

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2007
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

In Attendance - Tim Aldrich, Chad Bauer, Louie Bouma, Ed Greef, Edward Hebbe III, Rich Lane, John Manley, Chris Marchion, Margaret Moddison, Pat O'Herren, Jim Olson, Bud Pile, Jack Reneau, Ray Rugg, Stephanie Strickland, Jaala Wickman

Absent – Ed Greef, Jack Reneau

Staff- Mack Long, Lee Bastian, Vivaca Crowser, Jeff Darrah, Pat Saffel, Ginny Schmautz, Dianne Schmautz, Mike Thompson

Guests-Vic Workman – FWP Commissioner, Spence Hegstad – FWP Foundation, Susan Reneau for Jack, Tom Greiner, Jim Anderson.

Opening Remarks:

The meeting was opened with the introduction of our scheduled guests: FWP Commissioner Vic Workman and Spence Hegstad., Executive Director of the FWP Foundation. A brief agenda was presented: (1) CAC Business, (2) FWP Foundation Presentation, (3) Wolf Update, and (4) Legislative Update.

CAC Business:

1. Bud Pile has moved from the area and has resigned his membership. The sector Bud represented was long-time ranching and hunting from the Potomac area. Since we do have a larger than normal council, his position will remain vacant until such time as a rotation schedule is developed.
2. Reminder that when testifying before the legislature, if a person testifies on behalf of the CAC, they must have concurrence from the CAC and the direction of FWP. Otherwise they must testify as a citizen presenting their own opinion.
3. Question: Has the RRAFT (River Recreation Advisory For Tomorrow) Committee selection been made yet.
Answer: The selection have been sent to the FWP Director's office and from there it will go to the Governor for final approval.

FWP Foundation with Spence Hegstad:

An exceptional 7-minute video, created in 2000, was shown that described the Foundation and what it does. Spence presented the variety of efforts used in the fundraising that supports many of the FWP efforts.

1. The license plate generates approximately \$50,000 annually for parks
2. The cookbook is used as a fundraiser.
3. The art collection series continues to bring in larger amounts of money with 10% going to the TIP-Mont programThe "Back From The Brink" video was funded for one hour by the Department and the Foundation funded the rest.
4. A recent project has helped the Living with Wildlife Foundation program called Living with Black Bears.

Special designated accounts can be set up to received funds received that have a dedication purpose. Expenses are paid directly from those accounts. There is presently an effort to place enforcement restitution funds with the Foundation.

The program was concluded with a three-minute DVD about the proposed Wildlife Education Center.

Discussions with Commissioner Workman:

1. The next big issues for the Department will be wolf hunting and trapping.
2. Native Americans, especially the Nez Perce, are becoming more active in pursuing hunting on open and unclaimed lands in accordance with the 1785 Stevens Treaty. They have been hunting near Yellowstone for bison and elk.
3. ATV use during hunting season sparked debate on how they are used in certain areas. Warden Captain. Jeff Darrah explained that they are motor vehicles and subject to the same rules that govern motor vehicles. Certain CAC members would like to see loss of hunting privileges as part of the penalty for persons convicted of violations involving ATVs. Jeff also described the situation at MT Hagen Wildlife Management Area where illegal removal of a fence and wanton destruction of habitat by ATVs has occurred. The problem is lack of manpower to catch the culprits.
4. Discussion of bison hunting brought out the fact that quotas were increased but were not filled. Also, the Nez Perce are not required to follow the same rules as the rest of the hunting population. It was felt that when Indians hunt off the reservation they should follow the same rules as everyone else.
5. There was a discussion on Plum Creek Timber lands that are available. The \$15 million for parks and FAS has been significantly reduced.

Wolf Update with Mack Long:

Mack provided a Power Point presentation showing the boundaries between threatened and experimental wolf populations and what that currently means for ranchers and recreators in defense of their stock and pets. He also described how that will change when delisting is accomplished and what delisting means for wolf management in this state.

Legislative Update with Mack Long:

A brief update and discussion of the current status of bills affecting FWP concluded the meeting.

Minutes Approved By:

Mack Long, Regional Supervisor

Date

A note of clarification on item number 2 under Commissioner Workman discussion:

The Nez Perce hunting rights stem from the *TREATY WITH THE NEZ PERCE*, June 11, 1855.

The U.S. Government negotiator and signatory was Isaac Stevens, Governor and Superintendent Washington Territory.

Jeff (Hagener)