



Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition

Landowners and Stakeholders Public Meeting
March 8, 2014
Berthoud Community Center

LTWRC MARCH 8 MEETING AGENDA

- Quick overview of the Coalition
- A virtual walk through the Little Thompson
- What has been done
- What is in process
- How you can help with the restoration
- Questions and feedback.

LTWRC MARCH 8: COALITION OVERVIEW

➤ **THE MISSION:**

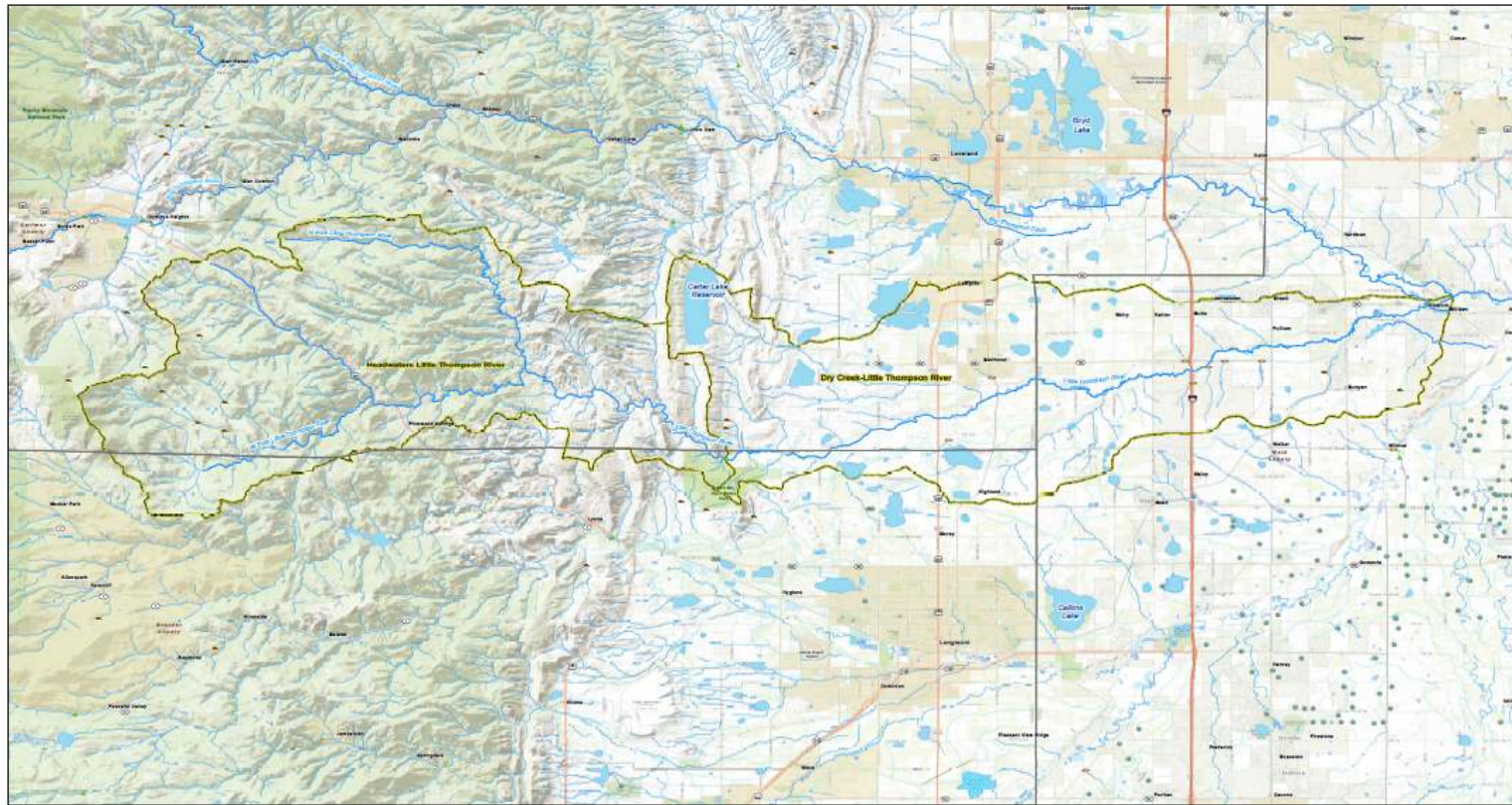
➤ *To restore and maintain the flood resiliency, ecological integrity and agricultural heritage of the Little Thompson River watershed*

➤ **OUR GOALS:**

- Hire a river consultant to develop a Master Plan for the watershed that supports our Mission.
- Acquire funding from government agencies, foundations, corporations and private parties to implement the Master Plan.
- Work with individual landowners to find funding and volunteer resources for recovery work on their property.
- Coordinate volunteer work to ensure best utilization of people and machinery.
- Monitor and provide leadership in managing the health of the river and its ecology.
- Monitor and provide leadership in managing the effectiveness of flood abatement work.

LTWRC MARCH 8: A VIRTUAL RIVER WALK

Little Thompson River Watershed Restoration Coalition Project Area



Produced for:
Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition

Sponsored by:
Big Thompson Conservation District

Legend

NHD Point Locations	NHD Waterbodies	NHD Flow Features	HUC10 Watershed Boundaries
○ Gauging Station	■ Estuary	— Artificial Path	□
○ Sinkhole	■ Ice Mass	— Canal/Ditch	
○ Spring/Seep	■ Lake/Pond	— Connector	
○ Well	■ Playa	— Pipeline	
	■ Reservoir	— Stream/River	
	■ Swamp/Marsh	— Underground Conduit	



LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED AND ACTIVE

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- Meets every Saturday
- Completed the RFP

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

- Meets every Monday
- Great progress on landowners database and resources database

FISCAL COMMITTEE

- Will meet for first time next week, at a bank of course

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Suzanne Bassinger, Larimer Country Long Term Recovery Manager, will be added as a member at the March 8 meeting
- County employees from Weld and Boulder will hopefully be added soon

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

➤ **FUND RAISING:**

➤ APPROVED:

- Colorado Water Conservation Board:
\$150,000 for the Master Plan development
- Larimer County Commissioners
\$25,000 for the Master Plan development

➤ SUBMITTED:

- Boulder County Commissioners
\$25,000 grant for Master Plan
- Weld County Commissioners
\$25,000 grant for Master Plan
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
\$32,000 Weed Management Grant submitted

➤ TO BE SUBMITTED

- Colorado State Conservation Board/NRCS
District Conservation Technician Grant complete

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT AWARENESS OF LITTLE THOMPSON COALITION

GOVERNMENTAL RECOGNITION OF THE COALITION

- CWCB Grant confirms Coalition's ownership of the Master Plan
- Larimer County grant confirms the same
- Boulder County will use Coalition's Master Plan in their Creek Planning

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION OF THE COALITION

- "The Quiet River That Screamed" appeared as guest column in Reporter-Herald
- The same article being considered by Berthoud Surveyor
- More people (not Little T property owners) asking about the river and our activities.

SOCIAL MEDIA NOW IN PLACE

- The Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition has its own Facebook page up and available. Check it out.

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT IS IN PROCESS

➤ **MASTER PLANNING**

- RFP distributed to 16 river consulting companies.
- Consultant chosen and operating by first of April
- Preliminary reports due end of June
- Final report mid-September
- WE NEED YOUR INVOLVEMENT TO MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL!!

➤ **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Work continues to round up all contact information for all Little Thompson landowners (PLEASE HELP US)
- Further assessments and surveys need to be done to understand cost and time for work already completed and work and time still remaining for private property restoration
- Continued work on getting private landowners signed up with agencies that might be able to help with funding

➤ **FLOOD RECOVERY AGENCY OUTREACH**

- Continued research to find government and private agencies that can provide real help to landowners

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT IS IN PROCESS

➤ **ESTABLISHING LTWRC AS ITS OWN ENTITY**

- LTWRC.ORG is now a domain on the internet.
- Full email system in place that allows topic specific email addresses (info@ltwrc.org, lost.found@ltwrc.org, rumors@ltwrc.org, etc.)
- LTWRC.ORG website being developed. Ends the confusion about logging on to the Big Thompson Conservation District website to get to Little Thompson pages.

➤ **DEBRIS REMOVAL - VOLUNTEER**

- First wave of workers from UMCOR start work March 17
- Serve 6.8 working with UMCOR to remove large stream debris
- Berthould Fire District has grant to rent tub shredder to chip woody debris
- The program works ONLY if landowners contact us for help
- Right of Entry/Hold Harmless forms need to be signed before work begins
- Larger materials may need to be stored on landowner's property for later use in stream restoration

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT IS IN PROCESS

➤ **DEBRIS REMOVAL - GOVERNMENT**

- FEMA has given extra money to Colorado and modified their rules to allow funding for stream debris removal prior to spring runoff.
 - Applies ONLY to debris determined to be a threat to public health and safety.
 - Requires a separate Right of Entry/Hold Harmless form
 - Funds will be distributed by Colorado Office of Emergency Management
 - Work will be managed at the county level of government
 - Specific start not established but planning is already in process

- U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program
 - Colorado has submitted request to HUD
 - Stream restoration MIGHT be covered to some extent
 - Home restoration MIGHT be a possibility but at least 50% of grant dollars must go to homeowners that meet income requirements

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT IS IN PROCESS

➤ ***NRCS UPDATE***

- Exigent* study completed and there are no exigent situations on the Little Thompson although one property is being reviewed again.
- Non-exigent estimates for debris removal, sediment removal and stream bank restoration completed by NRCS using retired Army Corps of Engineers personnel.
- Disaster Survey Reports containing all the information are being filed with the national NRCS offices.
- Money for non-exigent repairs must be appropriated by the U.S. Congress. There is no guarantee money will be appropriated and the time required to get the appropriations is unknown. Funds for the High Park fire took 11 months to get through the appropriations process.
- If the funds are appropriated, they can also be used on a restricted basis for restoration activities on private property.
- A 25% match is required for all NRCS funds from the local sponsor. The 25% match can be cash or in-kind labor and expenses.

*Exigent situation is one where threat to human life is imminent.

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT IS IN PROCESS

NRCS ESTIMATES FOR RESTORATION OF LITTLE THOMPSON RIVER

- ***MAIN STEM FROM HEADWATERS TO CTY RD 47 & 36 Intersection***
 - ***\$377,055***

- ***WEST FORK HEADWATERS TO MOUTH OF CANYON (INCLUDES NORTH FORK)***
 - ***\$1,327,000***

- ***MOUTH OF CANYON TO LARIMER/WELD COUNTY LINE***
 - ***\$344,700***

- ***LARIMER/WELD COUNTY LINE TO CONFLUENCE WITH BIG THOMPSON***
 - ***\$461,800***

- ***TOTAL RIVER***
 - ***\$2,510,555***

LTWRC MARCH 8: WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ***MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION***
- ***VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND EQUIPMENT***
- ***VOLUNTEER TO BE A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR***
- ***VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE OR ASSIST A COMMITTEE MEMBER***
- ***KEEP THE COALITION UPDATED ON HELPFUL AGENCIES, NEW RECOVERY PROGRAMS, FOUNDATIONS GIVING RECOVERY GRANTS, RUMORS, ETC.***
- ***PROVIDE PICTURES (BEFORE AND AFTER) TO THE COALITION OR POST THEM ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE***
- ***KEEP TRACK OF ALL YOUR TIME AND EXPENSES DOING RECOVERY WORK***
- ***ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR IF THEY KNOW ABOUT THE COALITION AND GIVE THEM OUR CONTACT INFORMATION IF THEY DON'T***



Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition

QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK