

# Meeting Notes

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, July 12, 2006.  
**LOCATION:** FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

## IN ATTENDANCE

**Council Members-** Tim Aldrich, Chad Bauer, Louie Bouma, Ed Greef, Edward Hebbe III, Rich Lane, John Manley, Chris Marchion, Margaret Moddison, Pat O'Herren, Jim Olson

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

**Guests-** Bob Moddison

The meeting convened at 6:50 PM

## Opening Remarks:

Mack opened the meeting by welcoming members and providing an overview of what would be covered during the course of the evening. He also provided a synopsis of the Lewiston CAC Review Meeting.

## Discussion of the Lewiston CAC Review

The Citizen Advisory Councils are now in all FWP regions. FWP benefits greatly from the interest, experience, advice and aid from these councils. They are a great mechanism for sharing information and ideas.

Most CAC's have a formal charter. Region 2 does not. The local council felt that the CAC guidelines developed at the Lewiston meeting provided sufficient sideboards without unduly restricting the scope of their activities and that they would adequately stand in lieu of a formal charter.

The members were very happy with being a part of the original selection process as it broadened their individual scope. They also felt that the criteria used in the original selection process was excellent and ensured a variety of interests (not only hunting and fishing, but habitat, parks and other recreational interests), gender, organizational affiliations (RMEF, B&C, MWF, etc.), employment background (farmers, ranchers, outfitters, business owners, former commissioners, retired Forest Service, etc.) along with representation from every corner of the region.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCILS  
FOR WILDLIFE AND FISH  
MANAGEMENT

The members also felt that the original selection criteria should be followed when the time came to replace members because it worked so well in securing the diversity needed to develop an unbiased widely experienced council. They also feel that it takes two years, minimum, to become educated in how FWP operates as an agency, and to be able to work as a cohesive unit. The Region 2 CAC has been in existence for two years and is now ready to take on larger projects. At this point, they are ready to embark on a course of action and no one is ready to leave the ship just yet. They also indicated that because of this learning curve, staggered terms would be imperative or they would be forever spinning their wheels and never truly accomplishing anything. Four year terms would be a very minimum to be effective.

### **CAC CHARTERS**

Guidelines developed at Lewiston were reviewed and discussed.

- Roles
- Responsibilities
- Terms
- Statewide Coordination

The R2 council felt that the first two items were adequately set forth in the application process. Terms will be established. However, if a member was productive and interested, they would be allowed to reapply as long as they wanted to. The initial criteria should always be used to select their replacement in order to maintain the balance now on the council. Statewide coordination was seen as an important and necessary communication tool.

### **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Traditionally, after an election, FWP has invited the new legislators to an open house. These are not well attended as the new legislators are being courted by many special interest groups that have fewer restrictions on what may be provided as an incentive to attend a meeting.

Mack asked if the CAC might be interested in hosting a pre-election open house for the legislative candidates. An open house would be better attended, and would have the added benefit of providing information to a broader spectrum of concerned people than just the elected candidates. A wider dissemination of information could only benefit the department.

Please take a look at the hand out of draft of legislative issues.

OPEN HOUSE: Mack: You, the CAC, would sponsor the open house and invite the legislators from across the region. Normally an overview of the agency is given and then the open house is opened for questions. This would be a good opportunity to take your concerns to them. Many of those concerns have been discussed here tonight. We should

have a pre-meeting before the open house see where your focus is headed and to ensure that correct information is provided. And to have a bite to eat before things get started.

**DISCUSSION:** Who would be invited? Discussion of pros and cons of holding a pre-election or post-election open house. Chris M: The value in a pre-election venue is that issues can be discussed, a broader range of people will be made aware of the issues, and it is not an environment of debate. The whole concept should be one of discussion.

Margaret: In a pre-election environment more people become aware of the issues and take that info back to the people they are involved with. Chris M: We need to invite the pachyderm club and like organizations. They just might take up our issues. Louie B: The open house would be treated as an information gathering session by the candidates. They will be wanting to have a forum to make their campaign pitch. Chris M: We need to get them early, say September. Will we need to meet in August or will a subcommittee handle that Discussion on who to invite and why. There are 11 senate and 21 legislative positions.

Jeff: How can we make people aware of specific bills that are important? Developing a phone tree involving the CAC and their own contacts was discussed. Mack: FWP cannot lobby, all we can do is provide information.

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### **PROPOSED PROBLEM SOLVING TECHNIQUES**

Margaret Moddison described the approach used in recreational development problem solving. It involved round table discussions with interested parties sitting at tables where different sets of problems were to be addressed. Each table had a facilitator to keep discussions focused and a scribe to record ideas as the discussions progressed. Problems as identified in the beginning were categorized, and solutions brainstormed. Questions asked were what are your dreams? What do we have? What do we need? What do we want? The solutions were then presented to the meeting at large. This was in intense effort that produced the greatest amount of problem resolution in the shortest time possible. This could be an effective tool for the CAC to use in problem solving. In discussions with Margaret, Dianne Schmartz corroborated the very effective use of this tool in industry as well. She was trained as a facilitator and used this same technique at the Boeing Company and has volunteered to help organize the process any time it is needed.

### **MITCHELL SLOUGH APPEAL**

FWP will be allowed to appeal the court decision that Mitchell Slough is not longer a part of the Bitterroot River system but is now a ditch. Bitterroot River Protective Association (BRPA) will join in the appeal. The final State Supreme Court ruling will affect stream access and 310 permit across the state.

### **HILSTON GRIZZLY BEAR MORTALITY**

Questions were raised on the status of the suit and Mack provided a synopsis of what preceded this third filing. Discussion ensued regarding personal responsibility for one's own actions regardless of where they are. Discussion continued on the topic of why the Federal government was excused from the suit when a grizzly bear was involved. This

appeared to be a legal strategy because Montana is a state where responsibility can be apportioned and this was an effort to remove the Federal government from that loop. One discussion participant held a strong opinion that the public should not have to pay the consequences when an individual does not take responsibility for their own actions no matter what those consequences are.

### **ANACONDA WILDLIFE EXPO**

Chris Marchion let us know that from Friday through Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in Anaconda, the Anaconda Sportsmen are sponsoring an annual wildlife expo as a funding raising effort for the Wildlife Biology Scholarship Program.

- Friday people can meet the artists who will have their art on display.
- Saturday there will be a wild game dinner - donations gladly accepted.
- Back From The Brink will be shown on Saturday at the Washoe Theater from 1:00 to 3:00. This is a free event.
- Smoke Elser will be giving packing demonstrations.
- Fly casting demos will also be given along with other demonstrations.
- Margaret asked if they could sell the 3 State Parks videos as well. Chris agreed that they could.

### **WATER RECREATION**

There are canoe trails on Flathead Lake. Could we have canoe trails on the Bitterroot and Blackfoot rivers? Could it be as simple as putting a specific logo on signs at specific FASs and on a map?

Jeff Darrah described the condition of the FASs on the Bitterroot and how crowded they were and that they were used extensively by non-fishing recreating public and that it may be difficult to access many of the FAS on the Bitterroot. John Manley let the group know that on the lower Blackfoot, aide cars will not respond without a police escort because of crowding and lack of respect and access through the crowds of people.

FWP is working with BLM, Forest Service, Missoula County and the Sheriff's Office to have more enforcement coverage in the Blackfoot Corridor. The County is addressing safety issues by enacting special regulations. At Johnsrud FAS towing of illegally parked cars will begin soon. Aid cars cannot reach the site on weekends due to the number of vehicles illegally parked.

This problem exists in the Bitterroot as well. CAC member, Jim Olson, did an informal survey last weekend. He counted 32 swimmers at Bell Crossing. He counted 98 vehicles between 3 and 6PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Additionally, he counted 261 vehicles at all FASs from Florence to Hannon Memorial and 71 raft trailers.

### **Questions and concerns that came out of this discussion were:**

- Tim Aldrich: Do we have a higher degree of responsibility for safety? And we need

a survey to better determine the number of users at these sites during warm summer weather.

- Mack: How do we manage high use sites differently from normal sites? The Upper Clark Fork River from Milltown to Deer Lodge will be coming on-line after the dam is removed and the restoration is complete.
- Jim Olson: We need to survey the rivers at different times of the day and different days of the week.
- Ed Hebbe III: At the Trapper's Meeting the recommendation was put forth to add a certain dollar figure to conservation licenses specifically to address littering at these sites. He then proceeded to give some extremely horrid examples of litter and what had been done to latrines. He had given all of the details including license plate numbers to the Sheriff's Office but no enforcement came of it.
- Louie Bouma: Felt it was a very valid point because the public at large is getting more careless with our sites and that we should add \$2.00 to the conservation license specifically for clean up of the FASs and Parks.
- Jim Olson observed four times the normal number of cars were on the bridge after the weather got warm.
- Chris Marchion wanted to know: Is there ANYTHING we can do to increase FWP presence at these trouble sites?
- Jeff Darrah described the Rec Warden position and noted that all of that type of warden's resources targeted a specific problem area.
- Human waste ends in the Bitterroot River at Bell Crossing. The latrine at Poker Joe is too far from the river so it gets knocked over and run over.
- We need more regulations and charge for it.
- Lee: Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend there were at least 12 enforcement people in the Blackfoot corridor writing tickets as fast as they could for parking violations, littering, and glass on the river. The driving force is kids want to get wet and drink.
- Need to ban alcohol in the Blackfoot corridor FASs during July and August.
- The sites are overrun and there is not enough infrastructure.
- Margaret asked where does the money from the fines go? The general public thinks it goes to FWP. (Jeff responded by saying half goes to the County and half goes to the general fund, we do not get a dime of it.)
- Jeff Darrah: Here is an example of typical disrespect and attitude problems: The Rec Warden wrote a glass ticket to a person claiming to be a Doctor. The Doctor told him he better not ever show up in his ER.
- Jim Olson: We need more enforcement and we need to push it.
- Lee: FWP has no authority to enforce the minor's in possession (MIP) laws. We have to call the Sheriff's Office (SO) to enforce the law and many times they will not respond. This is a public safety issue here.
- Jeff Darrah: The requirements to be a warden are higher than the SO. The wardens are required to have a college degree, but a deputy doesn't. The wardens take the same exact training as the deputies do. It looks like a turf battle to me as we are more qualified to enforce the laws of this

state.

- Jim Olson: There was a Jet Ski in the water at the Florence Bridge. They are not legal on that part of the river. It was reported to the SO. Jeff: Two snowmobiles were in the river. I have no idea what they were thinking. 1500 more houses are coming up in 2 subdivisions to say nothing of the other big subdivisions. This will compound the problem exponentially.
- Margaret: Can we do anything at all? Who do we talk to about allowing bike races on roads that have no shoulders. The Swan Valley had 400-500 riders. (Editor's Note: The Tour of the Swan River (TOSR-WEST) is an annual event leaving from both the U of M and from Potomac and traveling to Big Fork and back in two days.) This is a serious public safety hazard.
- Louie Bouma: MDOT should be liable. They do not provide safe passage and they do not make it illegal. Jeff: Near Wisdom there are signs on the road in certain areas that say, "NO BICYCLES ON THE ROAD."
- \* Ed Hebbe III: Make a conservation license required to use a FAS. That way the user pays his fair share. Right now they don't pay anything.
- \* Jim Olson: Require passes to access an FAS like the Forest Service does at specific sites.
- \* Lee: It would be easy to add a line on the conservation license.
- Lee: There were over 70 camp units at Stuart Mill Bay at Georgetown Lake over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Jeff: The big thing on the lake now is to paraglide with a snowboard.
- Chris Marchion: Georgetown Lake will soon be the home of the rich and famous. Celebrities are building there and buying there.
- If we want any more access, you better be quick about it
- Chris M: Maybe we could host a multi-agency meeting to foster inter-agency cooperation. Tim A: The people (users) need to be part of the solution.
- Ginny Schmutz: Non-residents have very high expectations. They are surprised when they call in and we cannot offer the amenities they want.
  1. They want hookups.
  2. They want concessions.
  3. They want to be able to make reservations.
  4. They are used to very controlled areas.
  5. They don't understand "rustic".
- Margaret: People moving into the area from out of state will abuse the resource because they can. They do not have the restrictions here that
- Ginny: One caller was incensed that we would not take her credit card and reserve her a spot.
- Margaret: They expect their urban values in a rural environment.

## **MANPOWER DISCUSSION**

Questions were raised about the ability to hire more Wardens or Rec Wardens. Mack explained that the legislature must approve the quantity of FTEs no matter how much

funding is available. Another question was why can't we have reserve wardens like reserve deputies. Jeff said that was explicitly prohibited by statute.

## **BREAK AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS 8:25 TO 8:45**

### **PURPOSE OF THE CAC and GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Mack: Lets revisit the purpose of the CAC. The primary purpose of the CAC was defined as to provide a forum for the exchanges and better communication with the public.

Does this description fit what you think of the CAC? Consensus: CAC is to better understand what FWP does and how it does it. Mack: Do you think we need a charter? Pat O'Herren: Do you mean guiding principles? Vivaca: A lot of other regions have a charter outside of the guiding principles. The guiding principles reflect what is in most charters. Mack: We have 16 members instead of the recommended 12 because of our unique needs criteria.

Jim O: This was a great selection process. It eliminated the "good old boy" syndrome. In the beginning I did not know anyone. This method provides great diversity and geographical coverage.

Chris: It would be good to develop a charter so that other people understand who we are and what we do. It is about communication and education and we do need a member replacement mechanism. Mack: We could start working on that after the legislative session.

Jim O: How would you choose a replacement? Mack: The replacement choice would go through Mack to the Director with the final choice residing with the Governor. Ed Greef: If people need to be replaced then we would need to do a search with specific criteria. If you had a 25% turnover annually, that would be 100% every four years. That is a lot of work and it would take quite a while to bring the new members up to speed.

Ginny provided a synopsis of the initial process and said that it took four months. Mack: The process takes quite a while because it is important to have the right people here. We need to keep the balance and focus that we have now. Margaret: We need to ask for volunteers to form a sub-committee. Mack: Maybe the person stepping down could provide five names from their part of the region. Tim A: The ad would need to be very specific to weed out extraneous applications. Louie: We need to advertise even if individuals are solicited for applications or we will be branded as a closed organization. Do you want to do a charter? Mack: There is a need for state wide consistency. The Director is very happy with what he is seeing out there.

Action Item: Review the guidelines and send any changes to Ginny by 30 days from today. (August 11,2006).

### **OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY AND REVIEW:**

Chris M: We could write a letter saying we are a CAC, would you like to attend a non-political, non-debate, information sharing open house? Mack: You would need a paragraph describing who and what the CAC is. Pat O: Lets set a date and all provide ideas. Chris: We can vote for the top 5 to be discussed at the open house. Mack: We can compile a list of legislators and candidates. Pat & Chris: Send out an email list, members can add to it, then the membership will vote.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dianne recap the concerns covered tonight and email to Vivaca.

Mack: We will do an email vote as that will save time instead of another meeting.

**CONSENSUS:** The open house will be Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the normal CAC meeting.

- We can do conference calls as needed while developing the open house agenda. Remember to add enforcement causes to the list.
- The meeting could be held at REMF or Boone and Crockett or Holiday Inn Parkside (They are very accommodating and can provide meal service)
- Tim Aldrich volunteered to write the letter before he leaves for Alaska.
- Vivaca suggested a subcommittee be responsible for determining the location of the open house.
- A pre-meeting and dinner will be held immediately prior to the open house to wrap up and details and focus for the event.