FLAGSTAFF WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT

FOREST BOND UPDATE

Jan 4th, 2013

1) **Agreements -**
   a) **US Forest Service (USFS)** - Good progress being made. Three initial agreements, listed below, will be considered by Council at the Jan 8th work-session and at the Jan 15th meeting. The three include:
      (1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU),
      (2) Participating Agreement (PA), and
      (3) Cooperating Agency Status MOU.

      Follow-on agreements will include a 5-Year Action Plan, Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA - one for each activity), and perhaps others.

   b) **State (ASF)** - A general Operating Framework, and draft MOU, has been developed and is under review by the State. Planning to meet with the State on Jan 18th to review and move agreement development forward. Envision the following with the State:
      (1) An over-arching MOU, to be followed by
      (2) An Annual or 5-Year Work Plan (later preferred), and then by
      (3) Individual Project Task Orders for each activity.

      (Note - titles of each may change).

   c) **Signing Ceremony** - Working to coordinate an "event": may potentially include Chief of USFS and/or Undersecretary of Agriculture for City-USFS MOU, and Governor and/or State Forester for City-State MOU. Hopefully, we can arrange for this to occur all at one event.

   d) **Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP)** - Have developed, but not yet approved, a draft Scope of Work Amendment to the existing city-GFFP Agreement to expand GFFP responsibility to include:
      (1) Public Engagement,
      (2) Tribal Relations,
      (3) Financial Leverage, and
      (4) Monitoring.

2) **Planning -**
   a) **USFS** - ID Team (IDT) scheduled to meet monthly, beginning Jan 9th. Some preliminary work has already occurred. All NEPA planning not expected to be completed until fall 2013, with Decision Notice not expected until winter 2014.

3) **Outreach -**
   a) **USFS** - A joint City-USFS *Executive Summary & Implementation Plan* has been developed.

   b) **Other -**
      (1) AZ Republic - *http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/DocumentCenter/View/41215*
      (2) National Firewise Conference - a "success story" proposal has been submitted for consideration to include in the 2013 Annual Conference (Nov 2013 - Salt Lake City, UT).

4) **Treatments -**
   a) **USFS** - Marking on one site has begun. Work on previously approved NEPA projects ("shelf-stock) may begin as soon as spring 2013: new NEPA projects (being developed by IDT - majority of areas) will not begin until spring 2014.

5) **Other** -

a) **After Action Review (AAR)** - An evaluation of the bond effort (City), from initiation up until voter approval, has been completed and is available for review: ***http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/DocumentCenter/View/41193***

b) **Organization** - To oversee and manage the complex issue of fully executing the bond initiative, we've developed the following draft models as of now: revisions are expected as we move forward.

(1) USFS:

(a) Work Teams - The Communication Team (City - Mark Brehl & Kimberly Ott: USFS - Brienne Magee) has meet and begun the process of developing an overall Plan. Much more work scheduled in near future.

(b) Program Managers - have been identified:

USFS - Mike Elson, District Ranger

City - Paul Summerfelt, WFMO

(2) ASF - No activity yet, but envision a somewhat similar approach.

(3) GFFP - The Monitoring Team has met and begun to plan for a Jan 30th Monitoring Summit, at which time the group will begin to identify monitoring priorities, potential partners, funding sources, etc. The public engagement/scoping process, to be conducted in conjunction with, but separate from, the USFS IDT effort, will begin in spring 2013.

(4) City Oversight Team - Has met once and will continue to do so periodically. Members include Kevin Burke, Mike Iacona, David Womochil, Stephanie Smith, Brad Hill, Mark Brehl, and Paul Summerfelt.

c) **Key Decision Log** - Has been initiated. Purpose of the is to track and document, over time, key decisions that are made that adjust or revise the initial project scope, site boundaries & locations, activities, budget, etc.

d) **Allocation Schedule** - Have developed a very preliminary as to how bond funds will be spent and on what timeline. This will certainly change as we move into the planning and implementation phases in the near future.

6) **Next Milestones** -

a) **USFS** - Finalize and complete first three agreements.

b) **State** - Finalize agreements and schedule Council review and action.

c) **Planning** - IDT meet Jan 9th, and thereafter as needed (monthly as a minimum).

d) **Outreach** -

(1) **Friends of Rio** - Participate in Feb 1st meeting and provide status update information.

(2) **AZ Daily Sun** - Earl Stewart and Kevin Burke to co-author article providing status update and plans.

e) **Organization** -

(1) **Communication Team** - Finish Communication Plan.

(2) **Monitoring Team** - host Jan 30th Monitoring Summit, and complete report-back on issues.

ATTACHMENTS: City-USFS Work Teams
GFFP Role
Key Decision Log
Allocation Schedule