

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 office (3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula)
TIME: 6-9:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Members: Tim Aldrich, JW Allendorf, Jane Bennett, Louie Bouma, Steve Clevidence, Dan Conn, Marc Cooke, Robert Edwards, Laurie Johnston Ross Keogh, Denley Loge, Tracy Manley, Bill Mitchell, Theresa Mondale, Jim Olson, Kylie Paul, Greg Price, Tom Puchlerz, Matt Quinlan, Carey Schmidt, Mike Schmitt, Toby Walrath, Joanne Weimer

Staff: Randy Arnold, Chet Crowser, Vivaca Crowser, Deb Espinoza, Pat Saffel, Dori Schiele & Mike Thompson

Welcome & introductions

Vivaca expressed a thank you to outgoing members and a welcome to new members. Randy Arnold covered CAC member roles and responsibilities (help to inform the general public on management, make recommendations and assist with an open and honest dialogue). Randy expressed a great appreciation for the roles of CAC. He thanked Charlie Johnson and Todd Frank for their years of service and presented them with service awards.

Charlie Johnson stated he was honored to participate for the 8 years. The diversity of the group was wonderful. He complemented the group for the respectful manner in which everyone behaves. They are willing to compromise their own special interest in order to respect the resources.

Todd Frank – Felt he took away more than he gave. He felt that the CAC is a useful way for FWP and the public to share honest ideas. This has created a network of diversity.

Round robin followed so that each member could introduce themselves,

Toby Walrath presented an idea which would help members on the board know something about each other. He asked if people would be interested in writing a short essay about themselves. He stated he would be willing to put a compilation together after they were submitted. He suggested that this may inspire others to join the CAC and want to connect more. The idea was discussed and seemed well received.

Fisheries news-Pat Saffel

Pat talked about the hot weather and low water levels have had an impact on area rivers. He discussed “Hoot Owl” restrictions that are currently in place. The longer cooler nights will keep water temperatures stable and possibly no more rivers will be affected. He discussed shared water sacrifice between irrigators and fisheries, keeping flows in place for fish and irrigators. Bitterroot survey shows 90% commercial use, 70% use wade angling, and significant decrease in use of WF Bitterroot by locals. There are concerns over too much commercial use. A lot of time is being put in on the Bitterroot River plans. A committee will be formed to set up a plan

for the future of Bitterroot use.

Research projects in the region: Brown trout expanding in the region; brown trout may replace bull trout in some places due to rising temperatures. Hooking injury study. Catch and release study to see how injury from hooks does or does not affect fish.

Fisheries news-Joe Jaquith

- Joe reported that enforcement is concentrating on the AIS stations and have started issuing citations for boats that do not stop, putting a higher priority on this.
- They are also working on food storage protocol for Salmon and Placid Lakes to help prevent wildlife conflicts.

State parks news-Chet Crowser

- It was a record-breaking year for state park visitation statewide. Visits were up 23%, and this is the 5th year in a row with an increase. This is a positive, but it does tax SP personnel keeping up with this.
- There may be upcoming naming changes for some sites, rec sites, and heritage sites with a definition to guide this. The intent is to recognize which Parks meet the criteria.
- Travelers Rest and Adventure Cycling worked together on a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new portion of the Bitterroot bike trail between Lolo and Missoula. 1200 bikes with 1500 people in attendance. People came from all over the world.
- Working to plan for bike-in campsites at Placid and Salmon to offer unique opportunities for bike users.
- Cultural Camps at Travelers Rest – Salish speakers and some from Bitterroot come together to further understanding of places of importance...bringing communities together.
- Update on Milltown – working on property donations and future staffing.

Wildlife news-Mike Thompson

- Mike introduced himself to the new members and talked about the new hire of area biologist Julie Golla for the Anaconda area. Stated Dann Conn is having a BBQ for Julie to introduce her to some of the landowner in her area.
- Hunt coordinators will come on Aug 15 to help as a go between for hunters and landowners for the shoulder season hunts.

Upcoming meeting

Next meeting in October...date TBD...focus on CAC member-led discussions

Adjourned at 9:30pm