

Meeting Notes

- DATE** **January 19, 2012**
- PURPOSE** **Workgroup Launch: Natural and Cultural Resources Workgroup**
- FROM** **Kristin Peppel and Erica Anderson**
- ATTENDEES** [NCR Workgroup Invitation List](#)

Meeting Discussion:

- Next Meeting: Monday, February 13 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm at LOS
- Conflicts with March 14 meeting with Project Team. Two major meetings that day: USFS Restoration Task Force and Southeast Land Trusts Meeting. March 13 seemed to work better.

Additional Workgroup Participants Discussion

Key Points:

- Buncombe was the only county “well-represented”. Need additional members representing other 4 counties.
- Federal and State Agencies need to be involved (specifically USFS/NCFS, NPS – Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, USGS, NRCS)
- Cultural Resources and Arts significantly under-represented. Targeted outreach was needed to Arts Councils, Handmade in America, Historic Preservation groups, State – Division of Cultural Resources, individual artists, and Jerry Plemmons to provide historical perspective. Also suggested to go through the BRNHA heritage plans to find key folks who could also add value to this effort
- Lack of ethnic diversity in the group. Requested that people send names of specific individuals to help provide more diversity.
- Group also noted that some of the groups listed as missing were actually here at the meeting, but participating in other groups. This makes cross-workgroup discussions and dialogue even more important. Another suggestion was to make sure the WG notes for all topics are made accessible to all groups
- Other groups noted as missing included:
 - Elected officials should be represented in every workgroup
 - Cooperative Extension staff from other counties
 - Builders



- Community Colleges and Universities (specifically mentioned Warren Wilson College, ABTech)
- NC Arboretum
- More land trust involvement
- Tourism entities (though it was assumed these folks were probably in the ED group)
- Board of Realtors
- ASAP
- Qualla Boundary – contact: Susan Jenkins
- Trout Unlimited
- Audubon

Related Projects Discussion

- Mountain Landscapes Initiative
- Bent Creek Institute Research findings
- Medicinal herbs – NCNPA
- Mountain Resources Commission
- Blue Ridge Forever Conservation Plan
- Farmland Access Forum
- Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Data
- French Broad River Paddle Trail
- HNG Trail
- Southern Appalachian Wed Management Partnership (WNCA, Equinox, ATC)
- SmartSpace run by City of Asheville – focusing on Arts
- LiveWire – online info sharing among artists

Other Key Discussion Points – Cultural Resources and Arts

There was some discussion during and after the meeting about the role of arts and culture in the project. It was requested that GroWNC staff specifically articulate their vision for how arts and culture factors into the process and analysis. There was interest by the few arts folks there to help with outreach, but after looking at the primary charge of the group (the bulleted items at the top of the handout), they both noted that it would be difficult to recruit folks given the lack of direct reference to cultural resources in the materials.

The other question related to Cultural Resources was if it was in the best place amongst the workgroups. It was suggested that Economic Development was a more natural fit – and that the trend is for many artists/organizations are aligning themselves with ED. Another suggestion was to separate out Cultural Resources into its own group –or at least have separate breakout discussions within the Resources work meetings.



Diane Ruggiero with the City of Asheville was a real go-getter and eager to help bring more of the cultural resources/arts community into the project. I told her I would follow up with a phone call in the next few weeks once we had addressed the questions above internally.

Communications

Group asked if we had some way for them to easily share resources and documents that are pertinent to WG discussions. Perhaps a ftp site or something like it?