

# SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

## Chippewa National Forest Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

### July 14, 2016

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#### RAC Members present:

**Category A** - Elmer Cone, Harold Goetzman, Brian Bignall, John Ringle

**Category B** - Gene Larimore, Richard Downham, James Ballenthin, Wanda Hoyum, Lindsey Ketchel

**Category C** – Ara Anderson, Christina Bowstring

**Chippewa National Forest:** Darla Lenz (Forest Supervisor), Todd Tisler (RAC Coordinator), Sherry Fountain (Walker District Ranger), Chad Kirschbaum (Deer River District Ranger)

**Public Guests:** None

**Recorder:** Melissa Rickers

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**Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Todd Tisler**

#### Opening Statements – Darla Lenz, Forest Supervisor

- Welcome
- History of Secure Rural Schools Act

**Introductions:** RAC members introduced themselves.

#### RAC Update – Todd Tisler

- **Title II Authority Summary: (Attachment 1)**
- **Chippewa RAC Charter Operating Guidelines: (Attachment 2)**
  - **RAC Decision/Recommendation – At future meetings each member speaks once on a topic or project until everyone has had a chance to speak. Then there can be further discussion.**
- **RAC Membership Update: (Attachment 3)**
  - New members have four-year terms (began May 23, 2016). Existing member's terms will end September 30, 2016; exception Brian Bignall's term will expire February 2017.
  - Please notify Todd of new member suggestions.
  - Suggested to do more outreach in metro areas.
  - **Quorum Clarification:**

If vote, must have a quorum of 5 in each subcommittee. Consensus from 3 members in each category is needed in order for a project approval to proceed. Administrative actions may occur with the quorum of 9 needed to conduct a RAC meeting. A replacement member cannot vote unless accepting to be a proxy designated in writing by a member on the committee

## 2016 Project Application Process – Todd Tisler

- **Amount \$192,000.00**
  - One year to obligate funds for projects (September 30, 2017)
  - Five year limitation to complete all funded projects
  
- **Criteria for Project Proposals (Attachment 4)**
- **NEW Project Proposals:**
  - Letter has been sent to County Commissioners
  - Press Release requesting proposals will be sent to media (sent 7/19/16)
  - Deadline for receipt of proposals is **August 26, 2016**
  - FS Staff will review and let RAC members know NEPA status on projects
  - FS staff will make sure all proposed projects meet the criteria. BUT RAC will see all proposals submitted.
  - Todd will get project proposals received-to-date to RAC members by **August 1**. With an updated table listing projects and status. (This will all be done electronically unless you notify Todd you would like to receive in a different method)
  - **RAC Decision/Recommendation – Asking those submitting proposals to have a minimum and maximum request for funds as well as list other funding sources for the project proposal. Also requested to have a “respect” for the land component added to project proposals.**
  - **RAC Decision/Recommendation - Scoring system: team decided to use the scoring system and sheet used in the past. This will be sent with project proposals.**
  
- **PAST RAC Projects:**
  - RAC will be given list of past funded projects to see intent and what has been done. All RAC projects funded in 2010 and 2104 have been completed.

## Selection of New RAC Chairperson – Lindsey Ketchel

- Motion made by Elmer Cone | Unanimous approval

## September Meeting Dates:

- September 14 or September 21 in a Walker area.
- Start time 9:00 a.m.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 a.m.**

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**Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act  
Reauthorization and Amendment 2015**

**P.L. 110-343**

**Overview**

**Title I**

- Establishes a new formula for calculating payments based on acres of Federal lands, previous payments and per capita personal income. Minnesota's payments increase.
- Maintains payments to counties (50% to support Schools and 50% to Roads)

**Title II**

- Reinvestments these funds to projects on national forest lands.
- Is 15% to 20% of county's share of the State Payment, with a minimum 50% of this to road maintenance/obliteration or watershed improvement/restoration
- Requires creation of a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to recommend and monitor a variety of projects on potential resource protection, restoration or enhancement

**Title III**

Reimburses county expenditures limited to 3 areas:

- Providing Firewise Community Assistance
- Developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Emergency Services activities on national forest lands

Requires county certification of appropriate expenditures of funds

# Chippewa RAC Operating Guidelines

Updated July 6, 2016

These operating guidelines and ground rules are general in nature and were developed to aid the overall flow of business of the Chippewa Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Decisions on RAC operating guidelines will be made by a simple majority of members present at a RAC meeting where quorum has been established. The RAC may modify these operating guidelines as needed to ensure efficient management of meetings. These guidelines are not legally binding for operations of the RAC.

1. If you are unable to attend a meeting or will be participating by teleconference, video conference, or webinar, contact RAC Coordinator, Todd Tisler, at 218-335-8629. Provide 24-hour notice if possible.
2. The Designated Federal Official (DFO), Darla Lenz, and RAC Coordinator, Todd Tisler, will make the call if a scheduled meeting needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather.
3. Holding a meeting (Quorum)
  - a. **Official Meeting.** A simple majority (8 of 15 members) must be present to hold a meeting. A simple majority can make non-financial decisions, e.g., when and where the next meeting will be, etc.)
  - b. **Project Recommendation.** Based on the legislation (P.L. 106-939), three of five members from each of the three groups are needed to recommend a project for approval.

NOTE: RAC members can call in via conference call if they are unable to attend in person. Conference call information will be provided to the members for each meeting.

Ground rules during meetings are as follows:

- c. Remember the purpose of the Act: to stabilize payments to counties; to make additional investments in and provide employment opportunities through projects in forest ecosystems; and to improve cooperative relationships.
- d. Listen to each other.
- e. No cell phones or pagers (except for emergency communications).
- f. Come prepared.
- g. Respect each other's time and opinion.
- h. Speak up respectfully.
- i. Agree to disagree.

- j. Keep it fun and productive.
- k. Each member speaks once on a topic or project until everyone has had a chance to speak.

5. The DFO, Todd Tisler, will ensure that Forest Service representatives and specialists will be at meetings as needed.

6. Meetings will start and end on time (especially end on time).

7. The group will use Roberts Rules of Orders when needed to make decisions. Meetings will be facilitated to ensure adequate time is allowed for discussions.

8. The Chairperson will serve as meeting facilitator.

9. Public comment will be accepted at the beginning of each meeting on agenda topics. Public comment will be accepted again at the end of each meeting to allow individuals to respond to project proposals or raise new issues. There is a time limit of 3 minutes per person.

NOTE: The RAC can extend time limits as deemed appropriate and necessary by a simple majority.

10. RAC Coordinator, Todd Tisler, will be the contact for all RAC correspondence. Pre-work will be sent to committee members at least two weeks in advance of scheduled meetings. Information will be provided hard copy, unless otherwise requested.

11. Two consecutive meetings missed by a member may be cause for removal by the DFO. The absent member will be contacted to discuss their situation. This could result in a discussion and recommendation from members. Attendance by video conference, conference call, or webinar will be considered as full attendance.

12. RAC members (including replacements) will be reimbursed by the Forest Service for travel costs associated with meeting participation. Members will be reimbursed at the current limits established by federal regulations and will be paid for actual expenses only.

13. Meeting locations will be selected by the RAC to obtain the best forum for public involvement.

14. All meetings will be published in the Federal Register as required. Additionally, RAC meetings will be widely advertised in local publications throughout the county.

15. The RAC Coordinator, Todd Tisler or other Chippewa employee, will serve as official note taker for RAC meetings.

16. Lindsey Ketchel will serve as Committee Chair for her entire term ending May 23, 2020.

# Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees

Chippewa National Forest RAC – Status Review

**CATEGORY A**

		NAME
Organized Labor or Non-Timber Forest Product Harvester Groups	X	Paul Jennings
Developed Outdoor Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle Users, or Commercial Recreation Activities	X	Elmer Cone
Energy and Mineral Development, or Commercial or Recreational Fishing Groups	X	Harold Goetzman
Commercial Timber Industry	X	Brian Bignall
Federal Grazing Permit or Other Land Use Permit Holders, or Representative of Non-Industrial Private Forest Land Owners, Within the Area for which the Committee is Organized		John Ringle

**Replacement Member**

Steven Ross

**CATEGORY B**

Nationally Recognized Environmental Organizations	X	Kenneth Larimore
Regionally or Locally Recognized Environmental Organizations	X	Richard Downham
Dispersed Recreational Activities	X	James Ballenthin
Archaeology and History	X	Wanda Hoyum
Nationally or Regionally Recognized Wild Horse and Burro Interest, Wildlife or Hunting Organizations, or Watershed Associations		Lindsey Ketchel

**Replacement Member**

Mike Suppan

**CATEGORY C**

Hold State-Elected Office		Vacant
Hold County or Local-Elected Office		Terry Synder
American Indian Tribes Within or Adjacent to the Area for which the Committee is Organized		Levi Brown Milton Gotchie
Area School Officials or Teachers		Ara Anderson
Affected Public-At-Large	X	Christina Anderson- Bowstring

**Replacement Member**

**MEMBER STATUS OVERVIEW**

	#	QUORUM (YES/NO)
Total Members Appointed Category A	6	Y
Total Members Appointed Category B	6	Y
Total Members Appointed Category C	7	Y
Total Members Appointed to RAC	19	YES

A RAC must have 3 members from each Category (A, B, and C) to have a Quorum.

A Quorum is required for the RAC to hold a meeting.

## Criteria for RAC Project Proposals

- The project is located on or clearly demonstrates a benefit to resources on federal (usually National Forest) lands
- Meets one or more purposes of the legislation (the Secure Rural Schools Act):
  - Improves the maintenance of existing infrastructure
  - Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems
  - Restores and improves health of the land or water quality
  - Protects, restores or enhances fish and wildlife habitat
- Helps meet the Act's requirement of 50% of funds towards watershed and road improvements
- Complies with all federal and state laws and regulations (ex: NEPA, Endangered species, Heritage preservation). If the project requires additional work to meet federal and state laws and regulations it may be lower priority.
- The proposed project fits within the intent of the National Forest's Land Management Plan
- Enhances public safety
- Leverages funds or complements other projects
- Shows evidence that the outcome or maintenance of the project can be sustained
- Creates employment opportunities
- Can be implemented within an acceptable timeframe (approx 1 to 3 years from now)
- Can be readily implemented through an existing Agreement (saves time)
- Improves collaborative relationships
- Applicants made good effort to consult with the affected Ranger District or Forest office to ensure accuracy or implementability of the project