

St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks Stream Management Plan Stakeholder Engagement Plan – DRAFT 9/27/18

The Purpose of This Document

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to outline the process for ensuring that the voices of the broad range of stakeholders will be heard and incorporated into the St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks Stream Management Plan (SMP). It will guide the work of the consultant team and may change from time to time based on input from the stakeholders. Additionally, the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (the District) is the “organizational home” of the SMP effort, and the District Board of Directors has responsibility for ensuring that the process and the final work product meet the commitments that the Board has made to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the many fiscal partners in this endeavor. For this reason, the District Board may also influence the direction of the stakeholder engagement if/when they see a need to alter the approach to ensure compliance with those commitments.

In addition to guiding the process, this Stakeholder Engagement Plan also serves as a transparency tool, allowing all the stakeholders involved in the process to know what to expect, how and when they can be involved, and what that involvement will entail. Therefore, if/when this Stakeholder Engagement Plan changes, these changes will be shared with the full, large stakeholder group.

A Word on Color-Coding in This Document

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan is color-coded for easy reading and comprehension. The following color-coding scheme applies:

- **Stakeholder events will be noted in blue.**
- **Core Stakeholder Advisory Group events will be noted in orange.**
- **Agricultural Community events will be noted in green.**
- **Core Agricultural Advisors events will be noted in yellow.**
- **Community events will be noted in purple.**

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The People

The knowledge, input, and ideas of the people who know St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks the best are the very foundation of the Stream Management Plan (SMP).

The Large Group of Stakeholders

It is critical that the water providers, agricultural producers, and recreational users and environmental supporters who are most familiar with the needs and opportunities in and along these waterways drive the development of the SMP. For this reason, **the engagement efforts that will guide the SMP begin and end with a full, large group of stakeholders.** In order to develop an SMP that builds on existing knowledge, is based in sound science, and meets the needs of these stakeholders, the consultant team will require substantial input from these stakeholders. Though committed, the full, large group of stakeholders is also extremely busy and has limited available time in their respective schedules. For this reason, meetings and other engagement efforts with the full, large group of stakeholders will not be as numerous and instead be focused on key points in the process.

Core Stakeholder Advisory Group

A subset of the full, large group of stakeholders will meet more regularly and dive more deeply into the process with the consultant team. This subset or Core Stakeholder Advisory Group will self-select to review and draw upon the input and ideas from the full, large group of stakeholders and work to refine ideas and converge or agree on specific actions or approaches. Any person in the full, large group of stakeholders may join the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group. If a particular stakeholder voice or perspective is absent from the group who self-selects to join the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group, the consultant team may reach out to other stakeholders and encourage them to participate to ensure that is balanced and representative of the range of interests in these watersheds.

Agricultural Community / Core Agricultural Advisors

Of particular focus in this SMP are the perspectives, experiences, and needs of the agricultural community. Agricultural producers in these two watersheds have unique insights, and they also have work schedules and communication preferences that may differ from those of water providers, environmental supporters, and recreational users. For this reason, **the consultant team will make additional efforts to engage the agricultural community using methods that are designed to meet the needs of these specific stakeholders as much as possible.** While the engagement plan includes special steps and methods to target the agricultural community, this does not mean that the agricultural community is separate and apart from the full, large group of stakeholders or the Core Agricultural Advisors group. Rather, **the agricultural community is an integral part of the process; agricultural producers are welcome and encouraged to participate in any and all events and efforts for the full, large group of stakeholders in addition to those that are targeted to the agricultural community specifically.** This includes participation in the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group, which will benefit from participation by at least one agricultural producer.

To ensure that the consultant team has the best information about how and when to engage the agricultural community, a small group of Core Agricultural Advisors will provide periodic advice and guidance to the consultant team. The Core Agricultural Advisors include members of the Board of Directors of the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District who

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themselves make a living in agriculture and are therefore uniquely situated to provide direction about methods and timing for engagement agricultural engagement as well as representatives of Boulder and Weld County agriculture. **The Core Agricultural Advisors will work particularly closely with Travis Smith, a member of the consultant team whose primary role is to serve as liaisons with the District Board and the consultant team, enhancing the District’s goal to ensure that the SMP reflects the voice of the agricultural community.**

Community

St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks are valuable assets not only to the stakeholders and advisors described above, but also to the larger community in these two watersheds. **These creeks and riparian areas provide recreational opportunities to families, habitat for wildlife, ecosystem services like clean drinking water and flood attenuation, and many other important and treasured services to residents of Weld and Boulder Counties.** For this reason, the broader community voice must also inform the SMP, in addition to that of the more knowledgeable and engaged stakeholders and advisors. **The SMP process will engage the broader community at several critical points in the process to ensure that the stakeholders and the consultant team are aware of community’s relationship with the creeks that can later serve as qualitative input for the SMP.** To facilitate broad participation, meetings and outreach tables will be held in both Weld and Boulder County locations.

Note: There is a separate and more-detailed Community Engagement Plan that outlines how the broader community will be engaged. Specific meetings noted here are included because they are expected to provide input into discussions and deliberations of the full, large group of stakeholders and the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group.

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The Schedule

Stakeholder Survey on Vision, Values, Needs, and Priorities (September 12 – 19, 2018)

Stakeholder Workshop #1 – September 21, 2018

- Meet the team and project overview
- Review and revise draft stakeholder and community engagement plans
- Volunteer (or not) for Core Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Review survey results and agree on vision and values to guide the plan
- Map-based discussion on needs and priority areas
- *Note: Interested parties can stay afterward and provide input on data sources.*

Community Open Houses – Early October (October 13 and October 16)

- Hear about the process to develop the plan
- Provide feedback and ideas for vision and values
- Map-based discussion of needs and priority areas

Agricultural Community Input – (Week of August 27, Week of November 5)

- Provide input on overall process, concerns, etc.
- Provide ideas on vision and values
- Provide input on needs and priority areas/infrastructure opportunities
- *Note 1: Agricultural Community engagement at this time to be done informally through phone calls and field visits with Travis Smith.*
- *Note 2: The consultant team will meet with members of the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance (CAWA) on November 5 to hear additional input and feedback from the agricultural community.*

Core Agricultural Advisors Conference Call– (TBD late September/October)

- Provide input on best next steps for engaging agricultural community
- Provide advice on approach to CAWA meeting in early November 5th

Optional Stakeholder Data Integration Meeting/Calls – (TBD end of September/early October)

- Provide input on integration of different data sources
- Troubleshoot any challenges that occur related to data integration

Core Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #1 – October 8, 2018

- Review results of online survey, public open house, and agricultural community input
- Agree on vision and values to guide the plan
- Review initial overview of existing data
- Review map of needs and priorities developed from first stakeholder workshop
- Agree on highest-priority needs and stream segments for field assessment

Ad Hoc Stakeholder Consultations in the Field – TBD, Scheduled as Needed

- Discuss specific needs, challenges, and opportunities in the field
- Increase shared understanding of different interests' needs or opportunities

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Stakeholder Workshop #2 – TBD January 2019

- Review and provide feedback on consultant team work to date, including the summary of existing water rights and uses, the recreation flow study, the projection of future changes, and the projection of future agricultural water shortages
- Provide ideas and suggestions for criteria for developing a preliminary set of priorities for future actions to improve river health

Community Open House #2 – TBD February 2019

- Learn about the status of the SMP
- Provide input on the priority areas that emerge from the stakeholder criteria discussion

Core Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #2 - March/April 2019; date TBD

- Review the options and priorities outlined in the preliminary report
- Provide guidance on how best to present the information gathered
- Provide input on next steps and Phase 2 of the SMP process

Community Celebration / Stakeholder Celebration – June 2019; date TBD

- Unveil the final outcomes of the SMP
- Outline the next steps for Phase 2 of the SMP
- Celebrate the collaboration and success of Phase 1

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The Process

FALL 2018

Stakeholder Survey and Stakeholder Workshop #1 – September 21, 2018

The SMP process will begin with a survey of stakeholders to learn about their vision and values regarding St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks, as well as the needs and opportunities they see in and along the two creeks. The consultant team will summarize the themes that emerge from the survey and provide them to the full, large group of stakeholders at the first workshop on September 21, 2018. The first workshop will also be an opportunity for the full, large group of stakeholders to meet the consultant team, see the overall approach for putting together the SMP, and provide input on the stakeholder and community engagement plans. These outreach plans will benefit from the knowledge and experience of the stakeholder group, and they may change if/as needed to respond to the input and direction from the stakeholders and advisors as the SMP process progresses.

The first workshop will be also be an opportunity for the full, large group of stakeholders to provide *preliminary* input on the vision and values or needs and priority areas in and along St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks. The consultant team will bring maps of the two creeks and invite attendees to identify places where they see a particular need and identify specific geographic places where they see opportunities. Additionally, stakeholders will identify which segments of the creeks *they believe* are the highest-priority for the SMP to address, while they also hear the views from others in the group about *their* perspectives on where the priorities are. The consultant team will share this range of perspectives and information with the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group at a subsequent meeting and work with that group to converge on key needs, opportunities, and priority areas.

At the first workshop, attendees can also engage in these optional activities:

- Volunteer to participate in the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Provide written suggestions to the consultant team about additional data sources that could or should inform the SMP, as well as advice on where to find those data sets
- Indicate whether they would like to participate in the upcoming data integration meeting

Optional Stakeholder Data Integration Meeting – In late September; date is TBD

Some stakeholders may choose to stay after the first stakeholder workshop (above) adjourns and provide preliminary input to the consultant team on data source to use and where/how to access them. Based on this input, the consultant team will work to gather additional data sources. Any stakeholders who are interested in doing so may join the consultant team for a Data Integration meeting in late September to work out any technical, policy, legal, or other barriers to integrating data from different sources. This is a one-time, optional meeting that is open to full, large group of stakeholders. The date of this meeting has not yet been determined; the consultant team will reach out the full, large group of stakeholders to determine the best date for this meeting.

Community Open House Kickoffs – October 13 and 16, 2018

With the support and local leadership of the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group the consultant team will host two community events in early October to provide an overview of the SMP and solicit community input on the vision and values, as well as their thoughts on the needs and opportunities in and along St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks. One meeting will be an evening event and another on a Saturday to accommodate different schedules (see Community Engagement Plan for details). Because these meetings occur after the first workshop of the full, large group of stakeholders, this

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information will be summarized and shared with the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group at their first meeting. *Note: All summaries of all meetings will be shared with the full, large group of stakeholders. See Documentation section below.*

Agricultural Community Input – Ongoing / Core Agricultural Advisors Guidance - Ongoing

Travis Smith will be in contact with the agricultural community periodically during the entire SMP process. This effort will begin with phone calls and in-person conversations in the weeks leading up to the first Stakeholder Workshop. In these interactions with the agricultural community, Travis will learn about the vision, values, needs, and priorities of the agricultural community on and along St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks, as well as their needs and concerns regarding the overall SMP process. Travis will share this information with the consultant team, and key themes will be included with the results from the stakeholder survey provided at the first Stakeholder Workshop. The agricultural community is welcome and encouraged to attend the Stakeholder Workshop as well.

Additionally, the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance (CAWA) and the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (District) will co-host a Stream Management Plan Workshop on November 5, 2018. The Workshop will include agricultural leaders from throughout Colorado and be an open forum for the agricultural community to learn about SMPs and express ideas, visions, and concerns about the process. Although this process is being organized by CAWA and the District and will not be staffed by the consultant team, it is an additional and important opportunity for the agricultural community to provide input on the SMP. District staff will share with the consultant team any key themes or outcomes that can or should inform the SMP effort.

Note: The Core Agricultural Advisors will provide ongoing guidance to the consultant team on the best ways to continue to engage the agricultural community to ensure that their voice is heard and that participation remains convenient and meaningful to them. Consultation with this group will continue throughout the SMP process; the format and frequency of these consultations will be driven by the preferences of the Core Agricultural Advisors and the needs of the consultant team.

Core Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #1 – October 8, 2018

All of the above input will lead into the first Core Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting in early-October. Prior to the meeting, the consultant team will provide summaries of the survey, the stakeholder mapping conversation, and the input received to date from the agricultural community. The results will include the preliminary desktop analysis that synthesizes the information and identifies potential Opportunity Areas to be included in the assessment process. At the meeting, the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group will review all of this material and the existing data gathered by the consultant team with assistance from stakeholders (provided at the September meeting). The Core Stakeholder Advisory Group will work to achieve agreement, or at least a convergence of perspectives, on the vision and values that will guide the SMP, as well as the highest-priority opportunity areas for the consultant team and the SMP to assess.

The outcomes and agreements from the first Core Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting will provide direction to the consultant team so that they can go out into the field with the vision, values, needs, and priority areas in mind. The consultant team will do substantial assessment and analysis in the winter, in order to have preliminary work products for the stakeholders to review and refine in January 2019 (see below).

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Note: The Core Stakeholder Advisory Group may also meet periodically by phone or webinar to provide additional input to the consultant team on specific data questions and/or work products during this time. The Core Stakeholder Advisory Group will provide input on the format and frequency of these meetings during their first meeting.

Ad Hoc Stakeholder Consultations in the Field / Agricultural Community Input

In early November, stakeholders in or near identified opportunity areas who would like to meet with the consultant team in the field to look at specific issues, challenges, needs, and/or opportunities will have the opportunity to do so. The consultant team will reach out to the full stakeholder group to determine interest, and then coordinate with these stakeholders directly to schedule discussions at times and locations that work for the stakeholders. If/where there is interest among stakeholders, these consultations can be grouped and coordinated to facilitate shared understanding across stakeholder interests—for example, agricultural and municipal interests may want to meet together to discuss a shared problem area, or recreational and agricultural interests may want to meet together to discuss a shared opportunity. These consultations will inform the consultant team’s work on summary of agricultural and municipal needs, the recreation flow study, the projection of future chances, and the projection of future agricultural water shortages.

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WINTER AND SPRING 2019

Stakeholder Workshop #2 – January 2019; date TBD

At the second workshop for the full, large group of stakeholders in January, the consultant team will share their work to date, including the summary of the field assessments, existing water rights and uses, the recreation flow study, the projection of future changes, and the projection of future agricultural water shortages. The attendees will provide feedback on this work product to ensure that it is accurate and reflects their input to date. Additionally, the attendees will provide their ideas and suggestions for criteria that the consultants should use to develop a preliminary set of priorities for future actions to improve river health. This input will help the consultant team narrow down the reaches for further analysis and to prepare for the upcoming community meeting in February.

*Note: Additional consultations with the **Agricultural Core Advisors** and/or the **Agricultural Community** may be needed during this time. The frequency and format of these consultations will be driven by the preferences of these groups and the needs of the consultant team.*

Community Open House #2 – February 2019; date TBD, Weld County location

Again, with the support and local leadership of the Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group and the St. Vrain Creek Coalition, the consultant team will host a community open house in February to provide an update the status of the SMP and solicit community input on the priority areas that emerge from the stakeholder conversation at the second workshop. Because this meeting comes after the second workshop for the full, large group of stakeholders, the outcomes of this open house will be summarized and provided to the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group at their second meeting. However, as noted above, the summary of the community's input will also be provided to the full, large group of stakeholders.

Core Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #2 – March/April 2019; date TBD

The second stakeholder workshop and second community open house will give the consultant team the information they need to draft a preliminary report about priorities and options for future efforts and actions on St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks. At the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting in March/April, the group will review the options and priorities emerging from the data analysis, provide guidance on how best to present the information gathered, and to provide input on next steps and Phase 2 of the SMP process.

Community Celebration / Stakeholder Celebration – June 2019; date TBD

Based on the input provided at the second Core Stakeholder Advisory Group, the consultant team will finalize the report and develop materials outlining the outcomes of the SMP process. These materials will serve as the foundation of a community and stakeholder celebration in June. This event is intended to be a true celebration with a festive party atmosphere. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend and to talk with community members about the process, the SMP itself, and the next steps for Phase 2.

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation is a critical aspect of the engagement plan. The consultant team is deeply committed to transparency and to ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of all meetings and events and the outcomes from those meetings and events. All of the meetings and consultations

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outlined above will be summarized by the consultant team, and those summaries will be distributed to all stakeholders and posted on the District website for reference as soon as possible after the meetings and events.

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Summary of Groups, Contributions, and Time Commitments

The following paragraphs and tables summarize the different groups who will be engaged in the SMP, what their anticipated engagement and contributions will be, and how many hours those contributions are expected to take. Optional events or efforts are noted in italics; optional events are those that stakeholders can miss and still have their voices and perspectives captured effectively in the SMP. Of course, no one is obligated to participate in any event or meeting.

Note: Because a single individual can be involved in multiple groups listed below, the hours contributions are additive. For example, one agricultural provider could be engaged in all of the activities unique to the agricultural community, could be a Core Agricultural Advisor, could attend all of the stakeholder meetings, could be on the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group, and could participate in community meetings. That individual would contribute a lot of hours and substantial value to the SMP!

Stakeholders

These are people who are interested in the stream management plan as water providers, agricultural producers/land owners, environmental supporters and recreational users, etc. This is an open group; we will not turn away people who want to participate. Our current list has 178 names on it. We will add names as people show up and express interest.

Summary of Contributions

Contribution	Hours
Participation in 2 workshops (3 hours each)	6
<i>Optional review of 2 workshop summaries (1 hour each)</i>	2
<i>Ad hoc consultations with the consultant team in the field</i>	2
<i>Participation in the community/stakeholder celebration</i>	3
TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS	13

Agricultural Community

These are agricultural producers and landowners. This group is a subset of the larger stakeholder group. Agricultural producers are encouraged to also participate in all of the events and meetings for the larger stakeholder group, outlined above.

Summary of Contributions

Contribution	Hours
Participation in phone calls with Travis Smith in August and October	2
<i>Additional optional consultation with Travis Smith</i>	2
TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS	4

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Core Stakeholder Advisory Group

This is a subset of the larger stakeholder group. It is people who will self-select to be deeply engaged in the work of the SMP. This group will meet more frequently than the full stakeholder group and do more of the heavy lifting to provide input to the consultant team. Members of the agricultural community are encouraged to participate in this group as well. Members of the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group would also likely participate in all the events and meetings of the larger stakeholder group (above).

Summary of Contributions

Contribution	Hours
Participation in two Core Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings (3 hours each)	6
<i>Optional review of 2 Core Stakeholder Advisory Group summaries (1 hour each)</i>	2
<i>Potential additional calls to provide guidance to the consultant team (90 minutes each)</i>	6
TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS	14

Core Agriculture Advisors

This is a small group of people in the agriculture community who can provide advice and guidance to the consultant team that is specific and unique to the issues, needs, and concerns of the agricultural community. Members of this group may choose to be part of any of the other groups listed above their discretion. Some representation in the Core Stakeholder Advisory Group would be ideal, schedules permitting. Some participants in this group will be members of the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservation District as well.

Summary of Contributions

Contribution	Hours
Participation in planning call with the consultant team in September	2
<i>Potential additional calls with the consultant team to provide ongoing guidance</i>	6
TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS	8

The Community

This is the broadest group we will engage and consists of anyone who is interested in the stream management plan, lives in the area, or wants to be engaged for whatever reason. There is no membership list for this group; it is roughly “everyone.” We will engage the public in Community Open Houses throughout the process to provide input to the groups listed above, but the bulk of the work on the stream management plan will be done by the groups listed above, informed by the input from the larger community.

Summary of Contributions

Contribution	Hours
Participation in 2 community open houses (participation estimated to be 1 hour each)	2
Participation in the final community/stakeholder celebration (2 hours)	2
TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS	4

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CONSULTANT PARTICIPATION IN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

	Stakeholder Engagement Lead: Heather Bergman	Technical Lead and Project Manager: Claudia Brown	Agricultural Engagement Lead: Travis Smith	Community Engagement Lead: Jessie Olsen
Stakeholder Survey on Vision, Values, Needs, and Priorities (September 12 - 19, 2018)				
Stakeholder Workshop #1 - September 21, 2018				
Optional Data Integration Meeting (end of September)				
Community Open Houses - Early October (October 13 and October 16)				
Agricultural Community Input - (Week of August 27, Week of November 8)				
Core Agricultural Advisors Conference Call- (TBD)				
Core Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #1 -October 8, 2018				
Ad Hoc Stakeholder Consultations in the Field - TBD, Scheduled as Needed				
Stakeholder Workshop #2 - TBD January 2019				
Community Open House #2				
Core Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #2				
Community Celebration / Stakeholder Celebration				