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.

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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?

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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.

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