MWTP SC
Agenda October 11th, 2023

1. Introductions and agenda (5 min)
    a. Topics?
    b. Approve notes 8/29
    c. Assign Notetaker for today

2. Mechanisms to Receive and Channel Private Contributions to Wildlife Accommodation Projects (60 minutes)

    From Kylie's email:

    The following is from the white paper authored by Brooke Shifrin for this group: Funding Wildlife Accommodations A report to the Montana Statewide Wildlife and Transportation Steering Committee:
    A wildlife crossings account could be created at any willing private foundation for housing private donations for any aspect of a wildlife crossing project. The foundation would need to set up an agreement with MDT to transfer funds to the agency for pre-determined purposes at pre-determined times.

    Agreements between Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation (MOLF) [mtoutdoorlegacy.org] and FWP could provide helpful examples for how to structure a system for channeling private funds to MDT. MOLF is the primary non-profit partner of FWP. MOLF currently has several project agreements set up with FWP. MOLF establishes accounts for housing funds raised by the foundation and in some cases other NGOs that are partners on a project. MOLF then donates money quarterly to agreed upon programs and uses at FWP. MOLF also manages several trust funds for large, expensive projects. For example, MOLF manages the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust, which was established in the late 90s to provide a permanent source of funding for acquisition of publicly accessible lands in Montana. The trust has grown from $14.9 million to $25 million and generates about $1 million per year for project grants.

    MOLF is not tied to exclusively contributing funds to FWP, as long as the intended use of the funds is a priority for FWP. In other words, an agreement between MOLF and MDT is possible. MOLF could house and manage private dollars intended for a variety of purposes related to wildlife/transportation issues. These could range from general funds for wildlife crossing projects, to infrastructure funds, maintenance funds, research funding, or project/location specific funds. MOLF charges 5% overhead for managing funds. Mitch King, the Executive Director of MOLF, indicated willingness to fundraise around wildlife crossings with their donor base and is very open/interested to explore possibilities for working with MDT.

    a. Welcome J Mitch King, Executive Director Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (MOLF)
    b. MWTP Project Program – *MOLF? Foundation? Account holding? Mechanism for Specific Projects?*
    c. MDT Projects (WA Process) – *MOLF? DK to work with Planning and Fiscal (ASO) to outline a more standardized process and produce a "white paper on how to"….*

3. Communication Plan (DW 5 minutes)
    a. September 19 Application Q&A webinar recording on website – Great Job Team! 😊
    b. Website documents and copy are updated
    c. FWP sent email announcing November cycle coming soon to Contact list last week of September
    d. *Upcoming* - Nov 1, 2023 – FWP will send press release – November 2023 application cycle open
    e. Need to update plan after November cycle? – dates for May cycle

4. Schedule of deliverables – Tom to keep updated and share as regular agenda item (Tom, 10 min)

a. November 2023 – May 2024

5. Next Meetings: (All 15 minutes)
    a. Schedule Application Review and Scoring meetings, etc. for November cycle
        i. Go/No Go
        ii. Project Consensus Scoring and Classification
        iii. Placeholder/If Needed Meetings
        iv. Other – application review and processing?
        v. Future Working Meetings
        vi. Begin May 2024 cycle prep

6. What does Partnership and Program success look like after the November cycle? (Kylie)
    a. Does the Partnership need to identify and plan for other goals, benefits, needs beyond the Project Program?