White Paper to present to the Committee at the November Meeting.

- The PIT Crew will plan for the next Committee meeting on August 5, 2020, which will likely be a video conference.