

# MWTP SC – WORKING MEETING NOTES

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April 29, 2025

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## I. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Approve Notes 04/01/25 - **approved**
- b. Assign Notetaker - **DW**
- c. Add new agenda topics - **none**
- d. Attendance: (delete missing)
  - i. Steering Committee: **SB, TM, RS,**
  - ii. **Daniel Anderson (MSWP), DW proxy for KM**
  - iii. PIT Crew: **BA, DW, ST**

## II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Press release for 'Cycle Open' by first week of May – **one edit (DA), ok to send out this week (DW)**
- b. MDT status update on LPB process development – **TM updates**
  - i. **Funding in place, subcommittee whitepapers with recommendations**
  - ii. **BR Summit meeting facilitated (May 16) - MDT, contractors, consultants, FWP reps**
  - iii. **Actionable items and reinvigoration – breakouts to find innovative ways to advance the LPB initiative**
  - iv. **Share info ahead, categorizing, standardized designs, document and prioritize ideas, cost efficiencies, materials innovations, design and delivery mechanisms, continue to meet**
  - v. **Y2Y contracted M. Huijser and M. Bell to do a west wide MT roadway assessment. Expected to be ready near end of summer, followed by some field reviews.**
    1. **TM encouraged FWP and MDT engagement in the process**
    2. **Caution about prescriptive structure design, use of indices without digestible explanations, and \$ value of wildlife**
- c. Brainstorm targeted outreach with potential project supporters/applicants
  - i. **Smaller community led groups, landowner groups, ranchland groups, other wildlife & transportation groups (e.g., Glacier Two-Medicine)**
  - ii. **Related to prioritization – by district (i.e. workplan topic) - where are we trying to invest resources or is it an opportunity for others to bring projects forward?**
  - iii. **What does it mean for MSWP, Partnership to offer support to these groups?**
    1. **Member NGOs have a pretty substantial network of contacts across the state (e.g., Winnet Aces, BHWCC, Front Range, MSA, RSA)**
    2. **Get a list of potential targeted outreach recipients**
      - a. **Start the conversation - Ask questions, what does this issue look like in your community? Gauge level of interest, resources.**

- b. **Inform about MWTP project program**
    - c. **What level of support is needed? Is MSWP (and FWP) able to provide? Role for MDT? Engage land trust agencies?**
  - d. **MSWP Crossing Convening report out**
    - i. **Strengthen partnership between NGOs**
    - ii. **Engaged sportsmen groups**
    - iii. **Takeaways**
      - 1. **Policy and legislation**
      - 2. **Communications and storytelling (e.g., MSWP as resource hub)**
      - 3. **Data applications & project implementation**
    - iv. **Strengths and challenges**
    - v. **Next steps**
      - 1. **Another convening in May**
        - a. **What are the results of the legislation? HB855, funding bills**
        - b. **Build up MSWP membership interest**
        - c. **Meet data needs for project identification and support**
        - d. **Determine other goals and outcomes**

### III. **NB ACTION ITEMS**

- a. **DW to get out press release for May cycle open**
- b. **MSWP to develop list of community contacts – reach out to start conversation in targeted outreach on wildlife & transportation issues, MWTP project program**
- c. **ST – ensure the application link and form is working appropriately (May 1)**

### IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Coordination on MWTP/MDT long-term strategy for applications to federal grant funding opportunities**
  - i. **MDT internal conversations, depending on internal restructuring – TM, RS**
    - 1. **Uncertainty at federal level**
      - a. **Core funding – continuing resolutions**
      - b. **Grant availability, eligibility, funding**
    - 2. **Need to focus on reorg and structure – provide clarity**
    - 3. **This is a priority for RS an TM**
- b. **MSWP – hub for Outreach/Communications – KP, SB**
  - i. **Determine priority work and funding opportunities**
- c. **MSWP develop short summaries of current projects and status for website, for committee review.**
  - i. **SB will pursue brief write-ups for MWTP active projects**

### V. **OB ACTION ITEMS**

- a. **May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss straw dog workplan – in person Helena**
  - i. **Get your ideas to DW/KM asap – bring to meeting**
- b. **Planning Tool updates targeted in June**

- i. **Put summary of changes and possibly a walk-through on an upcoming agenda (August?)**
- c. Communications Plan and Schedule of Deliverables, 2025 update – **ST/DW – working on it**
- d. Post revised guidance documents **Done** and past meeting minutes/agendas – **ST – fixed broken link, working on it**
- e. Website page for current projects and updates – **ST - working on it**
  - i. Active Projects tab
    - 1. Link to MDT projects webpages
    - 2. Link to Project webpages
      - a. <https://www.yellowstonesafepassages.org/engineering-feasibility-study>
      - b. <https://missoulacrossings.org/projects/sixmile/>
- f. Create new (3<sup>rd</sup>) ‘planning ahead’ announcement to subscribers to be sent 3-4 months early. June/July, December/Nov. Draft language. – **ST - being worked on, DW will help**

## VI. UPDATES

- a. FWP continuing to seek a replacement for RG – DW, KM
- b. Simon’s proxy May-July - Daniel Anderson
- c. Legislative bill updates – KP
- d. WAFWA synthesis of western states “Partnership” structures and cultures – DW
  - i. Ready for May SC working meeting
- e. MDT-FWP Summit –
  - i. **Being coordinated with agencies DO**
  - ii. Will share what’s relevant to the Partnership when ready.
- f. Current Active Projects
  - i. Sixmile Creek Underpass
    - 1. **HDR consultant team**
    - 2. **Contract signed**
    - 3. **MRCWG has provided some area contacts to HDR**
  - ii. Dome Mountain
    - 1. **Jacobs/TD&H/WTI consultant team**
    - 2. **Still negotiating scope and fee with consultant**
    - 3. **YSP providing formal role in public outreach - TBD**
  - iii. US-191 Mouth of the Canyon
    - 1. **FS complete - TM to send copy to partners**
    - 2. **Seeking funding**
  - iv. US-191 North of Big Sky
    - 1. **FS finalized – TM to send copy to partners**
    - 2. **On hold pending HOA concerns**
  - v. **Need for MSWP to be working at MWTP track, but would like to get more involved with MDT Wildlife Accommodation Process track**
    - 1. **Desire to start by focusing on the current bridge program**
    - 2. **MDT desires further consideration and discussion with MSWP reps**

- a. **Info sharing from MSWP with MDT Bios for WAP-WARM**
- b. **MSWP desire to coordinate with MDT District staff before and during project development**

VII. **NEXT MEETINGS**

- a. Future SC Working Meetings –
  - i. April 29<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
  - ii. **May 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am – 3:00 pm – Work Plan meeting (in-person, Helena)**
  - iii. **May 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 11:00 am**
  - iv. **June 23<sup>rd</sup> 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – include Go/No Go**
  - v. **July 28<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm – include Consensus Scoring**