

Crook County RAC Meeting

January 20, 2004,

Bearlodge Ranger District Office

Attendees

RAC Members

Barbara Jeffres, David Hurd, Debra Hougham, Ernest Reinhold, Harold J. (Stormy) Burch, John Shoffstall, Joseph Julian, Larry Ellsbury, Major Frank Miller, Marlene Simons, Nels Smith, Steve Stahla, Wade Pearson, Jeanine Dierking

Forest Service

Brad Harris, Steve Kozel, Jeanette M Timm, Joyce E Speidel

Public

Elvin Rush, Tim Lyons

Meeting Notes

Crook County Resource Advisory Committee

January 20, 2004

- 1) Meeting brought to order 6:20 PM by Chairperson John Shoffstall. The meeting was informally brought together until the sufficient number of people for quorum convened.
- 2) Several adjustments to the agenda were made while waiting: Include Upper Redwater Rd Phase 2, delete Scott Tangenberg (unable to attend), add Elvin Rush to present proposal on county numbering system.
- 3) A quorum in all categories was met at 6:30.
 - a) Category A: Major Miller, Barbara Jeffres, Wade Pearson, Nels Smith and Larry Ellsbury.
 - b) Category B: Ernest Reinhold, Jeanine Dierking, David Hurd, Joseph Julian, and John Shoffstall.
 - c) Category C: Marlene Simons, Harold (Stormy) Burch, Deb Hougham, and Steve Stahla.
- 4) Forest Service representatives present: DFO Steve Kozel, Jeanette Timm, Brad Harris and recorder, Joyce Speidel.
- 5) Others present: Elvin Rush and Tim Lyons.
- 6) Balance Sheet- Nels: Does anyone have any idea when the next appropriation will come? The official budget is not due on the forest until March; we have not officially received the '04 allocation yet. Balance sheet understood by everyone.
- 7) Nels/ Barb- all new members approved and seated upon receipt of signed letter by Mark Rey. Motion carried.
- 8) Review of previously presented projects
 - a) Jeanette Timm- Cook Lake trail PP #04-06

- i) The proposal had been tabled until notification from the State Trails Grant. Unfortunately, no dollars were awarded for the trail construction.
 - ii) The Forest Service is still interested in going forward with this project. The proposed improvements are from the picnic area through loop A. The agency will use trail construction funds, but is interested in partnership funding.
 - iii) Wheeler Sawmill in Whitewood will donate wood.
 - iv) John asked that Jeanette come to the next meeting with numbers that are concrete, revised figures would be helpful.
 - v) This project is being planned as a multi-year project.
 - vi) When asked what her priorities are concerning submitted projects, the Cook Lake trail is number one priority; the bathroom at Bearlodge Campground is her second priority.
- b) Brad Harris- Bearlodge Trucktrail Fuelbreak PP #03-04
- i) There were three questions that the board requested to be addressed. These were: Could we have a better estimate of timber sale volume? Where does all the money go for the sale of the timber? What should we do with the burr oak?
 - ii) The revised timber sale volume is 2.3 MMBF.
 - iii) To deal with the burr oak, Brad proposes to use mechanical and manual fuel reduction methods. Regular maintenance of the fuelbreak is part of Brad's proposal.
 - iv) The timber sale will be able to finance a large portion of this project.
 - v) The Forest Service would like to see the RAC come on as a partner to this project.
 - vi) There was some discussion as to the impact to winter snowmobile trail. Alternative trails will need to be discussed. The fuelbreak is being considered on the second main trail of the system. The current road closure order will need to be discussed, with regard to snowmobile trails.
 - vii) Scoping notice to district wide mailing list and open house in a couple of weeks.
 - viii) Would like to have sale awarded by the end of September, and a signed decision by June 01. There is a thirty day advertisement before sale. **Ernie/ Nels moved to table until later. Motion carried.**
- 9) Break. Back in at 7:55.
- 10) New project proposals
- a) Manly Spring Development PP #04-12
 - i) This proposal would develop a spring on private land. This area is surrounded by National Forest on three sides. The only spring in the area is very heavily used, and there is an erosion issue from heavy traffic patterns. This project would place two more holding tanks to reduce existing erosion.
 - ii) **Nels/ Marlene approve project.** Discussion. One opposition. **Motion carried. Fund as requested. \$2400.**
 - b) Elvin Rush and Tim Lyons presented a proposal for rural addressing. They are asking for money to supplement the county budget for addressing. Equipment is needed. They propose that bills would be presented directly to the RAC committee, money not directly put into budget. Their proposal requests \$100,000 total for a two year period (\$50,000 annually). This will be a continuing project (it will not be completed at the end of the two year period). They are requesting funding for only two years because the RAC is only guaranteed money for the next two years.

i) History- Rural addressing was started in 1980. An agreement was signed with US West. When US West pulled out, this project fell through the cracks. A couple of other avenues have been pursued, but none have been successful.

ii) The plan- Anyone that has rural address now will have new signs put up or old ones refurbished. Every junction of every county road will be marked with street type signs. As the addressing system goes now, any stranger coming into this community will have no clue as to where and how to get somewhere.

iii) Barb asked if the county had applied for any other grants for this project. Yes. Barb indicated that there are some monies available from Homeland Security. John Shoffstall went over the guidelines for funding from this committee. He thought these guidelines may inhibit us from funding this project. We would need guidance from the Washington Office for this project. We might not be able to make any decision tonight. Steve Stahla suggested the use of Title 3 money. The commissioners might commit some of that money to this project. Discussion. Barb would like to see it tabled, but discussed. This would be a worthy project. **Barb/Joe table.** Discussion. **Motion carried.**

11) 17th of February will be the next meeting.

12) No members of the public available for public forum.

13) Nels asked to discuss PP #02-11 Warren Peak highway restriping. This project was approved last spring, but when the Forest Service advertised for bids, only one came in. This bid was almost twice the expected amount, so this project will be advertised again this spring. *After reiterating that his Real Estate brokerage has Warren Peak property listed,* Nels stated that cracksealing was the most important phase of this project. *There was agreement from at least one other member, based upon previous experience with a different road.* **Nels/ Major moved that the project be broken into two phases when it is advertised for bids.** Discussion. Jeanette discussed contracting guidelines. **Motion carries.**

14) Meeting adjourned. 8:35PM

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joyce E. Speidel

Joyce Speidel, recorder

02-03-04

** Italicized portions are additions/ corrections made at February meeting.*

**Crook County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting
February 17, 2004**

1) Minutes of the last meeting were sent out prior to this meeting. Mr. Shoffstall asked if anyone had any corrections or suggestions.

a) Nels would like to have inserted on third page, during the discussion of the restriping of the Warren Peak Highway that he disclosed that he has property listed on Warren Peak.

b) He would also like to have inserted during the same discussion that there was agreement from at least one other member based on previous experience on a different road.

a) **Nels/ Dave** moved that the **minutes** be so **amended.** **Motion carried.**

For questions, please contact Joyce E Speidel at (307) 283-1361 (skoziel@fs.fed.us)