

Medicine Bow-Routt Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

November 20, 2015

Meeting held in multiple locations due to winter weather (in person, video-teleconference, & phone)

MBRTB Supervisor's Office, 2468 Jackson St., Laramie, WY 82070

Brush Creek Hayden Ranger District, 2171 Highway 130, Saratoga, WY 82331

Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District, 925 Weiss Dr., Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Parks Ranger District, 100 Main St., Walden, CO 80480

Chairman Jerry Paxton called meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

Welcome / Introductions

Dennis Jaeger, Forest Supervisor/DFO, welcomed RAC members and other attendees

Attendance:

In Laramie - Jerry Schmidt (Albany County); Barbara Vasquez (Jackson Co.); Sonja Macys (Routt Co.); Dennis Jaeger, RAC DFO (USFS); Aaron Voos, RAC Coordinator (USFS); Ryan Amundson (WY Game & Fish); Tahna Naylor (USFS)

In Saratoga - Arla Strasser (Carbon Co.); Jerry Paxton, RAC Chairman (Carbon Co.)

In Walden - John Rich (Jackson Co.); Ron Iverson (Carbon Co.)

In Steamboat Springs - Jim Ficke (Routt Co.); Doug Monger (Routt Co.); Win Dermody (Routt Co.); Aria Copa (Routt County Riders)

Phone - Tony Mong (WY Game & Fish); Brian Lamont (UW grad student); Jack Berger (Carbon Co.)

Status of past projects

Tony Mong – Sierra Madre Elk Project update:

Brian Lamont gave a presentation on the project

Tony/Brian Lamont will put presentation into pdf format and send out to the RAC

Public Forum Discussion (public/project applicants addressing the RAC)

No members of the public in attendance at any locations

Aryeh Copa, Routt County Riders – Discussed the Fish Creek Trail reroute – requesting \$2,076

Ryan Amundson, Wyoming Game & Fish Department – Discussed Cheat Grass Treatment of 2012 fire area – requesting \$20,000

Discussion of new projects (county working group sessions)

- County groups broke out to discuss projects
- RAC reconvened and discussed counties/projects as a whole
 - o Albany County (\$22,717 available):
 - Middle Crow Watershed – \$7,500 requested – **\$6,717 recommended**
 - Bufford Road – \$5,000 requested – **\$4,000 recommended**
 - Pelton Creek – \$5,000 requested – **\$5,000 recommended**
 - Squirrel Creek Cheat Grass – \$20,000 requested – **\$7,000 recommended**
 - Collins Creek - \$12,500 requested – not funded, others were more urgent
 - Lake Creek/Lincoln Gulch - \$54,000 requested – not funded, multi-yr project, others were more urgent

Motion to accept the above project funding was made by John. Sonja and Ron seconded

Motion carried

o Carbon County (\$45,524 available):

- East Fork of Encampment River Trail – \$14,500 requested - **\$14,500 recommended**
- FS Road 103 maintenance – \$18,500 requested - **\$18,500 recommended**
- Tie Hack Bridge/Trail - \$10,700 requested – not funded, RAC would like to see proposal possibly reworked, other sources of funding, etc...

A balance of \$12,524 remains and will be carried over to next year and the next round of projects

Motion to accept the above project funding was made by Jack. Sonja seconded
Motion carried

o Jackson County (\$15,401 available):

- Camp Creek Headcut – \$5,000 requested - **\$5,000 recommended**

A balance of \$10,401 remains and will be carried over to next year and the next round of projects

Motion to accept the above project funding was made by John. Ron seconded
Motion carried

o Routt County (\$33,913 available):

- Fish Creek Trail – \$2,076 requested - **\$2,076 recommended**
- West Rabbit Ears Wetland Restoration – \$33,900 requested - **\$31,837 recommended**
- Buffalo Pass Road - \$33,900 requested – not funded, USFS Rabbit Ears project given priority
- Zirkel Wilderness Lake Study - \$1,500 requested – not funded, no matching funds, need more info on application

Motion was made to accept the above project funding with a caveat that they verify USFS project amounts by Sonja. John seconded

Motion carried. Aaron will follow-up on Rabbit Ears and make sure cost is correct
*Amounts were verified by USFS staff prior to adjournment

o Rio Blanco County (\$42,255 available):

- Flag Creek Road – \$42,255 requested - **\$42,255 recommended**
- County Rd. 10 - \$42,186 requested – not funded, Flag Creek given priority due to estimated project timelines, RAC is uncomfortable funding w-next year's \$ not yet in hand, county should resubmit next time

Barbara asked for future clarification from Rio Blanco about why \$ amounts match so precisely, who funds overage, and if there are alternate good projects other than roads

Motion was made to accept the project funding by Jerry Schmidt. Win seconded
Motion carried

Membership needs, recruitment

Aaron sent out a list of 19 applicants who have applied for membership to the RAC. He doesn't know if they can use applicants not selected in previous years. IE: when RAC was initially formed. Aaron would like the members to suggest applicants. All members will expire in 2016 except Ron and Jim. It would be good to have a blend of the counties and the committee will need to consider diversity.

Next steps/Upcoming time frame

The next round of funding will be in either March or April. Aaron proposes that this group solicit projects at first of the year and meet again in the spring of next year. In theory the projects could take place in next year's field season.

Sonja would like to see the different RAC categories of who is where and what needs to be filled. By what date to the applicants need to have info into Aaron.

Aaron reported that all projects have been completed that the RAC has recommended funds for, except the Sierra Madre Elk Project and the Buffalo Pass Project.

Aaron will send the project forms to BCH for Jerry to sign. Once they are returned, Dennis will sign them.

Aaron will get the paperwork for current projects completed, work on new applicants, then next year's projects.

Dennis thanked the group for their hard work. He also recognized Aaron for his hard work and for the amount of work that he has done behind the scenes.

Chairman Paxton adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.