

**Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee**  
**Kootenai NF Supervisor's Office**  
April 12, 2006

**Members Present:**

**Group A**

Bruce Vincent  
Lee Disney  
Ken Stevens  
Russ Hudson via CC

**Group B**

Peter Kitts  
Tim Linehan via CC  
Robyn King via CC

**Group C**

Eileen Carney  
Rita Windom  
Marianne Roose  
Steve Newman\*  
Gary Huntsberger  
Ralph Heinert

**Members Absent:**

Keith Glover-excused	Vacant*
Steve Garrett* -excused	Wayne Hirst
	Bill Martin-excused

\*Designates replacement members

**Forest Service Present:** Bob Castaneda – Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Malcolm Edwards – Libby District Ranger, Bryan Donner – Acting Fortine District Ranger, Barbara Edgmon and Willie Sykes

**Public Present:** Alvin Benitz, Ed Lewis, Mark Romey, Don Clark and Gary Altman

**Meeting Notes:**

Lee Disney led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. The minutes from the February 1, 2006 meeting were approved as written.

Bob Castaneda, Rita Windom and Marianne Roose reported on the 2006 National Forest Counties & School Coalition meeting that was held April 7-9. It was a good session with dynamic speakers. Mark Rey spoke about the reauthorization of PL106-393 and the plans on how to finance it. When the law was first passed the country had a budget surplus and now is in budget deficit. Supporters for the program are increasing. Rita advised everyone to encourage the Congressional delegation to advocate for reauthorization. The commissioners will be busy working in Lincoln County to get support. Marianne stated it is important to spread the word about the successes the RAC has had in collaboration between diverse groups and the important project work that has been completed. If the reauthorization is not passed local taxes would increase and county services would be greatly affected. The Lincoln County Commissioners will be participating in the fly-in to Washington DC in September to show support for the reauthorization.

The County Commissioners presented a letter to the RAC members outlining the type of projects they encourage support for as follows:

- Title II funding should be used to fund “on the ground” projects

- Treatment of fuels on the Wildland Urban Interface to reduce loads and diminish the chance of catastrophic fire.
- Product should be produced to help sustain the local economy
- Every attempt should be made to create jobs

Bob Castaneda advised that the sale of public lands proposal comment period has been extended by 30 days. Comments are due on May 1.

A motion was made to send a letter to Congress to reauthorize the Act but not to sale public lands to finance it. Motion was carried. Lee and Robyn will work on the letter.

Gary Altman stated that the RAC does a lot of public good. A letter of support to establish a trust fund for long term support would be a good idea.

Willie Sykes presented draft copies of News Releases for Osprey Landing and Wolverine Cabin RAC projects that he would like members to review and provide comments. Willie plans to provide a series of articles over time that will focus on the accomplishments of the RAC. Steve Newman stated he would publish articles in the Tobacco Valley News. Bruce Vincent will contact the Western News about printing a series of articles. The RAC would like their logo to be used and include photos with the articles.

The vacant Group B replacement position will soon be advertised requesting interested citizens to submit applications.

Bob Castaneda asked for RAC members to participate in reviewing completed projects for compliance. A list of completed projects will be provided to members at the May meeting.

Bryan Donner advised that the RAC approved for FY06 Beaver Pony BMP project in the amount of \$17,250 has been completed using FS funds that otherwise would have been lost. Bryan proposed using these funds for the Jim Creek Pipe Replacement project to correct an undersized culvert that is failing and caving in.

Motion made and carried to transfer funds from the Beaver Pony BMP project to the Jim Creek Pipe Replacement project in the amount of \$14,250.

Bryan Donner provided an update on the Wolverine Cabin project. He advised the cabin still needs a roof, floor and other miscellaneous repairs. A lot of the work has been completed by volunteers. There is \$6,500 remaining from 2005 funds. The estimate to complete the project is for \$10,000 total. At the May meeting there will be a discussion on using funds originally slated for Roads and Water projects transferring to Other type of projects. The FY06 amount of funds utilized for the mandated Roads and Water projects will need to be reviewed.

The Ant Flat Trail Resurfacing project did not have enough funds to complete the entire trail. Additional funds are needed. After a review of the status of projects a determination will be made if there are excess funds that could be used.

Malcolm Edwards presented the following projects for consideration for funding in FY07:

- O-08 Lake Koocanusa Toilet Installations
- O-01 Noxious Weed Control in Recreation Areas
- O-03 Airport Shooting Complex
- O-04 Farm to Market WUI Fuel Reduction
- O-05 Swede Road WUI Fuel Reduction
- O-06 Upper Pipe WUI Fuel Reduction
- O-07 Interface Pre-commercial Thinning and Fuel Reduction
- O-02 Turner Fuel Storage Tank Placement \*

\*The fuel storage tank at Turner Mountain has been identified by State Water Quality regulations as being in an RCA Corridor. The tank needs to be moved to a more stable area. There may be \$8,000 remaining from the previously awarded RAC project. The RAC will review funding at the May meeting.

Next Meeting will be May 10, 2006 at 6 p.m. in the Forest Supervisor's Office.

Notes by Barbara Edgmon