

El Dorado County RAC Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dale van Dam on December, 2015 at 6:07 PM. In attendance were: Joe Davis, Rich Ferdon, Rusty Vardy, Ellen Osborn, Rich Platt, Chuck Mitchell, Rich Wade, Duane Nelson, Jennifer Chapman, Kristi Schroeder, Dale van Dam, Curt Backhaus, and Bob Johnson. Not in attendance were: Tom Mahach, and Susie Kocher. Visitors: Lester Lubetkin, Kathy Smith, Karen Kuentz, Mike Garcia, and Jeff Blewett.

1. Introductions of committee members and visitors. There were no minutes to review.
2. There were no additions to the agenda.
3. There was public comment at this meeting.
 - a. Kathy Smith – Favors fuel reduction and not in favor of decommissioning roads. Would like to see money go towards road maintenance versus decommissioning. Access is important to firefighting efforts.
4. Duane gave an overview. There is \$152,000 in the RAC account now from the 2014 receipts which will increase to about \$290,000 with 2015 receipts by the time projects are voted on. Approximately \$1500 will be needed for administrative costs such as publishing meeting notices and notetaking. RAC member appointments will sunset in September. New members will need to be in place by then. Department will require at least 2 names per position. Only one was needed in the past. Looking for a diverse selection of experienced members.
5. Chairman Dale van Dam reviewed the Purpose and Mission of the committee, Operating Guidelines, Project Evaluation Considerations and Call for Proposals News Release. The date for obligation is September 30, 2017. The due date for proposals is January 22, 2016. Additional meeting dates are tentatively set for February 8, March 7, and March 21, 2016. RAC members affirmed Dale van Dam for continuing as Chairman.
6. Jennifer Chapman reviewed the budget and past projects. \$155,290 was available in the last round of RAC funding. 11 projects were considered (plus replacing funds for one previous project that was affected by sequestration); 6 projects were awarded with the other 5 prioritized for provisional funding if it became available. \$22,555 was returned to the treasury. Common reasons were the short time window to obligate funds (June to September 2014) and the occurrence of the King Fire in September 2014 which pulled away project coordinators. Based on last funding round experience, a discussion item at the next RAC meeting will be creating a series of trigger points for project implementation and completion. *Assignment:* Duane is to come back with recommendations for the trigger points based on grant agreements and contracting processing.
7. Duane Nelson led a discussion of past RAC projects.
 - a. Generation Green was refunded the \$18,323 they lost in previous round due to sequestration to make them whole.

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- b. Ballarat bridge was completed except the approaches which were deferred due to the King fire. \$1500 was returned to the treasury.
 - c. Barrett Trail project was completed under budget. The project was delayed due to King fire but contracts were already obligated. The de-obligated funds were returned to RAC account. (This is approx. \$6K of the \$152K in the account).
 - d. Forest Trash Cleanup Efforts project: Funds were used to reimburse PLINK for dump fees, purchase of security camera, and mileage reimbursement. All funds spent.
 - e. Forest Walker program. The funds were to be spent for handheld radios but didn't make the purchasing and obligation deadlines due to the King fire. Funds were returned to the treasury.
 - f. Plummer Ridge Guard Station toilet – Installed. Will be part of the recreation rental program once the Recreation Advisory Committee is re-established which has to authorize the addition to the program.
 - g. Tells Creek Equestrian Camp project – Still in progress. This is the second project approved by RAC. Initially funded in 2013. \$0 left. Additional funding in 2014 was approved. \$17,000 of the \$31,470 was spent before King Fire hit. In 2016 additional grading, distribution of aggregate base, and barrier rock work, and review possible re-route is planned. Some cost savings in sourcing of materials. Some funds will continue into 2016 as still in a contract.
8. Dale van Dam led a discussion defining this year's process and developing a timeline for RAC meetings (dates subject to revision) and decision making. *Assignment:* Jennifer Chapman will send out link for SRS website.
- a. 1/22 Projects received and reviewed by Duane.
 - b. 2/8 Committee to review proposals for an initial screening to determine which will have further evaluation. These projects will have an opportunity to be presented at the next meeting.
 - c. 3/7 Committee hears presentations
 - d. 3/21 Projects are selected and recommended by committee to Forest Supervisor.
 - e. Future meeting dates approved unanimously. If meetings not needed can be canceled.
9. Dale van Dam led a discussion on RAC membership.
- a. *Assignment:* Committee to read the 38 page document on the new process and send ideas and recommendations for new members to Jennifer Chapman by the next meeting or as soon as you think of them.

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- b. Based on a 6 year maximum, terms of committee members expire in September 2016. Based on what we know now, current members will be “termed out” and not eligible to re-apply for RAC membership.
10. The next meeting will be February 8, 2016. 6:00 pm.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.