

West Traverse Sentinel Landscape (WTSL) Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 16 May 2024

Location: Building 8000, Camp Williams

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Attendees

UT DWR – Josee Seamons, UT DWR – Wendy Thomas, Herriman City – Gavin Kakol, The Conservation Fund – Sara Saunders, NRCS – Dan Shoenfeld, UTNG SMD – Dar Craig, UTNG Camp Williams – Joseph Green, UTNG AAG – Shawn Fuellenbach, UTNG, Paul Raymond, WTSL/ACUB – Brett Wright - Eagle Mountain City, Wendy Fisher - Utah Open Lands – Julie Davis, UTNG SMD – Shannon Ellsworth - Rio Tinto, Jen Robinson - Rio Tinto, Todd Black - Eagle Mountain City, Ryan Becker - WTSL/ACUB, Travis Mote - NRCS, Jim Smith - Landowner, Robert Allen - MAG,

Welcome

BG Green welcomed the group and had everyone make introductions. He then emphasized the commitment to the program and described the importance of Sentinel Landscapes and how it benefits the military and the local communities by preserving wildlife habitat and providing recreation. BG Green introduced COL Shawn Fuellenbach as the one who would be taking his place as the AAG on June 8th. COL Fuellenbach will be promoted to the rank of BG at that time. He then turns the time over to Paul Raymond.

Paul Raymond (WTSL) asks for everyone to provide introductions and then turns the time over to Ryan Becker to start the project discussion.

Discussion

Ryan Becker (WTSL) discussed the current status of the project area. The projects and acquisitions completed and the four parcels currently under contract. He described the current completion status of 39% and forecasted completion percentage of 42%. Ryan also gave an update on the westtraverse@utah.gov website and gave a preview. He stated that the site should be live within the next couple of weeks.

Paul Raymond (WTSL) Noted the Great Salt Lake Sentinel Landscape had been approved and noted that the WTSL will be included in this but will continue to operate independently into the future. Paul gave an update on the federal and state funding. He also talked about the wildlife fencing that had been completed around Camp Williams that will benefit the mule deer wildlife corridor and Camp Williams.

Wendy Fisher (UOL) Wendy stated that they are ready to accept the easements from The Conservation Fund and were looking forward to providing the monitoring and stewardship for those parcels.

Gavin Kakol (TCF) Gavin talked about the parcels they currently have under contract and the projects they are currently working on as part of the NRCS RCPP. The Mule Deer Corridor, Sagebrush Offset, and Watershed Restoration projects.

Wendy Thomas (Herriman City) Wendy discussed that Herriman City had recieved new property appraisals back on some properties the WTSL was looking to acquire. The appraisals came back at half the value the landowners wanted. So more to come on those properties.

Josee Seamons (DNR) Stated that they are working together with the NRCS and TCF to help put all the projects together under one watershed restoration project and combine funding sources.

Dan Shoenfeld (SMD) Dan was recognized by BG Green as having the same level of authority as he does to administer the State Military Department program and stated his importance to the overall success of the organization.

Jim Smith (Landowner) Jim thanked everyone for the good relationships between the military and the local communities and landowners. He stated how he appreciated the WTSL allowing him to be part of the discussion for everything happening around the WTSL area.

Sara Saunders (NRCS) Discussed the NRCS projects happening in the WTSL area and how they were moving along at a good rate.

Travis Mote (NRCS) Travis reinforced the need to the projects to keep moving forward at a steady pace as the funding will expire. He said an extension could be filed if needed to keep existing funds.

Dar Craig (UTNG) Dar let everyone know that if they had any questions or concerns about Camp Williams, that they could contact him.

Paul Raymond (WTSL) Turned the time back over to BG Green for closing remarks.

Closing

BG Green (UTNG) Thanked everyone for coming and encouraged the group to keep doing great things.

Meeting was adjourned.