

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Thursday, August 18, 2011
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Members: Stephanie Strickland, Louie Bouma, Jane Bennett, Carey Schmidt, Todd Frank, Tim Aldrich, Jim Olson, Charlie Johnson, Jack Reneau, Denley Loge, Connie Buresh, Dudley Improta, and Brian Bidlake

Staff: Vivaca Crowser, Jeff Darrah, Pat Saffel, Ginny Schmautz and Mike Thompson

Introduction:

Jack Reneau and Louie Bouma were reinstated back to the R2 CAC. The newest member, Brian Bidlake, was welcomed to the CAC. Vivaca provided an overview of the function of the CAC and distributed the charter and member contact list.

Round-robin Introductions:

CAC members went around the table and introduced themselves for the benefit of the new membership.

The New Montana Wild Education Center:

Thomas Baumeister, FWP Assistant Chief of Communications & Education, gave a presentation about the new Montana Wild Education center in Helena and the center's outreach goals.

"Montana Wild" Follow-up Discussion:

CAC members had questions and suggestions for Thomas about the new education center.

- Would the center help educate the children about Montana's agriculture story and how that plays into conservation? Yes, this will be part of the story.
- Are the animals that are kept at the wildlife rehab center available for the general public to see?
 - No, but FWP is going to have a web cam on some of the animals so that people can view them remotely.
- How is Helena reaching out currently to advertize the center?
 - There has not been much advertizing for the center yet, but even so there has already been a lot of public interest in visiting the center. The grand opening is planning for summer 2012.
- How will students and parents be able to get there?
 - There are some earmarked funds for transporting students to the center from all over the state as well as a focus for integrating conservation education into the Montana public schools curriculum. FWP has been

involved in the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) efforts for curriculum writing.

Additional Comments or Suggestions

- ✓ There are should be plenty of hands-on opportunities at the center.
- ✓ Suggestion to get the 4H program involved with the center.
- ✓ Lots of ideas of evening youth and adult outreach programs at the center.
- ✓ The center might provide a venue to start thinking about ways to talk about the other benefits of hunting (organic meat/slow food, physical exercise, adventure, time outside, etc.)

Updates on FWP Programs and Hot Topics

- **Fishing Access Site (FAS) Program Restructure**

- The FAS program (which includes the river recreation program), once managed under State Parks, is now part of the Fisheries program. Pat Saffel manages the program in R2 with permanent and seasonal staff that work under him.
- The R2 Parks department will manage the Alberton Gorge under a MOU

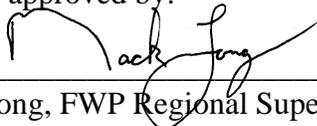
- **Wolf Season**

- Begins with Archery Season September 3rd and follows the general hunting dates and will continue until the end of December or until the quota and WMU subquotas are reached.
- Many members heard that people were afraid to buy the wolf tag because they think wolf hunting is going to be canceled.
- Wolf license sales have been slower than in 2009 so far.

Next meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 6pm, at the FWP R2 Office

Minutes approved by:



Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

8/24/2011

Date