

Region 3 Citizens' Advisory Committee Wednesday, August 9, 2006 Ennis, Montana

Attendees: All members present—Cyndi Andrus, Rick Arnold, Tom Barnes, Ted Coffman, Joe Cohenour, Bob Gibson, Al Harmata, Michael Leach, Amy McNamara, Leroy Mehring, Ed Peretti, Sandy Sallee, Sam Samson, Craig Sharpe, Marina Smith, Meg Smith

Staff: Pat Flowers, Sam Sheppard, Kurt Alt, Craig Jourdonnais, Bruce Rich, Colleen O'Rourke, Mel Frost.

Guests: Patti Silversmith and friend, Tony Schoenen, Jack Acheson, Nick Gevock, Elaine Allstead, Bill O'Connell, Charlie Sperry

Greetings, introductions, and CAC roundtable:

Tom Barnes— raised issue of Poindexter Slough in Dillon and asked who at FWP looks at fishing access site priorities. Offered for sale to FWP, but ultimately bought by out-of-state landowner.

Bruce Rich—not many \$ available, already overspent in current biennium. Less \$ available in future because don't have enough available for current operations and management. Limited opportunities for acquisitions.

Craig Sharpe—constructive for us to see minutes from other CACs and see what topics they're covering.

Mel Frost—we're in the process of developing a CAC website and link to every other CAC in state. Will be a good source of information for you—agendas, minutes, members, etc.

Ed Peretti—create a CAC landowner recognition award for cooperation. Would like to discuss in the future.

Pat Flowers—FWP had a statewide meeting on CACs statewide and discussed:

- 1. Uniform charter statewide. Purpose—forum for thoughts and ideas, CAC drives agenda, FWP provides background
- 2. Range of opinions from diverse CAC and constituents. Encourage sharing opinions even if contrary

3. FWP will not leverage CAC opinions with outside groups and legislature. CAC may decide to take actions on own.

Possible focus for next meeting—legislative forum before election, list of FWP issues, invite candidates from across region. Would have to change date of next meeting from Nov. 9 to before election.

Tony Schoenen—When will the draft of the bridge access legislation be available?

Craig Sharpe—Hope it would be yesterday so any day now.

Elaine Allstead—what happened to interagency group that did pamphlet on access and distributed it?

Interagency Access Council is dormant.

Elaine—good idea to resurrect and have joint interagency funding.

Presentations

Craig Jourdonnais and Colleen O'Rourke did presentations on wildlife and Block Management in the Madison Valley, respectively. Kurt Alt talked about access issues.

Forest Service Travel Plans—closures of access points that funnel more hunters to areas with access creating more crowding—work with FS and CAC

Hunter ethics—create code of ethics, master hunter program? Through FWP hunter education program, commission, hunter and angler clubs statewide, wallet card.

Improve hunter behavior, improve relations between landowners, hunters, and anglers

Require renewal of hunter education certification for older hunters that may not have taken hunter education (before requirement)

Elaine—one idea for violators was requiring school before someone could get license back.

Ed—remove car rifle.

Pat—educate new landowners, offer things like master hunter program, but will always be offenders.

Michael—from an education standpoint and people and etiquette, anyone can get a guide license with no training. FWP could work with Board of Outfitters.

CAC Caucus

Amy—public participation, outreach, and engaging people. Want the CAC to explore ways to involve the public. Don't believe our CAC meetings are meeting the needs for outreach.

Cyndi—information delivery changing, now a lot of information sharing via computers and ipods.

Tom—How does CAC make recommendations to FWP? Is there a vehicle in place to create, enhance, and maintain access? What kind of recommendation can we make?

Pat—Questions to ask: do we have enough access on rivers? Are there other funding sources to acquire more access? Are we doing a good enough job maintaining the sites we have? Are there ways to create opportunities for better access?

Bob Gibson—recommend no more acquisitions of FASs until we're able to maintain the existing FASs. Is there a possibility of raising additional \$ for FASs?

Leroy Mehring—Will the commercial use fees that go into the coffers to increase maintenance of FASs?

Pat—Commercial use fees on FASs will go toward river recreation management and planning on various rivers (Madison, Yellowstone, etc.). Currently there are no \$ to do this kind of planning.

Bob—if we make a recommendation, what will happen?

Pat—I'll forward it to the Director's Office.

High Priorities for acquisition now: Main Gallatin, Red Rocks, Ruby

FWP will recommend to legislature a change in the split from 50%-50% to approximately 25% acquisition 75% operations and management.

Process—CAC makes resolution; CAC resolution to FWP; FWP communicates resolution to Commission.

Michael—Commercial use fees as currently proposed (\$150/year), commercial outfitters making so much more than that in day. \$150 ½ day for one boat, \$395 for one day and one outfitter may have 20 boats on river one day.

Next Steps—Madison, Yellowstone, Missouri, Bitterroot.

Potential legislation—R3 river recreation/FAS coordinator, ½ time river ranger.

Question—What was the justification for the \$150 annual fee? Pat will follow up with Charlie Sperry, Commercial Use Rules coordinator.

Sam, Michael, and Joe were assigned to draft a resolution from CAC.

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.