

**Meeting Notes**  
**Environment System**  
**Group Meeting #5**  
**July 22, 2014**

This meeting included:

- A message from Executive Board Member Mayor Ralph Becker
- Polling Results: Vision and Goals
- Metrics: Discussion and Polling
- Mapping Exercise on Idealized Systems

**Executive Board Message**

- Essential to set the course for the Wasatch for the next generation; we must look comprehensively to make good decisions.
- We need to do better in getting the broader interested public more engaged.
- Hope/expectation of outcome: all major decisions at the planning level will be made by each and every jurisdiction (local, county, city, state, federal). Each is fully committed to this process.
- We think we have the right people at the table. Empower members to make good decisions.
- SLC perspective of the environment system:
  - Critical to the success of the City's responsibilities to provide quality water to the valley. City will protect those resources at all costs. This will not be compromised, as a function of the outcome of this process.
  - City will work to achieve the selected ideal scenario.
- We are on a tight timeline to make decisions. Jan 2015. Therefore: use best info available to make those decisions. It may never be perfect; it may never be ideal. This is how it always works. If there is some gap that is critical that we can't make a good decision, then we rethink to make a decision. These cases are rare.
- We need to take advantage of this moment in time to arrive as close to consensus as possible (still note other voices)
- Primary focus of Exec. Committee (EC): Ideal Scenario. Responsibility of the chairs and executives to integrate all Idealized Systems. There is commonality amongst all groups at this point (as has been shown to EC). This is what the EC hopes for, and expects. Combining will be the most difficult part.

Questions/Comments:

- There is a common thread across all systems to preserve the natural setting.
- Some (from all system groups) feel there is not enough data to make decisions. Need to trust the executive board to make good decisions even without all the desired data.
- We should consider improving the environment baseline. Are there things we can repair as part of this process and if so let's think about how to put together a plan/proposal to fix it.

- We should consider the role of modeling in this process. Concerns were raised that modeling should be used to implement “the Grand Bargain” in Phase 1.
- There was discussion regarding analysis to come up with a dollar value for ecosystem services. The Executive Committee concluded that analysis was not necessary/helpful. The environmental resources are priceless. If a dollar amount was assigned, people would disagree on the amount. Better to focus on core values.
- Ecosystems can’t be repaired.

### **Polling Results: Vision and Goals**

Andrea Clayton introduced the Vision polling results. Slight revisions were made to the Vision based upon comments received in the polling.

Goals polling results. Minor revisions based upon comments as well as working with the subgroups.

#### **Vision Polling: 48 Participated**

- 1) Concur (50%)
- 2) Concur with minor point of contention (48%)
- 3) Disagree with outcome but consent to move forward (2%)
- 4) Dissent (0%)
- 5) Waive or Abstain (0%)

*Comments from members that dissented or that disagreed with outcome but consent to move forward:*

Vision statement did not mention historic sites or cultural assets (1 vote). *We had follow-up meetings and historic preservation will likely be covered in the economy group under quality of life. We do still have historic/cultural as a conservation value under our land goal.*

#### **Goals Polling: 48 Participated**

- 1) Concur (66%)
- 2) Concur with minor point of contention (34%)
- 3) Disagree with outcome but consent to move forward (0%)
- 4) Dissent (0%)
- 5) Waive or Abstain (0%)

### **Metrics Discussion and Polling**

Andrea Clayton introduced the Metrics of the Environment System Group.

#### Discussion

Goal1, Metric 2. (Protect existing and future water supply sources). More work needs to be done here. Comfortable with the metric, but not the measurement. Discuss this further in the sub-committee meeting on water.

Goal 2, Metric 1. Are there other pollutants we should be considering? Considerations: Dust on snow, wildfires, forest health, visible haze, point-source pollution (wood stoves, etc.). Consider what we can/cannot control. This metric might be a good thing for the Climate Group to address.

*Informal voting by a show of hands:*

- Address regional haze? Majority YES.
- Include a forest fire specific metric? Majority NO.

Goal 3, Metric 1. There is a strong desire to model some of the baseline with core resources. There was comfort expressed in the metric, but not necessarily how we get to the answers. Additional work needed in ecosystem sub-group meeting on how to get to core areas. It lacks a restoration component. Group decided to include restoration component and change metric to, "Degree of impact *or improvement* in core areas and connectivity areas."

The System Group was asked vote on their level of concurrence with the Metrics.

#### **Metrics Polling: 22 Participated**

- 1) Concur (64%)
- 2) Concur with minor point of contention (32%)
- 3) Disagree with outcome but consent to move forward (0%)
- 4) Dissent (5%)
- 5) Waive or Abstain (0%)

*Comments from members that dissented were requested. Dissenting member(s) did not identify themselves or provide reasons for dissent at the meeting. Ann requested that they contact her afterwards to provide comments to take to the Executive Committee.*

Team will work on suggested regional haze metric and either draft and email it or present it at the next meeting.

#### **Mapping Exercise on Idealized Systems**

Group broke into 5 small groups based upon Goals and were asked to consider the suite of draft design features available to implement as part of creating an Idealized Environment.

#### **Action Items**

- Draft regional haze metric (under air quality goal) and present at the next System Group meeting.