

National Forest Advisory (NFAB) MEETING –

April 20, 2005, 1 p.m. SDSU West River Ag Center, 1905 Plaza Drive, Rapid City, SD

ATTENDEES: Board Members: Chairman Tom Blair, Vice-Chairman Bob Kloss, Aaron Everett, Jim Heinert, Marisue Hilliard, Doug Hofer, Ron Johnsen, Jim Margadant, Pat McElgunn, Jeff Olson, Bob Paulson, Jim Scherrer, Linda Tokarczyk, and alternates John Culberson, Everett Hoyt, Druse Kellogg, Joe Lowe. Forest Service representatives: Lonnie Arthur, recorder, Pam Brown, Frank Carroll, Brad Exton, Dorothy FireCloud, Rick Hudson, Craig Kjar, Steve Kozel, Bob Thompson. Approximately 10 members of the general public, media, and Congressional staff were also present.

WELCOME & ROLL CALL:

Chairman Blair called the meeting to order and greeted everyone. Those in attendance as board members and alternates will be seated as a provisional board pending final approval from the Forest Service Washington Office.

Carroll: Since many of the people here today may not be acquainted with one another, let's take some time to introduce ourselves and give a brief biography to provide a background of our experiences and our specific interests in serving on this board. Let's start with those to my left and go around the table then on to the others in the room.

Break for set up: 1:45 P.M.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Chairman Blair: You have received a copy of the minutes from the March meeting. If there are no questions or corrections, they stand as printed.

Paulson: Who are the members of the sub-committee that John Teupel has organized?

Chairman Blair: That information will be covered later in the meeting. Thank you for inquiring about the committee.

Hoyt: Just a question as to form. It seems like these minutes are almost a transcript.

Carroll: Your point is well taken and we have experimented with this form including a transcriptionist who provided a verbatim transcript at a cost of \$800 per session. It was agreed that the transcription form of minutes was not necessary and the current form has served our needs and wishes. These minutes become part of the Federal Register.

Chairman Blair: The minutes stand as printed.

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

Chairman Blair: Does anyone have any additions or corrections to the printed agenda? Hearing none, the agenda stands as presented.

Carroll: Provided a number of handouts

- Binders to new members
- Books: *Exploring with Custer*, and *Flames in Our Forest*
- Departmental Regulations
- By-Laws
- Provisional Charter
- Roster of members
- Background checks – AD 755

All board members and alternates need to complete this form even if you have previously completed it for this board or another board requiring and AD 755. Please return to me when completed.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Carroll: Thanks to the Boxelder Job Corps for the refreshments.

Chairman Blair: The role of the new alternates will be different from our past charter period. The acting member will be in a voting capacity in the absence of the primary. This creates the imperative for alternates need to keep abreast of issues.

Carroll: The primary and alternate members will all receive minutes and communications from our office. This information is also contained on our website (www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills) and is open to the public. There was the discussion of making a provision to have closed meetings if it was deemed fitting; however, it was considered as offering no specific benefits.

HOT TOPICS:

Thompson: As far as a travel management update, we have received an \$80,000 grant for the Forest Service Centennial Project that we discussed at our last meeting. We are experiencing private groups coming together to tackle specific projects which include:

- Norbeck Society
- Friends of the Forest
- Stagebarn Canyon
- Black Fox
- SD OHV Coalition
- Boy Scouts
- Beretta Area, groups cleaning up.
- Blackhawk Area, the 4 Hoods (a group of 4 neighborhoods working on select projects)
- INMBA Mountain bike association
- National OHV (Tom Willems)

The issues of conservation, restoration and attending to sensitive areas that have been inventoried is truly resonating with the public and the public is coming together and those involved are realizing there needs to be a common solution and are willing to work to that end. I would like to see more folks setting down at the table.

Scherrer: There are people outside of the board and Forest Service who have been together at the table. A sub committee recommendation was included in the overall recommendation to the Forest Service from the past board.

Paulson: Patterson has copies to hand out regarding the newly formed Norbeck Society.

Chairman Blair: Since our last meeting and prior to this meeting, Scott Carboneaux notified us about a national conference that included national OHV collaboration. It was a very good gathering which was held in San Diego. Dale Bosworth, Chief US Forest Service was the keynote speaker. There are people from national organizations who are aware of our Black Hills NFAB, so the word is spreading about us as being a forerunner organization. I connected with a gentleman who indicated that they, The Sonoran Institute, have money available for organizational start-up costs and we should apply.

The state of SD will become more involved. State law will need to be changed to provide financial resources on a large scale. We are creating a sub committee for the State. Being one of the last forests to create OHV management, we can select and utilize from what previously has been done elsewhere. It is gratifying to know that people in the National Forest Service, outside the region, know we, NFAB, are here and working.

BREAK: 3:00

Resumed 3:15

PHASE II – UPDATE:

Thom: As part of a lawsuit settlement, we have been directed to concentrate on specific areas:

- Wildlife objectives
- Resource Natural Areas – we have noted about 8 areas
- National Forest Issues
- Insects and Fuels

As far as the process is concerned we have catalogued 5000+ comments in a database. We will develop an interim concept/proposal to which a sub-committee may respond. The Forest Service will look to the NFAB Sub committee which will be comprised of 5-6 folks. The committee will need to have 1-2 meetings that will each last for 3-4 hours to review the interim concept/proposal, which we will present. The sub committee will review and recommend to NFAB who make the its final recommendation to the Black Hills Forest Supervisor who will in turn make a recommendation to the Regional Forester in Denver. This all needs to happen between now and May 11 since thenext NFAB meeting is on May 18 and we need the interim to review the recommendation.

Chairman Blair: Since there have been changes in the previous sub committee, we need to start over with new members. Nels Smith is unable to continue as chair so I am appointing Bob Kloss, Chair, Bob Paulson, Aaron Everett, Jim Margadant,

Everett Hoyt and Theresa Two Bulls as the new sub committee. Bob Paulson this is the group I was referring to when you inquired about the names of the subcommittee in the March minutes.

Thom: We need to set some dates for our meetings. The possibilities are: April 28, 29 May 2, 9, 11.

Due to various schedules of committee members we will set April 28, in the afternoon, and April 29, in the afternoon. As a matter of convenience, we will hold the meetings in Rapid. Dave will make arrangements for the meeting and will notify those who are to be included with the details.

Margadant: We will need to have materials ahead of time to get started.

Hilliard: What product will you be looking for Dave?

Thom: We will present a proposal; the sub committee will review and recommend or advise if there are any changes. We are looking to provide up to 6 pages of summary for review.

Hilliard: There will be a rough draft after two days meetings so the sub committee itself may review and comment.

Hoyt: When will the materials be mailed to the sub committee, with an executive summary to all primary board and alternates?

Thom: As soon as possible.

Chairman Blair: This is going to be a quick turn around, so be sure to get a hold of Forest Service people if there are questions in getting up to speed.

Kloss: You (Dave Thom) indicated in the vast number of comments, there are 8-12 major issues and we need the content analysis ASAP.

Chairman Blair: I have been informed that there is no Invasive Species report?

Tokarczyk: Yes, Nels Smith, John Teupel, Ron Johnsen and I are meeting on May 17, prior to our next NFAB meeting.

Chairman Blair: As far as the travel management sub-committee, we are trying to keep the number at 10-11. We will need to have an organizational meeting prior to May 18. Maybe we can have that group and NFAB meet for the last half of the May meeting. The committee will consist of:

Tom Blair, Chair,
Jim Scherrer, Vice Chair
Bob Thompson, Forest and Range

Marion Atkins, BLM
Scott Carboneaux, GFP
Donna Rae Peterson, Tribal and Tourism
Colin Paterson, Norbeck Society
Gregg Mumm, SD OHV
Jeff Johnson, OHV
Todd Wilkinson, OHV
Tom Willems, National OHV
Becky Rowe

Paulson: Is having four motorized groups too many?

Chairman Blair: These are the groups that will be affected.

Hoyt: What about Johnson who is listed as sales of OHV? How is he representing the industry?

Paulson: We need to strive to keep a balance of the committee with wildlife, etc.

MEETING DATES: Blair: Let's review our upcoming meeting dates. Our next meeting date is scheduled for May 18. It has been our policy to schedule our meeting dates on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Those dates are as follows:

June 15, 2005

July 20, 2005

August 17, 2005

September 21, 2005

October 19, 2005

November 16, 2005

December 14, 2005 Ok'd, 1 week earlier than routinely scheduled.

January 2006, we usually meet in early January prior to the opening session of the SD Legislature.

Paulson: Seeing that Jeff Olson has tendered his resignation from the board, his replacement is Everett Hoyt, we will need a replacement for alternate position that Mr. Hoyt held.

Carroll: We will begin that process with a request for applicants.

Paulson: I notice that there are two national environmental reps on the roster.

Carroll: We will adjust the designations accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Blair: Even though it is earlier than listed in the agenda, we are ready to take public comments.

Gregg Mumm: Referring to a relative balance on the travel management sub committee, the SD OHV Association would like another environmental organization at the table.

Olson: Are you looking for preservation or sportsmen's group?

Scherrer: The committee has not been formed and I don't know what the mission is. Let's reserve comments about what we are going to do before we add too many other comments that may or may not fit the overall objective of the committee.

Chairman Blair: Let's get together (travel management sub committee) right after this meeting with those who are here and get a bit of organizational work accomplished. In the future, we may want to meet in the afternoon for the business portion of the meeting and have time after supper for public comments. We will also be meeting in Eastern in SD as they consider this (the Black Hills) their playground.

Scherrer: (only a perceptible guttural groan)

Hoyt: Keep the balance up front to avoid any sense of suspicion by public.

Patterson: Blackfox Campground group to assist with the area, get dates and locations from Bob Thompson, Mystic Ranger Station, Rapid City if you or anyone else are interested.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Blair: Hearing no other comments, do I have a motion to adjourn?

Everett: Move to adjourn

Margardant: second

Meeting adjourned 4:05 p.m.