

Southern Montana RAC Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2021

This meeting was held from 9:30-5:00 on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform. There were videoconference and phone line options.

RAC members present were:

- Category A: Corey Biggers, Randy Weimer (Chair), Bill Brownlee, Donald Sasse, Mary Rumph
- Category B: Shantell Frame-Martin, Liz Muhs Stone, John Lowell
- Category C: James Moody, Susan Mosness, Becky Grey (phone), Philip Chiaviello, Stanley Floyd.

After a general welcome and Introduction to the Teams platform, Kat determined that there was a quorum of members for the meeting.

Forest Service personnel present included:

- Kathy Minor, CGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor and RAC Designated Federal Official
- Kat Barker, CGNF RAC Coordinator
- Karen Tuscano, CGNF Budget Analyst
- Lin Goettlich, CGNF Budget Officer
- Mariah Leuschen Lonergan, Public Affairs and tech Support
- Marna Daley, Public Affairs and Tech Support
- Magen Crowley, Administrative Assistant
- Ron Hecker, Ashland District Ranger
- Kim Vivian, Ashland Program Manager
- Beth Bischoff, CGNF Range Program Manager
- Shawn Tripp, CGNF Law Enforcement
- Becca Hammargren, Yellowstone Recreation Program Manager
- Alex Sienkiewicz, Yellowstone District Ranger
- Mike Thom, Gardiner District Ranger
- Adam Washebek, Gardiner Recreation Program Manager
- Lauren Oswald, CGNF Services Staff
- Melissa Simpson, CGNF Recreation Program Manager
- Allie Wood, Beartooth Trails Manager

Lin gave a brief presentation on the current RAC status and re-authorization timelines. He noted that this may likely be the last time this RAC meets under this authorization. He also noted that all RAC funds awarded must be spent out or obligated by September 2023. The last item he emphasized is that the allocated funds this year were smaller than in the past due to the 5.7% sequestration this round.

Randy then reviewed the protocol for the meeting and Kathy briefly discussed the difference in the roles of the USFS and the RAC.

Karen then went over the funding allocations and spreadsheet, after which Kat gave an overview the agenda and process the members would be going through this day. She then gave a brief review of each of the eleven projects with time for clarifications or questions.

Break

Kat facilitated the presentations. Project proponents signed up by typing their names into the chat box. Each presentation was held to 4-5 minutes. All project proponents were able to present, with the exception of Sheriff Alan Drane, who was out sick. Randy briefly summarized the project in his stead.

After the presentations, Kat framed up the process for break-out meetings after lunch. She described the technical side of the break-out rooms (held on separate Teams meetings set up for each Category) and how these were for the members only in order for them to have space and time to discuss projects openly and frankly. Randy then explained the expectations and goals of the break-out rooms. Each break-out room had a Forest Service representative present (Magen, Mariah and Marna) for tech support and to answer or direct questions when necessary. Kathy remained in the main Teams meeting room and Kat and Karen moved between the break-outs.

After the break-out sessions, all members came back to the main Teams meeting. With Karen working the spreadsheet in real time over the videoconference, the group started populating the spreadsheet and went through their voting process. Since there was only one project each for Sweet Grass and Stillwater Counties, those both were easily awarded the amounts that were allocated to those counties. Powder River County and Park County both had numerous projects that elicited much discussion, but the group came to consensus after approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Additionally, two projects were identified as priorities should additional funding become available: The Lake Creek Trail Maintenance Project and Sweet Grass County Weeds Project. Any additional funds would be split 50/50 between the two projects.

Corey Biggers motioned to vote on the allocations as shown on the spreadsheet and Liz seconded it. The Yea votes were unanimous. The award allocations are attached to the meeting minutes.

Following the final recommendations, Kat gave a brief presentation on Past RAC project updates.

Randy and Kathy closed the meeting out with thanks and appreciation. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3 p.m.

**Southern Montana RAC
Approved Projects 10-6-2021**

Project Name	Project Submitted By	County Project Will Take Place	Title II Requested Amount	Amount Approved on 10/6/2021
1) Sweet Grass County Noxious Weed Project	Connie Weston (Sweet Grass County)	Sweet Grass	\$33,900.00	\$17,027
2) Saturation Patrol and Travel Management Assistance	Ashland RD	Powder River	\$19,960.00	\$19,960
3) Noxious Weed Management Assistance	Ashland RD	Powder River	\$16,000.00	\$9,000
4) Road Maintenance on the Ashland RD	Ashland RD	Powder River	\$27,000.00	\$16,200
5) Powder River County Sheriff Office Forest Patrol	Sheriff Allen Drane Jr	Powder River	\$4,300.00	\$4,300
6) Powder River County Weed District Noxious Weed Management and Training	Tammy Van Time (PRC Weed District)	Powder River	\$68,050.00	\$53,624
7) Lake Creek Trail Maintenance and Improvement Project Phase 3	Beartooth RD	Park	\$59,605.00	\$25,000
8) Trailhead Vaulted Toilet	Cooke City Community Council	Park	\$22,000.00	\$22,000
9) Porcupine Trailhead Improvements	Livingston Bike Club	Park	\$5,000.00	\$2,500
10) Smith Creek Road Improvement	Smith Creek Road Users Association	Park	\$40,000.00	11,171
11) Stillwater River Trail Maintenance	Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation	Stillwater, Park	\$9,708.00	\$7,863
Total			\$305, 523	\$188,645