

Kern and Tulare Counties Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
July 22, 2010 – Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 5:10 p.m, Doubletree Inn, Bakersfield, CA

Attendees:

RAC Members: Shannon Alto, Julie Allen, Jack Shannon, Ann Lange, Larry Stoneburner, Mike Ennis, Judy Hyatt, Mark Cave, Thomas Moore

Absent: Roger Allred, Pam Canby (replacement), Dwight Chaddock, Marily Reese, Deborah Hess, Larry Duysen

Members of Public: David Witt, representing Tulare County Resource Conservation District and Sequoia Fire Safe Council

Forest Service Employees: Priscilla Summers, Designated Federal Official; Rick Larson, Assistant Federal Official; Brenda Ehmann, Kern River Deputy District Ranger; Penelope Shibley, notetaker and RAC Coordinator; Mary Chislock, Public Affairs Officer.

Old Business

Discussed minutes from June meeting: Corrected spelling on Judy Hyatt's name. Julie Allen motioned to accept the minutes, Larry Stoneburner seconded, unanimously approved.

Ground Rules for the Tulare and Kern Counties Resource Advisory Committee, as drafted by Julie Allen were discussed:

- Topic 1:-5, 9, 12, 13, 15 no changes
- Topic 6: Tom Moore suggested last line #6 be modified to read "RAC members will listen **but need not respond to public...**" First line should be modified to "public comments **may** be accepted after each agenda topic discussion..."
- Topic 7: Discussion regarding non-agendized items. Suggestion to allow that the public be encouraged to provide items to the chair at any time prior to the meeting (in person, via email, etc) and written requests will be given priority at the meeting. Change to total of fifteen minutes for public comment period, (maximum 3 minutes per person, maximum 3 people per topic), at the discretion of the chair.
- Topic 8 decision that contact for all communication will be the DFO.
- Topic 10, discussion that the law dictates these issues regarding absenteeism and can not be modified. Last line, conference changed to "**Video**conference."

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- Topic 11: Discussion of Reimbursements-whether to reimburse members for travel expenses. Change first sentence to “may pay RAC member... expenses”
- Topic 14: discussion to add public notices other papers to mailing list, such as Kern Valley Sun, Valley Voice, etc.
- No items 16-18 were listed (numbering error).
- Item 19: Discussion of whether to use RAC funds to pay for overhead, such as salary for RAC Coordinator Penelope Shibley, or other administrative expenses. Discussion of whether to include overhead expenses from the RAC funds, what percent, what are allowed uses. Motion by Jack Shannon to set aside 3.5% of RAC funds for overhead expenses including RAC coordinator salary, copies, website maintenance, legal notices and similar expenditures seconded by Ann Lange. In Favor: Julie Allen, Jack Shannon, Ann Lange, Larry Stoneburner, Mike Ennis, and Mark Cave; Opposed: Shannon Alto, Thomas Moore and Judy Hyatt.
- Item 20 covered under item 19.

Public comments- None

Break: 18:30 (6:30PM) until 18:48 (6:48PM)

Introductions of all present

New Business

Review of Project Criteria legislation- HR 1424–Title II Special Projects on Federal Land-

- summary of requirements as listed on handout- Priscilla Summers

Project submittal process- discussion of online application form handout:

- Questions
 - What is meaning of “land status”? A. whether land is private, state, etc
 - What is CWPP? = Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 - Why is this money not all for schools? RAC is for title II, different purpose.
 - Should multiple submittals of similar projects be rejected in favor of diverse submittals?
- Discussion of project criteria such as:
 - educational benefits to youth
 - 50% must be for road maintenance or decommissioning or watershed improvement/stream restoration per HR 1424 Section 204(f)
 - Projects must be compatible with existing Forest Service management plans

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- Discussion of using Fresno format for the online application form. Motion to adopt the Fresno format application made by Jack Shannon seconded by Tom Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda for Next meeting:

- Speaker: Judy Hyatt suggested that Sierra Nevada Conservancy representative Julie Bear be asked to speak- they just released an RFP for \$10 million for Sierra Nevada projects. They have money for projects including environmental (CEQA/NEPA), and can provide expertise, facilitators, etc. Discussion. Motion by Judy Hyatt to bring her in as a speaker next month. Larry Stoneburner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Calendar: setting time frame for proposal submittals, etc.
- Continue discussing establishing proposal criteria

Discussion of whether video teleconference would be permitted for a meeting that has not been advertised as such.

Question: Can the RAC have a “committee of the whole” to meet without legal notice? Can they continue the meeting to a second date without re-advertising? Priscilla to research.

Next Meeting Dates/Locations selected – all meetings begin at 5 PM:

- Thursday September 23 - Bakersfield
- Wednesday September 29- Porterville (if needed)
- Thursday October 28- Porterville
- Thursday November 18- Bakersfield

Meeting adjourned at: 20:17 (8:17 PM)