

MWTP SC – WORKING MEETING NOTES

February 25, 2025

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Approve Notes 1/29/25 - **approved**
- b. Assign Notetaker – **Ryan Chapin**
- c. Add new agenda topics - **none**
- d. Attendance: (delete missing)
 - i. Steering Committee: **KM, Ryan Chapin as proxy for SB, KP, TM**
 - ii. PIT Crew: **DW, BA**

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Direction for May 2026 call for applications
 - i. We agreed to give at least one-year advance notice to potential applicants of any changes to the call for applications.
 - 1. **Consider one cycle ahead instead of one year – November 2025**
 - a. **Time delay due to backlog of bigger projects and FY ceiling (\$500K) on FS money**
 - 2. **November small projects (based on FY FS reserve)**
 - 3. **May 2026 restrictions expected? Need to decide soon**
- b. Review/revise Charter
 - i. Discuss individual comments
 - ii. Clarify roles and commitments of the partners to support these projects.
 - 1. **Reviewed in meeting and edits/comments made by members**
 - 2. **Finalize Charter revisions at the next meeting**

III. NB ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Decide and notify applicants May 2025 if any restrictions on May 2026 call expected**
- b. **Finalize charter revisions at the next meeting (April 1)**
- c. **Deb and Ken to work up a straw-dog workplan for 2025**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Coordination on MWTP/MDT grant funding opportunities
 - i. Long-term strategy for applications to federal funding.
 - 1. Plan early
 - 2. Evaluate project priorities
 - 3. **Flexibility in MDT capacity may be realized by the staggered nature of funding opportunities for larger projects (design and construction)**
 - 4. **Larger hurdle seems to be securing the funding for design and construction (aka implementation)**
 - 5. **Conversations need to be had around each project**
 - ii. MDT internal conversation moving forward

1. **Forecast and coordinate grant opportunities coming up**
 2. **Mini-TCP to coordinate MDT and MWTP projects (for discretionary grants)**
- b. MSWP – hub for Outreach/Communications - **tabled pending MSWP decisions**

V. **OB ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Communications Plan and Schedule of Deliverables, 2025 update – **to do**
 - i. **Can we separate the communication plan and schedule of deliverables?**
- b. Website page for current projects and updates – **to do**
 - i. Active Projects tab
 1. Link to MDT projects webpages
 2. Link to Project webpages
 - a. <https://www.yellowstonesafepassages.org/engineering-feasibility-study>
 - b. <https://missoulacrossings.org/projects/sixmile/>
- c. Call for applications announcement to include language for potential longer time frame for implementation of projects in west MT.
 - i. **Desire to revisit if project selected but can't get to it right away – currently they need to resubmit (TM)**
- d. Create new (3rd) 'planning ahead' announcement to subscribers to be sent 3-4 months early. Draft language. - **to do**

VI. **UPDATES**

- a. FWP continuing to seek a replacement for RG - **yes**
- b. Legislative bill updates – **in editing, may go later in the session (mid-March)**
- c. MDT-FWP Summit – **Report under review. Final not expected until April. Will share what's relevant to the Partnership.**
- d. MSWP Crossing Convening – **Report under review. Will share when finalized.**
- e. Current Active Projects
 - i. Sixmile Creek Underpass
 1. **MDT approved consultant draft Scope of Services**
 2. **Contract underway shortly**
 - ii. Dome Mountain
 1. **Jacobs/TD&H/WTI consultant team**
 2. **Consultant Scoping Meeting held February 10th**
 - iii. US-191 Mouth of the Canyon – Lessons to Learn?
 1. **Seeking funding**
 - iv. US-191 North of Big Sky
 1. **CLLC provided MDT with draft of FS report Dec. 19**
 2. **On hold pending HOA concerns**

VII. **NEXT MEETINGS**

- a. Future SC Working Meetings –
 - i. April 1st 100-300p
 - ii. April 29th 1230-230p

- b. Schedule more future SC Working Meetings – May, June, July
 - i. **Deb to send out when2meet poll for May, June, July**