Citivens Advisory Council Region

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2008
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula

TIME: 7:15 PM to 10:15 PM

In Attendance: Tim Aldrich, Louie Bouma, Ed Hebbe III, Rich Lane, John Manley, Chris Marchion, Pat O'Herren, Jim Olson, Jack Reneau, Ray Rugg, Stephanie Strickland, Jaala Wickman

Absent: Chad Bauer, Ed Greef, Margaret Moddison

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

Meeting commenced at 7:15 PM

OPENING REMARKS:

Mack Long presented the proposed agenda:

- 1. Membership Rotation
- 2. Committee Reports
- 3. Trapping Video
- 4. Review of Season Setting Hearings

LOST CREEK STATE PARK REPORT

Rich Lane and Lee Bastian gave a status of the current forest health project in the park.

- Eighty percent of the lodge pole is dead or dieing due to beetle damage.
- The logging is approximately half completed.
- The new look will generate a certain amount of public comment
- Mike Gurnett and crew filmed the activity.
- With so many trees gone, the ridge is now visible. There are a lot of aspen in the park. They seem to be doing well and will change the look of the park.

BITTERROOT ELK WORKING GROUP

The Ravalli Fish and Wildlife Association has pulled their representative from the group.

CAC0213 Page 1 of 6

CAC MEMBERSHIP ROTATION

High points of the ensuing discussion:

- The landowner/rancher position vacated by Bud Pile will need to be filled.
- Other CACs in the state rotate three or four members each year with the ability to reapply.
- Suggestion: Do a news release describing who and what the CAC is and what is available to fill.
- Suggestion: The existing CAC could review the applications and make the recommendations for filling vacant positions. Two or three positions per year should be replaced for four-year terms.
- This group is unique in that all applicants screened the other applicants with the criteria of a broad representation of the region both by geography and interest. All members are dedicated to the effort and not so inclined to relinquish the work being accomplished.
- Attendance discussion followed. Calls to be made to determine present interest in continuing as a CAC member or are ready to step down.
- The department will decide which applicants fit the geographical and special interest, but the CAC will rate and pick the applicants.
- Vivaca is maintaining a file of names of people who have shown an interest. Provide names to her of anyone you know that is interested in applying
- Suggestion: All applicants should attend a meeting first. A lot of people think it is a decision making body, but it is not, it is advisory only.
- Suggestion: In the news release, invite interested parties to attend a meeting and then submit an application.
- Question: Do other CACs have a method for filling positions for lack of attendance? How do we decide who rotates out?
- Answer: Turn over should be addressed in the charter. Tell members we are getting ready to address the issue and ask if they are still interested in participating. This group is pretty open ended when it comes to that and operates differently than groups with set four-year terms.
- Comment: If a person cannot attend, then they need to be replaced.
- Comment: Attendance is a responsibility and it needs to be fulfilled. Applicants should be made aware of the time commitment. This should go in the announcement right up front.
- The group was put together by the group itself. Are we missing an element of interest? Perhaps a non-traditional landowner?
- Comment: Region 2 receives many, many calls regarding what do we have to do outside of hunting and fishing? Where can we go to snowmobile, or off-road, or kayak? Younger people want to mountain bike.
- The high school generation of today is lost to outdoor recreation. We have an opportunity to maintain what we do have and to encourage young people to enjoy outdoor activities.
- Comment: I would rather have them on the Blackfoot that at the mall.
- Observation: We don't really have the ability to direct young people to outdoor activities.

CAC0213 Page 2 of 6

- According to recent visitor data, eighty percent of visitors to state parks are residents and the numbers appear to be increasing.
- People call and want to make a reservation because they don't want to take a chance of not getting a place to stay. Our properties are somewhat limited for amenities.
- It is good that we are diversified in what we can provide to the public but we need to stick with our roots and recruit more young people.
- The onus is on FWP are we getting the right mix of programs?
- We need another landowner and a youth around the age of 20 or so.
- Recommendations:
 - 1. It is important to keep a landowner/rancher in the mix.
 - 2. Parks and Recreation represented by a younger person. Perhaps find someone in the U of M recreation program.
 - 3. Youth discussion: could be a youth subcommittee. Would involve a lot of work. (Tabled as a new discussion topic for a future meeting.)
- Lengthy discussion of traditional vs. non-traditional landowner. Would have to solicit non-traditional interest. Otherwise, may not be able to generate interest.
- Question: Do we look for traditional or non-traditional landowner or wait for an application?
- Consensus: Put it out in the news release.
- Question: Has anyone ever thought about adding a non-resident to the mix? Several clubs and a committee in Helena have a non-resident representative.
- Comment: We need and sub-committee to address specific upcoming issues.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mack thanked the CAC members on the Fort Peck sub-committee for a job well done.

Fort Peck Subcommittee:

Recap of the Fort Peck Proposals:

- 1. Proposal #1
 - Raise the warm water stamp from \$5 to \$8.
 - Hatchery will remain vacant seven months of the year.
 - Manager retention problem.
- 2. Proposal #2
 - Drop the warm water fish stamp.
 - Increase the fishing license \$1 or \$2 for residents and non-residents.
 - Run the hatchery at maximum capacity.
 - This would simplify the regulations

Special Interest Organizations:

- Walleye Unlimited only want warm water fish at the hatchery regardless of economic impact to operations of the facility.
- Trout Unlimited actually do not want trout raised there because they are more interested in wild trout and ignore the people who would like to fish lake.

Department interest in CAC opinions on the subject (for Chris Hunter):

- CAC Consensus:
 - 1. Do away with warm water stamp
 - 2. Operate the hatchery year around

CAC0213 Page 3 of 6

- 3. Increase fishing license \$1 or \$2 for both residents and non-residents
- 4. Do not instigate an advisory committee. FWP are the experts, let them do their jobs.

Education Subcommittee:

The brainstorming session earlier to day provided a number of ideas to be considered as outreach projects in the coming months.

- Bear spray training workshop, possibly at multiple locations in order to reach a broader constituency.
- Workshops for people new to the area or new to Montana.
 - o For people never exposed to hunting but are interested in learning about it
 - o Identify barriers to hunting
 - o Explain regulations because they differ from state to state.
 - o What do I take with me. (Handout.)
 - o Reach out to other groups to participate with FWP in the presentations.

Comment: Hellgate Hunters and Anglers are very interested in helping with the Shooting Center and with the TIP-Mont Trailer.

Ideas discussed during the CAC meeting:

- Alternative locations such as Caras Park could make for an interesting venue.
- Will be trying to reach a constituency that are not currently buying hunting and fishing licenses but have an interest.
- Are there Continuing Ed programs out there that we could plug into?
- 4-H groups are always looking for community projects. (Scout Groups?)

A series of short "crash courses" to familiarize people with the who, what, how, and why:

- Where to hunt
- What licenses are needed
- How to read and understand the hunting and fishing regulations
- Where you can or cannot hunt (Local NCS office has ownership maps.)
- How to find web site info
- What to do if you meet a bear or a lion
- How to read a map
- Terminology (HD means hunting district)
- Explain the difference in a (tag) license and a permit
- Explain structure of Regions and hunting districts
- Hellgate Hunters and Anglers members on-hand to help explain things
- Help people to understand what a license allows you to hunt. (MD & WT)
- Explain what and how block management works
- Why do we wear orange?
- What to take in your back pack (especially for emergencies
- Getting access
- Reading tracks
- Avalanche survival
- Fire Safety in the urban interface (DNRC has a person who does a presentation on a regular basis on this subject.

Jeff explained the concept of the "Cowboy College" work shop with its workstations and

CAC0213 Page 4 of 6

how it brought landowners and hunters together.

Suggestion: Larger presence at the County Fairs.

Ginny explained to the group that Helena funds one activity or event outside of normally scheduled CAC meetings.

BREAK 8:45 PM

Trapping Subcommittee:

Mack recapped the trapping subcommittee meeting that was held on February 12 in conjunction with Department employees, a Montana Trappers Association member and members of Footloose (a Humane Society sponsored group).

CAC members: Tim Aldrich, Stephanie Strickland, Louie Bouma. Montana Trappers Association: Ed Hebbe III. FWP: Mack Long, Thomas Baumeister. Footloose: Gail Gutsche and Anja Heister.

- Open discussion on cercerns of trapping in Montana.
- What is working and what is not

Footloose is launching an effort to ban trapping on all public lands. Their stated objectives were mandatory trapper training, public safety and pet safety. Footloose representatives said they would talk to their director and get back with Mack.

The Board of the Montana Trappers Association in Lewistown motioned and seconded the idea that they will no support wolf trapping in Montana.

Footloose does not trust FWP or the Commissioners or Government in general. They made it clear they are not interested in anything but their own position.

Ed Hebbe III provided a 10-minute video produced in part by the National Trappers Association entitled "Destroying the Myth"

CAC Discussions on Trapping:

- Discussion on mandatory trapper education
- Set backs and restrictions are already in place\
- Are there areas where it does not make sense to trap?
- Busy areas near the city where dogs are allowed off leash should not be open for trapping.
- Footloose is not interested in compromise because it would erode their political base and are only interested in a statewide ban on trapping on all public lands.
- People don't want it near their favorite trails where they bring their dogs.
- We need to make sure there is full disclosure of things that need to be fixed and actually fix them.
- County leash law does not apply on Federal lands.

CAC Discussion on Tentative Regulation Process

CAC0213 Page 5 of 6

Louie described the current process is that the Department sets the tentatives, public meetings are held, the tentatives go to the Commission and are then permanent. The public view is that once the tentatives are out, there is very little that can be done to change them. And they want input before the tentatives come out.

- Suggestion: Why not have a meeting earlier in the year?
- Perhaps in late spring after all the flights and surveys are done and the guys are more relaxed and not out hunting.
- People are more receptive and easy to get attendance in April or May.
- Public discussion before the tentatives come out would result in a better understanding of why the numbers are they way they are.
- We would then forgo the normal tentative meeting and would have one Regional meeting to cover statewide issues similar to what is currently being done in Region 1.
- Consensus appeared to be in favor of a Spring Meeting before the tentatives come out.
- This would also help people trying to figure out special permits.
- Good show at Deer Lodge, best turn out in five or six years.

<u>Legislative Candidate Forum:</u>

The CAC is willing to put on the forum. Mack reiterated that the Department can only provide information and cannot lobby. Ray Rugg said the forum is very important and helps him keep his local legislators up to speed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15	PM	
Minutes Approved By:	Mack Long, Regional Supervisor	_

CAC0213 Page 6 of 6