# Developing Recommendations - Managing Recreation on the Madison River Madison River Citizen Advisory Committee (MCAC) - Convening Meeting

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)
May 30, 2012

## **Session Summary**

#### PROCESS OBJECTIVES

Within the Advisory Committee's Charter, develop consensus recommendations around the following tasks:

- 1. Review and assess river recreation information and existing conditions on the Madison River.
- Identify and describe desirable or acceptable recreation conditions for the Madison River.
- 3. Identify and describe conditions that would warrant implementation of various management actions;
- 4. Develop a list of those management actions (less restrictive to more restrictive).

#### **MAY 30, 2012 SESSION OBJECTIVES**

- Convene the Madison River Citizen Advisory Committee (MCAC).
- Affirm the MCAC Charter, its authorities and tasks; review FWP expectations.
- Develop collective understanding of the collaborative process.
- Craft/agree on Committee "governance" and logistics including the calendar.
- Continue exploring/learning about the River together.

#### MCAC MEMBERS PRESENT

- Robin Cunningham (PO Box 34, Gallatin Gateway, Montana 59730; 406-763-4761; rcunningham@montana.net)
- Joe Dilschneider (PO Box 1406, Ennis, Montana 59729; 406-581-5150; joe@montanatrout.com)
- Joe Fontaine (170 Elk Meadows Ranch Road, Cameron =, Motnaa 59720; 406-682-5702; joefontaine@3rivers.net)
- Bob Gibson (311 Fieldstone Drive, Bozeman, Montana 59715; 406-587-4327; bobgib3@bresnan.net)
- Lee McKenna (PO Box 86, Helena, Montana 59624; 406-570-1589; leemckenna2525@yahoo.com)
- Philip Naro (21 Crescent Point, Bozeman, Montana 59715; 406-595-6663; p.naro@wispwest.net)
- John Way (PO Box 625, Ennis, Montana 59729; 406-370-5206; john@montanaway.com)

## AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MCAC TABLE

Pat Flowers (FWP)

Chris McGrath (BLM)

#### **COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS**

## **Reviewing the MCAC Charter; Hopes and Expectations**

- See Charter document at the end of this meeting summary.
- Hopes and expectations for the process include:
  - A transparent process where the public can observe and has the opportunity to provide input related to recreation management on the Madison River.
  - An environment of "professional intimacy" among MCAC members where the various interests are identified, explored and recognized.
  - Managing Agency (FWP, BLM) interests are considered as part of the Committee discussion.
  - Any "majority" or "minority" will work creatively to help resolve the others' issues.
  - MCAC consensus recommendations presented to the Commission by December 2012.

## **Establishing MCAC Governance**

# MCAC members established the following governance structure to encourage productive discussion and a functional process toward their recommendations:

## Roles within the Process

- Facilitator:
  - Plan, manage, and provide a summary of MCAC meetings
  - Design/facilitate a collaborative process
  - Be the process keeper.
- Individual MCAC members:
  - Bring interests to the table and work to develop mutual understanding of interests
  - Seek useful data; fairly represent the facts
  - Honor the process and its governance structure
  - Communicate with your constituents; run your trapline
- Committee of the whole:
  - Work collaboratively to achieve the hopes and expectations of the Charter
  - Hear public comments
  - Work hard to and use the process to reach consensus
  - Recognize the role of the Committee in River Recreation planning and the process that follows the Committee's recommendations

#### Roles cont.

- Involved Agencies:
  - Describe Agency interests
  - Maintain familiarity with and participate in Committee discussion
  - Where needed, explain managing Agency Administrative rules
  - Offer comments related to what it feasible
  - Remain objective and honor the collaborative process
  - Facilitate presentation of recommendations to the Commission
- Technical Support:
  - Describe the current situation related to the Madison River
  - Help clarify issues by providing the best data possible
  - Respond to reasonable data requests from the Committee
  - Be present at meetings to answer questions
- The Public:
  - Honor the Committee governance structure
  - Witness the process
  - Serve as part of "traplines" if asked
  - Comment related to Madison River management

#### **Discussion Ground Rules**

- Be civil. Demonstrate respect for each other and the pubic in our communication and our behaviors.
- Recognize the validity of each other's interests and opinions.
- Raise hand to help manage the discussion to comment... to ask questions. When necessary, the facilitator will manage the "hands".
- When speaking, try to be clear and concise.
- Allow the person speaking to finish don't interrupt. Listen actively and honorably – before preparing to respond. (People are often so focused on what they are going to say in response, they miss part of the speaker's comments.)
- Avoid labeling or personal attacks.
- Avoid side conversations.
- Stay on point and remain positive. No profanity!
- Strive for consensus recommendations among the 7 citizen members.
   Recognize that there may be an issue/a time when it is necessary for the Committee to decide to use a "majority" rule approach because consensus is not possible. Those not in agreement can write a minority report for that issue.
   When interim or final agreement is reached, through either a consensus or majority approach, members won't sabotage the process away from the table.
- While a FWP and a BLM representative will be seated at the MCAC table, the 7 citizen members are recognized as those needing to come to agreement. At the same time, Committee members will seek the input of the Agency representative in order to understand Agency interests and determine the reasonableness of a particular proposed recommendation.
- Turn off electronic devices unless using your computer to access data, etc.

#### Process Agreements

- Be on time for each meeting regardless of location.
- Notify Pat Flowers if you can't attend a meeting.
- At the end of each meeting, agree on 3 or 4 consistent bullet points/"talking points" related to the process and their progress. Use those points in discussion outside of MCAC meetings. If it appears useful, agree on a "point person" for that meeting.
- Post the meeting summaries and MCAC logistics on the Department's website.

#### Logistics

- Have 3 meetings in Bozeman; 3 in Ennis; and 1 in West Yellowstone.
- Strive for a meeting every 3 weeks 3:00 to 8:30ish PM.
- Try to find 1 or 2 times when the Committee could meet for a full day.

## **Initial Data Requests**

## MCAC members identified the following data needs:

- Non-resident use by time period and micro-section
- Comments from the scoping meetings and online survey information
- Total existing access sites on the River
- Boat access sites
- All available user data
- Out-of-state and in-state commercial outfitters and guides
- Traffic counter data
- A map of the River
- "Safety" records accidents, formal complaints filed, etc.
- User survey results
- Economic data
- Amount of garbage generated at specific sites and the cost of managing that situation

#### Looking at the Madison River from the 20,000 Foot View

The Department presented a "20,000 foot" overview of the River. The power point of that presentation will be available on the website and will help the Committee continue think about data needs.

#### Homework

## MCAC members were asked to do the following before the June 13 meeting:

- Come to the June 13 meeting with:
  - Your individual "agenda" written on a piece of paper that can be hung on the table in front of you and large enough that others can read.
  - A list of no fewer than 3 and no more than 5 "interests" (It's in my interest to \_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - Think about and be prepared to describe interests that you think are not represented at the table
- Read/familiarize yourself the Administrative Rules for River Recreation Management (located in your MCAC member notebook).
- Establish a "trapline" of 5-7 individuals (not all of whom agree with you) and have some general discussion about recreation on the Madison River.
- Look at your calendar and try to identify the best days/time for future meetings so the Committee can schedule through October 2012.

## "Bullet Points" from this Meeting

- Pat Flowers agreed to be the media point person for this first meeting but would not be comfortable doing it as the process goes forward. He (and the other Committee members) will refer to the following bullet points from this meeting:
  - MCAC members recognized the Charter, its expectations, and the authorities and limitations of the Committee.
  - The Committee established a governance structure that includes clarification of roles; process agreements; discussion ground rules; and logistics - as well as could be determined at this point.
  - Committee members will do homework (as listed above in the meeting summary) in preparation for their June 13 meeting.
  - FWP presented a "20,000 foot" overview of the Madison River as it is today users, fisheries, geography, etc.

# Where do we go from here?

- The facilitator will summarize this meeting and send the summary to the Committee member e-mails noted at this meeting as well as involved Department personnel.
- FWP will put the summary on the website as well as the Madison River power point used at this meeting.
- The MCAC will meet in Ennis on June 13 3:00 to 8:30ish pm with a light supper provided. The location will be determined and announced by FWP and will be on the website.
- The facilitator will send an agenda for the June 13 meeting by Friday, June 8.

## Madison River Citizen Advisory Committee (MCAM) Charter

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is developing a plan for managing recreation on the Madison River. The plan will focus on *recreation* management rather than *resource* management with the understanding that resource protection is of highest priority. The members of the Madison River Citizen Advisory Committee (MCAC) serve by appointment of the FWP Director and are tasked with developing recommendations for managing recreation on the Madison River.

The MCAC is a critical step in the planning process. The MCAC's assignment is to prepare a Committee Report on recommendations for managing recreation of the Madison River. FWP will invite the public to comment on the Committee Report. FWP will prepare a Draft Management Plan and environmental analysis based on the work of the Committee and public comments. The public and the Committee will be invited to comment on the Draft Plan and environmental analysis. The FWP Commission will adopt a Final Plan based on the recommendations of the Committee, comments from the public, environmental analysis, and input from staff.

The FWP statewide river recreation rules apply to the process of developing management plans or rules for river recreation. The MCAC's recommendations must comply with these statewide rules. According to the rules, management plans and rules must be technically and socially feasible; legal; affordable; measureable; enforceable; and reasonable to administer.

The MCAC will perform the following tasks:

- · Assess river recreation information and existing conditions on the Madison River;
- Identify desirable or acceptable recreation conditions for the Madison River;
- Develop a list of management actions (less restrictive to more restrictive);
- Identify conditions that would warrant implementation of management actions.

The MCAC's recommendations should reflect the interests of its members, the public that recreates on the Madison River, and those affected by river recreation management. It is imperative that the MCAC use a process that encourages civility, trust, and respect. Listening to and integrating each person's interests is paramount to success.

The MCAC serves in an advisory capacity. While the role of the Committee is critically Important, there is no guarantee that the Final Plan will follow the Committee's recommendations. The FWP Commission is the final decision-maker and shall consider the recommendations of the MCAC, the best available information, the environmental analysis, and input from the public and staff.