

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 office (3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula)
TIME: 6-9:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Brian Bidlake, Louie Bouma, Steve Clevidence, Dan Conn, Todd Frank, Charlie Johnson, Ross Keogh, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Theresa Mondale, Jim Olson, Kylie Paul, Greg Price, Thomas Puchlerz, Jack Reneau, Carey Schmidt, Barbara Joanne Weimer

Staff: Randy Arnold, Chet Crowser, Vivaca Crowser, Deb Espinoza, Joe Jaquith, Dori Schiele & Mike Thompson

Commissioner: Gary Wolfe

Legislative updates & discussion

Randy Arnold gave an update on the 2015 legislative session and the status of bills introduced by FWP. He invited CAC members to contact him if they have questions. FWP tracks bills and updates online, and CAC members can find a link to this info at fwp.mt.gov.

Tim Aldrich spoke on bills not introduced by FWP but that may impact FWP in some way. These include bills on topics such as trapping, law enforcement requirements, the water compact, hunter orange, habitat issues, and access laws.

Tim will continue to track FWP-related bills during the session and send updates by email to CAC members.

Montana's current moose research project

FWP wildlife researcher, Nick DeCesare, gave a presentation on Montana's moose research project, initiated in 2013, and aimed at uncovering some of the key things impacting moose population numbers and mortalities in Montana. He discussed the need to gather more information on moose in Montana and across their North American range and reported some of the very early findings of this ten year study.

State Parks projects & updates

R2 State Parks Manager, Chet Crowser, provided background current regional and statewide priorities, including the recent release of the State Park five year strategic plan and its associated priorities. The plan can be viewed online at: stateparks.mt.gov/about-us/strategicPlan.html

Blackfoot River Corridor Agreement Working Group

Todd Frank discussed the Blackfoot Corridor Agreement. The agreement is up for renewal, and the process has included a working group that Frank has been participating in. The group has met several time so far and identified issues be addressed. Signage, camping, and access sites are some of the areas to be worked through.

CAC Subcommittee Updates:

Access subcommittee- Tim Aldrich

The committee met in January and will meet again at the FWP office on March 3. The group is focused on local/regional solutions to access issues.

Membership: Tim Aldrich, Brian Bidlake, Steve Clevidence, Dan Conn, Todd Frank, Charlie Johnson, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Greg Price, Tom Puchlerz & Carey Schmidt.

Trapping subcommittee- Toby Walrath

The committee met one time over the summer and another time on Feb. 3. Membership: Brian Bidlake, Theresa Mondale, Kylie Paul, Greg Price, Toby Walrath. Next meeting date TBD.

Upcoming meetings*

The next R2 CAC meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, May 26, 6 pm, at the Missoula FWP office (3201 Spurgin Rd)

* Other 2015 meeting dates have not yet been set.