

**Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)
 April 14, 2020, 12:00pm - 1:00pm
 RMRI Governance Subcommittee
 Meeting Summary**

Attendance: Samantha Albert, Angela Boag, Christina Burri, Russ George, Jason Lawhon, Emily Olsen, and Scott Woods

Facilitation: Heather Bergman and Samuel Wallace

ACTION ITEMS

Jason Lawhon and Heather Bergman	Reach out to the RMRI Evaluation Team members, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and three focal areas to see if they are interested in serving on the RMRI Leadership Team.
Angela Boag	Share updates with the Governance Subcommittee on the shared stewardship discussions between the US Forest Service (USFS) and Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as more information is available for release.
Samuel Wallace	Draft a draft governance charter for RMRI-Colorado (RMRI-CO) for the Governance Subcommittee to review.
Governance Subcommittee Members	Contact Heather Bergman and Jason Lawhon if there are specific times during which they are available on the morning of Wednesday, April 29.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM MARCH 2 RMRI-CO MEETING

Prior to the call, RMRI Governance Subcommittee members sent their key takeaways from the RMRI-CO governance structure discussion during the RMRI-CO March 2 virtual meeting to Heather Bergman. Meeting participants discussed these key takeaways. Their comments are summarized below.

- The takeaways from the March 2 RMRI-CO meeting are that there was general support for the RMRI Governance Subcommittee’s recommended governance structure, an interest in pursuing a hybrid governance model that includes both subcommittees and a larger RMRI group for new partners to join, and some confusion about how RMRI-Southwest Colorado (RMRI-SW) interacts with RMRI-CO.
- There is appreciation for the governance charter that RMRI-SW partners put together, especially for other priority landscape groups that are in the process of defining their governance structure. The RMRI-CO governance structure needs to be broad so that the three priority landscapes can see how they fit into RMRI-CO and be flexible to account for the local nuances of each of the priority landscapes without being overly prescriptive. This may mean that governance structure has a different system of engagement for each of the focal areas.
- One takeaway from the March 2 RMRI-CO meeting is that there was not a conversation around the role of RMRI-CO and how RMRI-CO will specifically support the local landscapes. There is also a lack of clarity on whether the role of the RMRI-CO subcommittees is to address statewide or local landscape specific issues.
- When there is uncertainty, people may be developing answers to any unanswered questions in their own heads. Developing a governance charter for others to review and vet would be helpful in creating a shared understanding on how RMRI-CO will function.

LEADERSHIP TEAM FORMATION DISCUSSION

Meeting participants discussed the next steps for forming the RMRI Leadership Team. Their comments are summarized below.

- The RMRI Leadership Team is composed of seven appointed seats representing different state agencies, federal agencies and non-profits, seven nominated seats representing different interests, and three seats for each of the priority areas.
- There are multiple ways to form the Leadership Team. The Governance Subcommittee could make recommendations for each position and bring them to the USFS and RMRI-CO for review and feedback, or the positions could be filled by the RMRI Evaluation Team which were already assigned by agency and interest.
- Because the Evaluation Team members already represent the majority of the seven nominated and seven appointed seats and were vetted by RMRI partners, the Governance Subcommittee should use the RMRI Evaluation Team as the foundation for the RMRI Leadership Team and develop a plan to fill any unassigned seats.
- The seat on the RMRI Leadership Team for fire response was changed to a seat for a Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) representative. The Evaluation Team members and their corresponding seats on the RMRI Leadership Team are as follows:
 - Jennifer Eberlien – USFS (co-chair)
 - Travis Smith – National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) (co-chair)
 - Tim Mauck – DNR
 - Mike Lester – Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS)
 - Clint Evans – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Vaughn Jones – DFPC
 - Lauren Ris/Russ George - Water
 - Christ West – Wildlife
 - Samantha Albert – Recreation
 - Cindy Dozier – Communities
 - Frank McCormick – Science
 - Molly Pitts – Timber
 - Paige Lewis – Forests
- The unfilled seats include a seat for a representative from the BLM and seats for representatives from each of the three priority landscapes. A Governance Subcommittee representative should reach out to the priority landscapes to inform them that RMRI is holding a seat for their local landscape on the RMRI leadership time if they would like to appoint someone. It should be emphasized that is not a requirement for the local landscapes to appoint someone to the seat; they should only do so if they see value in the opportunity to provide input on the overall governance of RMRI-CO. A RMRI Governance Subcommittee representative needs to reach out to the BLM as well.
- It may be likely that Kara Chadwick, USFS, will recommend Jason Lawhon to serve as the Southwest Colorado representative on the RMRI Leadership Team as he is moving to Durango to serve as the USFS lead to RMRI-SW.
- Heather Bergman and Jason Lawhon will reach out to the Evaluation Team members, BLM, and three focal areas to see if they are interested in serving on the RMRI Leadership Team. Meeting participants agreed to move forward with this plan.

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION DISCUSSION

Meeting participants discussed how subcommittees can better engage with each other and distribute information throughout RMRI-CO partners. Their comments are summarized below.

- One idea to distribute information is to have subcommittees provide a bi-weekly/monthly update. Having a bi-weekly/monthly reporting requirement may be burdensome to subcommittee members, which may limit participation on subcommittees.
- At this time, Peak Facilitation will be providing services in terms of documenting high-level subcommittee conversations and action items. Information could be distributed by circulating these meeting documents.
- Another option is to have a shared drive where RMRI-CO partners can find information on subcommittees and rosters if and when they would like, which would prevent updates from filling up email inboxes. There is currently not an official shared drive for meeting documents and summaries. Meeting documents and summaries could also be stored on a password-protected section of the RMRI website.
- There are remaining questions about what information should be public-facing and what information should be for RMRI members only.
- Meeting participants agreed that they should pursue a strategy to develop a shared drive with RMRI documents separate from the website. The RMRI Planning Team will continue the discussion around documentation and information sharing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITY DISCUSSION

Meeting participants discussed the current activity level of the subcommittees. Their comments are summarized below.

- Generally, subcommittee members are not aware of what is occurring in the other subcommittees.
- People are excited to have conversations in the subcommittees, but the bandwidth needed to organize, convene, and document subcommittee meetings may be more than what people have with their other job duties. There is energy around the conversation but less energy around the administrative and logistical work.
- In general, at the beginning of a collaborative effort, Peak Facilitation provides services to help organize the collaborative effort until the collaborative group finds a rhythm; Peak Facilitation then begins to scale back services as more people start to volunteer and take on the duties required to sustain collaboration.
- There is a need to understand the role, value, and work to be done in each of the subcommittees and to distribute information in a way that moves RMRI-CO towards tangible outcomes. Having a checkpoint to assess subcommittees may be helpful.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RMRI-CO AND PRIORITY LANDSCAPES

Meeting participants discussed the relationship between RMRI-CO and the priority landscapes and the role of RMRI-CO. Their comments are summarized below.

- During the March 2 RMRI-CO meeting, participants discussed having RMRI-SW partners add timber and environmental representation to their steering committee. The RMRI-SW partners were going to discuss the feedback and report back to RMRI-CO with their finalized charter. This discussion raises questions about the relationship between RMRI-CO and the partners in the priority landscapes, the role of RMRI-CO (i.e., provide suggestions or provide direction), and what happens if priority landscapes do not incorporate RMRI-CO suggestions.
- Meeting participants discussed the role of RMRI-CO further in relation to the priority landscapes. One idea was that RMRI-CO should leave decision-making to local partners and that the role of RMRI-CO is to provide input and guidance when needed. In terms of distributing funding and resources, there might be certain requirements for local partners to meet to access funds or other resources. In this way, local landscape partners decide

which structures and representation make sense to them, and each landscape serves as a learning opportunity for different strategies.

- RMRI-CO could provide support and resources based on whether the priority landscape partners' goals and outcomes used to measure success align with the goals and values of RMRI-CO. Ensuring that local landscape goals and outcomes align with the goals and values of RMRI-CO would not necessarily be a high bar to pass; for example, RMRI-CO partners could provide help to local landscape partners to develop stronger recreation-focused outcomes if RMRI-CO partners think there could be stronger recreation-focused outcomes in a priority landscape. In this way, RMRI-CO does not represent a hierarchical and directive structure but more of a body to provide information and support when local landscape partners request help.
- There are remaining questions about the mechanism through which RMRI-CO provides support to the local landscapes. There is an opportunity for RMRI-CO to engage with the local landscapes by having the cross-cutting issue subcommittees have an early organized discussion with the three priority landscapes to set priorities at the individual landscape level. Then, the subcommittees can organize around those priorities and align work with what is most relevant to each of the landscapes. Some of this work is already underway as Samuel Wallace, Peak Facilitation, has organized ideas from each of the priority landscapes based on their RMRI proposals and the February 26 RMRI meeting summary into a cross-cutting issues table. Each subcommittee will use this table to discuss their cross-cutting issue for each of the landscapes and RMRI-CO as a whole. Each subcommittee will then be able to decide how they want to approach their issue (i.e., focusing on priority landscapes, focusing on the statewide level, etc.).
- The RMRI Leadership Team also is not a directive or deciding body. The RMRI governance model should reflect that the RMRI Leadership Team is not a directive body but rather a body that provides feedback and suggestion by connecting the RMRI Leadership Team with RMRI-CO with a double-sided arrow to signify an exchange of information.
- Meeting participants agreed on a RMRI-CO governance structure in which local landscapes make their own decisions and set their own strategies. The local landscapes will provide updates on their goals, outcomes, achievements, and other topics needed for discussion by RMRI-CO partners. The role of RMRI-CO and the RMRI Leadership Team is to provide feedback and suggestions but not to make decisions.
- Among RMRI-CO partners, there are questions related to how the RMRI-CO governance structures connects to shared stewardship. There are conversations that are occurring between DNR and USFS over the next couple weeks to bring clarity to the shared stewardship discussion. Angela Boag will share updates with the Governance Subcommittee as more information is available for release over the next couple of weeks.

NEXT STEPS

- Samuel Wallace will draft a charter for RMRI-CO governance structure for the Governance Subcommittee to review.
- Meeting participants were polled on when the best time is for them to meet next. The morning of Wednesday, April 29 worked for meeting participants. Heather Bergman and Jason Lawhon will select a time during that morning for the Governance Subcommittee to meet. If Governance Subcommittee members have a specific time window that works for them during the morning of April 29, let Heather Bergman and Jason Lawhon know.