

MONTANA WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORTATION

STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

May 12, 2021

PURPOSE: To agree on work to be accomplished in 2021 and learn about and support the Data and Information Work Group's progress

Objectives:

- Outline a list of tasks to be accomplished in 2021
- Provide guidance on the Data and Information Work Group's progress
- Develop high-level talking points for communicating with local groups that are ready to work on wildlife and transportation issues
- Confirm meeting dates for the second two steering committee meetings of 2021
- Determine agenda topics for the next steering committee meeting

ATTENDEES:

- Steering Committee (Committee): Tom Martin (MDT), Ken McDonald (FWP), Charlie Sperry (FWP), Kylie Paul (MSWP), Stephanie Adams (MSWP), Dwane Kailey, (MDT Proxy)
- Agency Staff: Bill Semmens (MDT)
- Data and Information Group Members: Adam Messer (FWP), Brian Andersen (MDT)
- Planning and Implementation Team (PIT Crew): Deb Wambach (MDT), Renee Lemon (FWP), Hannah Jaicks (MSWP), Nick Clarke (MSWP)

AGENDA:

1. Introduction
 - a. Stephanie was welcomed back to the committee after leave
 - b. Dwane Kailey introduced himself as Kevin's proxy
2. What does the Committee intend to accomplish by the end of 2021?
 - a. The group reviewed the list of tasks developed by each organization and discussed similarities and differences between them.
 - b. The group discussed the importance of:
 - i. Briefing the new directors and administration on this effort
 - ii. Understanding how the D&I group product will inform project development and how this work fits into MDT processes
 - iii. The desire to explore a variety of avenues and funding mechanisms to accomplish projects (traditional and innovative)
 - iv. Giving community-led efforts a sense of how they fit into the statewide effort, agency priorities and mandates, and how the statewide effort can support their work
 - c. Outcome: The group identified a list of tasks to be completed in 2021:
 - i. Data and Information Work Group completes mapping product
 - ii. The agencies brief the MDT and FWP directors on this effort
 - iii. Committee members gain a better understanding on critical processes that will affect statewide prioritization and guidance including:

- How mapping product should be used, how it fits in the overall framework for statewide prioritization and guidance, and how it will be made publicly available
 - Highway planning and project implementation related to wildlife projects, land protections
 - Means for collecting private/outside funding for wildlife accommodation projects
- iv. Steering committee develops high-level talking points for communicating with local groups that are ready to work on wildlife and transportation issues
3. What is the status of the Data and Information Work Group's efforts and how can the Committee support this work? (start at 2:00pm)
 - a. Adam Messer and Brian Andersen shared the results of the needs assessment criteria exercise and provided an overview of the work group's progress and product to date.
 - b. Brian highlighted that their products are not a decision-making tool, but rather a tool to help people make decisions.
 - c. The Committee discussed observations about the results and asked questions
 - d. The Committee were generally pleased with the direction and the progress to date.
 - e. The Committee requested that the D&I group continue to check in with them on milestone accomplishments and provide high level updates on their progress and schedule and offered their willingness to provide guidance, input, or direction as needed or requested by the D&I group
 - f. The Committee discussed possible uses for the products/tool within each organization and within this collaboration
 - g. The Committee suggested that staff might serve as beta testers when the time is right to test drive the products/tool and think about how it will inform the process and project identification
 - h. Outcome: Two next steps were identified:
 - i. D&I group will develop milestones and provide progress updates when they have met milestones
 - ii. D&I group will prepare the app for a beta test drive when ready
 4. What is the steering committee's collective message to local/regional groups across the state as the committee is still developing statewide priorities and processes?
 - a. Steering committee members share their experiences with and observations about the local groups. Other committee members ask clarifying questions.
 - b. Steering committee members discuss key conclusions, challenges, and opportunities they perceive with the local groups.
 - c. Steering committee members discuss messaging to the local groups.
 - d. Outcome: Messaging to local groups or next steps to develop messaging.

This item was tabled for future discussion
 5. Review and Close

ACTION ITEMS

- a. PIT Crew will provide draft meeting notes and list of 4 items to be accomplished by Committee in 2021 for review and approval

- b. PIT Crew will schedule the August 5, 1-4pm and December 7, 1-4pm Committee meetings
- c. MDT will prepare presentation for next meeting and provide the Committee any relevant materials ahead of time
- d. The agenda for the August 5th meeting will include the following topics:
 - i. MDT's report on level of commitment and debrief with director
 - ii. MDT presentation on highway planning and implementation processes