

MWTP SC – WORKING MEETING NOTES

April 29, 2025

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Approve Notes 04/01/25 - **approved**
- b. Assign Notetaker - **DW**
- c. Add new agenda topics - **none**
- d. Attendance: (delete missing)
 - i. Steering Committee: **SB, TM, RS,**
 - ii. **Daniel Anderson (MSWP), DW proxy for KM**
 - iii. PIT Crew: **BA, DW, ST**

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Press release for 'Cycle Open' by first week of May – **one edit (DA), ok to send out this week (DW)**
- b. MDT status update on LPB process development – **TM updates**
 - i. **Funding in place, subcommittee whitepapers with recommendations**
 - ii. **BR Summit meeting facilitated (May 16) - MDT, contractors, consultants, FWP reps**
 - iii. **Actionable items and reinvigoration – breakouts to find innovative ways to advance the LPB initiative**
 - iv. **Share info ahead, categorizing, standardized designs, document and prioritize ideas, cost efficiencies, materials innovations, design and delivery mechanisms, continue to meet**
 - v. **Y2Y contracted M. Huijser and M. Bell to do a west wide MT roadway assessment. Expected to be ready near end of summer, followed by some field reviews.**
 - 1. **TM encouraged FWP and MDT engagement in the process**
 - 2. **Caution about prescriptive structure design, use of indices without digestible explanations, and \$ value of wildlife**
- c. Brainstorm targeted outreach with potential project supporters/applicants
 - i. **Smaller community led groups, landowner groups, ranchland groups, other wildlife & transportation groups (e.g., Glacier Two-Medicine)**
 - ii. **Related to prioritization – by district (i.e. workplan topic) - where are we trying to invest resources or is it an opportunity for others to bring projects forward?**
 - iii. **What does it mean for MSWP, Partnership to offer support to these groups?**
 - 1. **Member NGOs have a pretty substantial network of contacts across the state (e.g., Winnet Aces, BHWCC, Front Range, MSA, RSA)**
 - 2. **Get a list of potential targeted outreach recipients**
 - a. **Start the conversation - Ask questions, what does this issue look like in your community? Guage level of interest, resources.**

- b. Inform about MWTP project program
- c. What level of support is needed? Is MSWP (and FWP) able to provide? Role for MDT? Engage land trust agencies?
- d. MSWP Crossing Convening report out
 - i. Strengthen partnership between NGOs
 - ii. Engaged sportsmen groups
 - iii. Takeaways
 - 1. Policy and legislation
 - 2. Communications and storytelling (e.g., MSWP as resource hub)
 - 3. Data applications & project implementation
 - iv. Strengths and challenges
 - v. Next steps
 - 1. Another convening in May
 - a. What are the results of the legislation? HB855, funding bills
 - b. Build up MSWP membership interest
 - c. Meet data needs for project identification and support
 - d. Determine other goals and outcomes

III. NB ACTION ITEMS

- a. DW to get out press release for May cycle open
- b. MSWP to develop list of community contacts – reach out to start conversation in targeted outreach on wildlife & transportation issues, MWTP project program
- c. ST – ensure the application link and form is working appropriately (May 1)

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Coordination on MWTP/MDT long-term strategy for applications to federal grant funding opportunities
 - i. MDT internal conversations, depending on internal restructuring – TM, RS
 - 1. Uncertainty at federal level
 - a. Core funding – continuing resolutions
 - b. Grant availability, eligibility, funding
 - 2. Need to focus on reorg and structure – provide clarity
 - 3. This is a priority for RS an TM
- b. MSWP – hub for Outreach/Communications – KP, SB
 - i. Determine priority work and funding opportunities
- c. MSWP develop short summaries of current projects and status for website, for committee review.
 - i. SB will pursue brief write-ups for MWTP active projects

V. OB ACTION ITEMS

- a. May 8th meeting to discuss straw dog workplan – in person Helena
 - i. Get your ideas to DW/KM asap – bring to meeting
- b. Planning Tool updates targeted in June

- i. Put summary of changes and possibly a walk-through on an upcoming agenda (August?)
- c. Communications Plan and Schedule of Deliverables, 2025 update – **ST/DW – working on it**
- d. Post revised guidance documents **Done** and past meeting minutes/agendas – **ST – fixed broken link, working on it**
- e. Website page for current projects and updates – **ST - working on it**
 - 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/>
- f. Create new (3rd) ‘planning ahead’ announcement to subscribers to be sent 3-4 months early. June/July, December/Nov. Draft language. – **ST - being worked on, DW will help**

VI. UPDATES

- a. FWP continuing to seek a replacement for RG – DW, KM
- b. Simon’s proxy May-July - Daniel Anderson
- c. Legislative bill updates – KP
- d. WAFWA synthesis of western states “Partnership” structures and cultures – DW
 - i. Ready for May SC working meeting
- e. MDT-FWP Summit –
 - i. **Being coordinated with agencies DO**
 - ii. Will share what’s relevant to the Partnership when ready.
- f. Current Active Projects
 - i. Sixmile Creek Underpass
 - 1. **HDR consultant team**
 - 2. **Contract signed**
 - 3. **MRCWG has provided some area contacts to HDR**
 - ii. Dome Mountain
 - 1. **Jacobs/TD&H/WTI consultant team**
 - 2. **Still negotiating scope and fee with consultant**
 - 3. **YSP providing formal role in public outreach - TBD**
 - iii. US-191 Mouth of the Canyon
 - 1. **FS complete - TM to send copy to partners**
 - 2. **Seeking funding**
 - iv. US-191 North of Big Sky
 - 1. **FS finalized – TM to send copy to partners**
 - 2. **On hold pending HOA concerns**
 - v. **Need for MSWP to be working at MWTP track, but would like to get more involved with MDT Wildlife Accommodation Process track**
 - 1. **Desire to start by focusing on the current bridge program**
 - 2. **MDT desires further consideration and discussion with MSWP reps**

- a. Info sharing from MSWP with MDT Bios for WAP-WARM
- b. MSWP desire to coordinate with MDT District staff before and during project development

VII. **NEXT MEETINGS**

- a. Future SC Working Meetings –
 - i. April 29th 12:30 pm –2:30 pm
 - ii. May 8th 11:00 am – 3:00 pm – Work Plan meeting (in-person, Helena)
 - iii. May 29th 9:00 am – 11:00 am
 - iv. June 23rd 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – include Go/No Go
 - v. July 28th 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm – include Consensus Scoring