

National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) Meeting

January 5, 2011

Mystic Ranger District Office, Rapid City

Members Present:

Jim Heinert, Chairman; Bill Kohlbrand, Suzanne Martley, Jim Scherrer, Tom Blair, Carson Engleskirger, Everett Hoyt, Nancy Kile, Craig Tieszen, Jeff Vonk, Richard Brown

Forest Service Representatives:

Craig Bobzien, Dennis Jaeger, Frank Carroll, Frank Roberts, Bob Thompson, Claudia Hill, Tom Willems, Rick Hudson, Marie Curtin, Twila Morris - Recorder.

Others:

Approximately 10 members of the public and three Congressional representatives; Chris Blair (Johnson – D, South Dakota), Mark Haugen (Thune – R, South Dakota), Danica Allmer (Noem – R, South Dakota)

Members Absent:

Sam Brannan, Becci Jo Rowe, Bob Paulson, Hugh Thompson, Nels Smith, Tom Troxel, Donovin Sprague,

Pat McElgunn, Resigned

Welcome:

Chair Heinert: In the interest of time and moving forward on the discussion, we'll go ahead and call the meeting to order with the anticipation of having a quorum in 30 minutes when Craig Tieszen arrives. We will wait for a quorum to approve the minutes and agenda; called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Housekeeping:

Carroll: Explanation of facilities; treats thanks to the Boxelder Job Corps; Happy New Year.

Meeting Protocols:

Heinert: Reminder that we are attempting to manage these meetings in a somewhat formal manner, if you have a question, please get my attention and you will be given the time you need. We are ready to move forward on hot topics.

Hot Topics

Continuing Resolution – March 2011

Bobzien: The Forest Service is operating under a continuing resolution as is the rest of the Government, scheduled to go through March 1, 2011. We can continue to request funds, and changes in programs because it is an Agency wide budget, yet there are no additional funds available. If we receive more, someone is receiving less. We have built and requested the capacity to do considerably more in Forest health, and things of that nature. We have a little less now than we had last year.

Heinert: If there are no questions we'll move on to the next hot topic.

Legislative Forecasts

Bobzien: I would like to defer this topic till Craig Tieszen arrives.

Heinert: Moving on to regular agenda items.

Regular Agenda

Motorized Travel Implementation

Bobzien: The two topics that are on the agenda today are included largely because of your interest, the first topic on motorized travel implementation will be brief, but we want to have Tom Willems and Rick Hudson give you an update. We have now implemented the new plan after several years of working with the public. On the portion of the plan that involves the motorized trail permits, the Board is the Advisory Committee, so at which time we have collections, we'll be seeking your input for disbursement of the funds that we'll collect this year. We have a master plan for our needs, motorized permits being one aspect of that. The use of the funds will be brought to the whole Board or a Subcommittee, which ever the Chairman decides. It will be late spring or early summer before we have enough funds to think about spending.

I would like to bring Rick Hudson and Tom Willems up at this time.

Hudson: Hello, I'm Rick Hudson, Recreation Program Manager for the Black Hills National Forest; thank you for the opportunity to talk today. We came to the Board in its capacity as the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, for input on the fee for the motorized system, we have taken your recommendation and established fees, and implemented on December 1, 2010.

To date, we have sold 450 permits. As you know there are three different types of permits for sale. We anticipate that most of the sales would be annual sales, and so far that is all we have sold. Sales are fairly slow, but folks have purchased permits for motorcycles, ATVs, side by sides, and full size vehicles. We expect the sales to pickup when we get closer to spring and summer. We are working to make sales as convenient as possible, getting vendors set up; and working on an on-line sales system.

The forest retains 95% of each \$1.00 received through recreation enhancement fees. The other 5% goes to the Regional Office. We applied for a grant from the past years 5% funds and received a \$40,000 grant. We have used that for printing permits, brochures, signage, maps, weekend patrols, education efforts, etc. Tom and I have talked to a dozen or more interest groups and the Districts have all had open houses.

Tom and I are available for any group large or small to meet and explain the trail system, the map, the motorized travel plan, etc. We welcome the opportunity to spread the word. There are still some that are not fully aware. We hope that business will pick up. We are especially concerned about non residents that don't know about the system.

In addition to the grant in 2010, we will also apply for another grant for year two in the program, to build up the sales revenue to have capital to work with. We are hopeful to get this grant. The revenues are being deposited, and we'll be working on the budgeting for the 2012 season.

Blair: have you had a chance to speak to public groups?

Hudson: We have made talks and presentations to a dozen or more different groups.

Blair: What has the feedback from them? There have been articles in the newspapers that indicated that folks were not particularly happy. Not happy with the extent of the trail system, etc.

Hudson: We always have some folks that do have those concerns.

Willems: I talked with that group you are referring to after the fact, and they were ok with what they saw of the system, it was the specific access of getting to the trail. Many of the examples they gave were not under the Forest Service regulation.

Blair: So much of the land is private, BLM, State, etc., and we don't have that jurisdiction.

Willems: Over all comments are that people are ok with what they see on the map.

Hudson: In the few instances with people having concerns, they will make a general statement about the map, but once you explain the legend, look at the map with them, they will understand. We open up the map first thing when we talk with groups.

Hoyt: Could you speak to the law enforcement issues; how have you staffed? What has been your experience so far?

Willems: The Patrol Captain was on our core planning team and implementation team, the crux of the law enforcement issue is tied to the education. First and foremost is education of the maps. We depleted our initial supply of maps in two months, we received another shipment, and they are in high demand. The main issue was that people did not understand that the decision map that was released in May and the MVUM that was released in September was not the same thing. 2/3 of the routes on the decision map were on the MVUM, the other 1/3 is what we'll build on. Going from the concept of having an open forest to a closed forest, that has been the big challenge. During the month of November, the Staff, the enforcement officers, recreation staff, etc., all went out to the field, primarily looking at hunters, and other visitors. The number of maps given out then helped deplete that initial stock. The Ranger Districts continued the

patrols last month, it was the education – Nancy Martinz says that is the first step in law enforcement. The actual professional officers, and Forest Protection Officers, are always going back and looking at what education has been done, what needs to be done, and holding more training. Even though it is the tip of the ice berg, our outreach has been affective. Frank and the Public Affairs group is doing a good job of communication, and working on the website.

Hoyt: As you measure hours devoted to that effort, do you have any idea of the man hours for education since December 1st?

Willems: It really hasn't been much of an issue with the weather we have had in December, but in November, we had several dozen employees out there. We had public meetings at each District, going over the map with individuals.

Hudson: Our main effort in October and November was making sure that come next year, when they come back for hunting season, they wouldn't be surprised.

Brown: What has been the communication strategy? Have you been working in cooperation with South Dakota Game Fish & Parks, with licenses, etc.? The SD GF&P is the initial contact Agency to so many individuals, have you been working with them to make sure that those folks are aware, and that there is a new system?

Willems: We've already had meetings with them, and we will meet with them next week as well. I have a new role right now; I am the Partnership Coordinator for the Forest and without a doubt the GF&P will be a main partner, and we will continue working with them.

Brown: It is important to have the information sent out to all the broad base of people that get correspondence from the GF&P. A broader information base is what we need, so that the enforcers become the users who remind people they come in contact with.

Hudson: As far as this year goes, Tom worked with them related to their printed material in their licenses. There was wording included that said you need to know that the Federal Grasslands and Forests have new travel management rules, and the licensed hunter needs to be informed.

Willems: We've worked with GF&P, and now I'm working with the communications groups there as well. We'll continue to work with them and develop more opportunities.

Martley: First I want to thank you for all you've done. From the recreation cabin permittees stand point; those permittees often have recreational vehicles in their cabin areas. There was a couple of sentences on the annual "pay your fee letter" that said there's the new rule, and here is where you can get more information. Using all of those avenues to get the word out is one of the best things you can do.

Willems: That is the importance of this Board; if you see where there are information gaps, let us know where we can improve.

Hudson: We'll have booths at the home show and sports show to pass out this information.

Scherrer: The key to success is appropriate communication. What is your strategy going forward this spring with regard to enforcement vs. education and what strategies do you have

with regard to interfacing with the Honda people and all who sell ATVs? Also, how many maps have you given out?

Willems: We've given out 15,000 maps.

Scherrer: There will definitely need to be cooperation between the commercial dealers selling ATVs and the Forest Service. I hope that the Forest Service enforcement division is not too aggressive with people early in the process. The general population does not yet have a clue about the new rules and it would not be in our best interest to have a heavy hand with enforcement early.

Willems: We do recognize that and that is why I repeatedly mention education. Law enforcement will happen, don't misinterpret that. A lot of people, who may be traveling from outside of the area, may not be aware of the new rule.

I talked with 450 students at Central & Stevens, and asked who rides ATV's or dirt bikes, 50% of them raised their hands. Then I asked how many of them have heard the term "travel management" and how the Forest Service is changing the rules; less than 10% raised their hand. This is a dominant user group. There are now 450 users that do now know the rules and have the maps.

There are six ATV dealers that want to help. They are putting up posters in their stores that demonstrate where to put the permit on the ATV. The dealers are assisting, and we'll continue to work with them.

Scherrer: There was discussion that you talked about initially, that when you come across someone on the trail system that does not have a permit, you could issue a "free pass" so to speak, and that would give users 24 hours to get a permit. The rest of the day you're cool, but then if you come back, you'll need a permit.

Willems: A lot of this will be done depending on the law enforcement or other employee's professional judgment. They may get a warning. They've used this in Wyoming, where a person got a warning, and then the individual has the responsibility of calling the law enforcement officer to let them know that they got their permit. There are a lot of tools.

Scherrer: I would encourage you to devise a system that allows volunteers to help with this warning system. Provide them with a non threatening tool that encourages a positive outcome, without negative feedback initially. If I'm a volunteer, I could give them a notice that advises them to go buy the permit. If it's done in mass in the field, giving people the opportunity to do the right thing, that will go a long way. If you try to do it with just law enforcement officers, it won't work, it won't be enough. You have to do it this spring. It is critical that early in the process we start out interacting with the public in a positive manner. The "*brand*" of the trail system needs to be positive right out of the blocks. If not, there will be significant challenges in trying to turn the perception from one of negativity to positivity. It's hard to bring it back in if you start out poorly.

Willems: I totally agree with you Jim. The law enforcement avenue is there but the education tool is where we are putting our effort.

Scherrer: I want to see us have a good turnout on the permits so that we can get the dough, so

that we can have law enforcement, but I don't want to penalize people who had no intention of doing the wrong thing, because they just didn't know.

Willems: Voluntary compliance.

Blair: We don't even understand the changes that are coming in people's lives. Pick a number between 60 & 80 thousand in the State of South Dakota, not to mention the visitors; we can't overdo the information curve. There was a tourism advertisement that said we only have one chance to make a first impression; if it's on a website, GF&P, Chamber of Commerce, Info booths on I90, whatever.

Willems: With enough information for folks; if we do the education right, we'll be better off. We do have the enforcement if needed. Mostly it is the lack of understanding.

Blair: Greg Mumm has information through his coalition that centers on the Region, not just the Black Hills.

Willems: Enthusiast groups will be reached out to. Information will be on their websites; a lot of opportunities. If we're overlooking something let us know.

Talking about the revenue, revenue is critical. To implement the decision, we need revenues. We started off with the grant from the Region, and we have been very aggressive in trying to get those types of revenues. That's what helped us get the permit and maps and helped us do some of the work we have done – even paying over time for some of the employees.

Last year, we applied for a recreation trail program grant from the State of South Dakota and received \$359,000. We can get reimbursed for installing cattle guards, resolving watershed issues, installing culverts, hardened stream crossings, etc., These are all things that were made possible through this grant. That along with the Recreational Trails program, we do have another \$100,000 that the Forest came up with not only to match the grant but to provide staffing, more maps, etc.

The implementation plan for this year is already set. We have the revenues in place and planned for certain projects. I'll be looking for more partnership and grant opportunities, to help maximize the revenues we have.

The money we are pulling in this year is going into the pool for 2012, and later this year, we'll develop our work plans for 2012. The \$359,000 is a two year grant, so we'll use it this and next year.

We also have some other tools; we have equipment that will enhance implementation of the trail system. We recently received a single track trail dozer and a mini excavator. These pieces of equipment will help us with our single track trail development as well as two tracks. The District has another larger trail dozer that is coming in this week. That gives us two large trail dozers and a mini excavator.

A three person crew with a dozer can do twice as much work. Even though we made a large upfront investment there will be a big savings. We will have more discretionary funding that will help us add to the trails – the money that will be generated from there is an unknown at this time.

Kile: You mentioned a grant from Yamaha, how much was that grant?

Willems: We have a requirement of a 20% match; the total project is \$420,000, so out of that other partners have contributed a lot of the money, the Forest Service matches, and it will take a lot of different partners. Yamaha was matching money – on the trial dozer they provided 20% of the cost, and on the larger dozer they gave us 5%. It is critically important to get these grants. Volunteer programs are also critical; they have done a phenomenal amount of work.

Tieszen: I agree with Jim that discretion is the name of the game. I have a lot of confidence in the law enforcement officers, they understand how new it is, and they will use good discretion. In the end, this is not a voluntary program, and somewhere out there will be someone purposely destroying the forest, and in that case they don't need a free pass, they need a ticket, restitution and a press release. Balance is a good thing.

Scherrer: I used to referee basketball games with Craig; do you think we had any trouble with the fans?!

Are we competing with the other 150 forests for money, giving this policy is in response to the Federal mandate?

Willems: Yes, and we're winning. We now have designated trails. Prior to December we had 860,000 acres, but we had no money for that, right now we have an additional several hundred miles of recreational trails, so the budget goes up, that is what the budget is based on. The fact that we did do this has made a difference.

For implementation, right now with the State and other grants, they have enhanced that limited money, there will be further enhancement next year when we have motorized permit money, 95% stays on the forest.

Hudson: The competition comes from offering a trail system that people will come here to use rather than somewhere else.

Willems: The last thing I want to discuss is the Trail Ranger Program. Years ago, we talked with the Travel Management Subcommittee about this program. It is a dedicated volunteer trail program. Many forests are successful because of the Trail Ranger program, and we will proceed to set up this up on the Black Hills. Education is a big part of it, these are the people who will be representing the Forest Service, not doing law enforcement, but doing the contacts and the education. We have a good start on getting that going, and I am committed to it.

Kile: Do those volunteers get any kind of payment or reimbursement, or not a dime? Is there a written contract between them and the Forest Service? Is that program administered through the Forest Service?

Willems: Yes, the volunteers have a written agreement with the Forest Service. We do treat them in many cases, like an employee but they are not paid, and they cannot do law enforcement. There could be travel per diem, or a stipend. But the key is they are volunteers.

Blair: As we went through the travel management process over the last three or four years, we found that there is a link to who rides ATVs and snowmobiles. We found that more than 50% of

the ATV people were also snowmobile people. It may be a link we should look at whether it is a database or simple wording to add to the snowmobile tag that lets them know that there is a new motorized trail system.

Willems: Good point; anything else?

Carroll: It's exciting to see the dozers working, if you haven't had a chance to see them, they are working outside of Nemo right now. They are working on the new motorized centennial trail. There is a spot on the trail with a new cattle guard installed, and there are already ruts six inches deep; the users love it. We have to be ready at the moment of contact, when someone walks in, we have relevant materials, that make sense, and we sell them the product.

Jaeger: I would like to make a recommendation that we take a short break.

Heinert: Thank you gentleman. I would like to say that I agree, education is a key component of the Travel Management Plan. But I would also like to say that the Board and Forest Service Staff need to be mindful that education is a process not an event. It is critically important that we have *continuing education*. Often times it takes a lot of education and repetition. We'll never get 100% compliance, so we'll need to know how to deal with those who choose to be non-compliant.

Heinert: It's 2:00 p.m.; let's take a 10 minute break.

Heinert: The meeting is back in session - call the meeting to order at 2:12.

Bobzien: In November we had our appreciation luncheon, we had a great meeting, and we had a few of our members missing. Dick Brown is here today, and I would like to present him with his jacket. Thanks for your service Dick.

Heinert: Thank you Craig. We achieved a quorum at 1:29 p.m. so we need to back up to the approval of minutes for November. Do we have a motion to approve the November minutes? Motion made by Jim Scherrer second by Tom Blair. All in favor say aye; opposed, same sign, motion carried. November minutes approved.

Now we'll approve the agenda, no modifications no additions. Do we have a motion to approve the January agenda? Motion made by Craig Tieszen second by Suzanne Martley. All in favor say aye; opposed, same sign, motion carried. Agenda approved.

Heinert: Let's go back now to our second hot topic, that of Legislative forecasts.

Bobzien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. When we set up the January meeting, it is on a different schedule to accommodate the legislative session. We would like to ask Senator Tieszen of South Dakota and Bill Kohlbrand representing Wyoming, to update us on any legislative issues that will affect us or are of interest to us.

Tieszen: First of all I apologize for being late, I've been unreasonably popular lately, but I'm glad I was able to get here in time to make a quorum.

The answer to the question is no at this point. We're just starting to get bills filed, and I'm not aware of anything that legislators are bringing forward. I'll try to monitor that – many of those

will come through Ag and I don't sit on that committee, but I will try to monitor that. If someone in the room knows something that I don't, I would be happy to hear questions or concerns. The word this is year is basically if it costs money, don't bring it. We'll have a tough year this year, because the constitution requires that we have a balanced budget. I predict that by the end of the day we'll do some cutting of government, and the deficit will put us in a quandary about cutting medicare and education. In the mean time while we are waiting, we'll deal with 500 other bills dealing with other subjects that are important.

Hoyt: As it relates to travel management, at one time there was a push to get legislation passed dealing with licensing ATVs etc. in the State of South Dakota. Will there be any such legislation this year?

Tieszen: I carried that bill last year and went down in flaming defeat. There has to become a realization that the State segment is necessary to have a good full plan. The State needs to act in conjunction with the Forest plan. As it matures, maybe people will see the wisdom and need to do it, but I doubt it will come out this year.

Kile: I would like to make a comment. I am frustrated when I read about the legislatures actions on illegal immigrant legislation. I feel very passionate about the resource, and the visitors that come here to use the resource. The thought of how we talk about immigrants is frustrating.

Tieszen: The Federal Government has been reluctant and unable to address the issue. States like Arizona are coming up with their own version as a stop gap measure and that is what we'll see here. Illegal immigration is not a big problem here, if it becomes uncomfortable to be illegal in Arizona, they may look at other States that are providing jobs, etc., and they will go to those States. We're in the process of trying to steer that to a reasonable middle ground.

Kohlbrand: On the Wyoming side, the biggest natural resources issue is the updated weed and pest statutes. They are going to tweak existing legislation, redefining some of the rules and trying to protect un-infested lands that are not affected, but are threatened by their neighbors and get the neighbors to manage the weeds and pests.

Heinert: Anything else? Thank you gentleman; let's go ahead and move into our next topic; Craig.

Checking the Course: Mountain Pine Beetles

Bobzien: Thank you Mister Chairman. I want to thank the members of the public that are here today. I want to also thank our Congressional Staff representatives, Chris Blair from Senator Johnson's office, Mark Haugen from Senator Thune's office, and Danika Allmer from Representative Noem's office.

The next topic is checking the course on the mountain pine beetle progress. This is a huge challenge. This has been an area you have been briefed on in the past, some of you have in depth knowledge, from the briefings we've had over time. The situation continues to challenge us, the stakes have increased, and the interest has increased – not just from the timber industry. I'm talking about tourism, neighbors; we received a petition with 900 signatures from "Save the BH Coalition", and I've had subsequent meetings with those individuals. By design what I've asked is from you as members to help us check our course, through a series of questions, to help us

gauge and strategize. You are more knowledgeable than the public, but I'm quite surprised by the continuing education. So we value your input to help us gauge how we are doing, with where we are, have our briefings been enough, what's at risk, understanding our actions. We want to ask each of you collectively. We'll close out with where we're at, but we want to use this to help our Forest Leadership Team that is looking at this issue. The beetles are in their 13th year. We've continued to focus on the beetle areas; it has gotten bigger, on the ground and in the public's eye. Our needs are greater than what is available, we need to prioritize and do the very best we can. Your information will help us in a strategic sense to prioritize and plan. With that, I hope you've given some thought to this. We want to take some time to help rack up the perspective. We'll give you a quick summary. Lastly, we will close with what we're doing now and your recommendations on how we can best communicate with the public.

Heinert: The best way to facilitate this discussion would be to go around the table and give each member an opportunity to share your answers to the questions Craig has posed. Given the time you've had to reflect and what you are observing.

Blair: Thank you Mister Chairman. Having been on this Board now for seven years, Jim and I are the only two that have been here this long I think. I was born and raised in East River, the Black Hills was a great place to visit, we moved here 37 years ago. The pine beetles have been here forever. We've watched the ebb and flow of pine beetles. People used to say they were in a seven year cycle. We are really in our 13th year of highs, and expedientially expanding in areas that have been sacred such as Norbeck, Black Elk, Deerfield, etc. Up till this last year or so, they have never really captured the interest of the general public, and it is geared to economics particularly when we shut down the fireworks last year. Now that we have their attention, there is a good chance to do the continuing education – there are things that need to be done, we may have to change or bend the rules to get things done. We're in a law suit and some things have been allowed to go on. It doesn't matter what side you are on, we all know that the Black Elk Wilderness is dead or dying. What I'm hearing from people, particularly them knowing that I have an interface with the Forest, is – Why aren't they doing more. It's hard to talk about the economics, the challenges from a legal stand point, and other things that come into play. I can remember going back several years – we shut down deer season one year. If we have a very dry fall, and pine beetles – those things affect people in the pocket book. We need to garnish some support, develop more money, cooperative plans; we're just starting into that with the counties. We know that the Black Hills is a huge area of 1.2 million and all of the private land within. Pine beetles don't recognize boundaries.

Carroll: 1.5 million total; 1.2 million National Forest.

Heinert: Thank you Tom. Let's focus on the two questions: what are you seeing and hearing, and do you understand the situation, actions, etc., begin taken.

Scherrer: As Tom talked about the fact that pine beetles don't know the difference between private and public land, I thought that his statement is a good segway to my presentation. I will talk about the issue of communication, and then offer some constructive input to the Forest Service regarding private ownership working together with USFS.

A map was displayed. Jim pointed out the road landmarks including the Junction of Hwy 244 and Hwy 385. He then described Hwy 87 to Sylvan Lake. The entire area to the east of those landmarks includes the Norbeck and Black Hills wilderness areas. All of the land in between is USFS except for some small areas of private land. I want to talk about the cooperative efforts of

the people that live in the forest. Everyone knows that Bob Thompson is the mystic ranger supervisor. Bob has coordinated a very aggressive plan for treatment of these areas outside of the Black Elk and Norbeck wilderness area.

Thompson: Our District has been ground zero for a lot of the pine beetle activity. It originally started on the north end, but the bugs moved south to Deerfield, by the Boy Scout camp, and some of those places. There is a little over 300,000 acres on the Mystic. We've done NEPA etc. on roughly 2/3 of the District. We had about 20 square miles of treatments under timber sale contracts, under units to be thinned almost exclusively tied to mountain pine beetle. Industry has gone gang busters. The bugs don't tell you where they are going, but when we would start seeing eruptions where we already had done analysis, we were able to jump in some of these spots. We have done a lot of treatments in the area Jim mentioned. The areas on the map, that as we've been working on the ground, we added in additional places in current contracts from the time the pine beetles flew until August. If you don't get to them quickly, it's all done. Once we hit June or July it's all done, the trees won't have commercial value, and there are secondary beetles that get into the trees. Crews got out and found additional areas; industry has been working on the areas. There are also areas on very steep terrain and we are working on a contract of helicopter logging. It's a critical area, along travel ways.

Scherrer: On November 17, I met with seven outfits from the Forest Service, and they were from all different disciplines.

Thompson: Folks included Enterprise Teams, that sell their skills that can respond quickly; Ken Hehr, Forester from Bearlodge and his job was to head up the task force; folks from the Districts; sale administrators, archeology.

Scherrer: This is a big mining area, 15 different mines in there, so we had to be careful with archeological concerns. One thing that impressed me was that they wanted my opinion – what I wanted to do next to my property. They explained about the different terrain, and how they could do more extensive clearing, and in other areas that are really steep – they'll have to cut the trees, some will be chunked and left. There's a big scenic difference between chunking and cleaning it up. But at the same time there is a big difference between having a house and property, in a setting that we don't want ruined because we haven't been aggressive. Between then and now, much of the area is completely done.

The effort that the Forest Service has made to cooperate with us has been outstanding. We bought the property in 2001. The blizzard of April 2000 was a disaster, and this property was hit very hard. In the last 4 years we have embarked upon a three-prong approach. We thinned dense areas and opened the canopy. We burned the trees we thinned. Every fall, we go out and identify the trees that have had bug hits that summer and early fall. Those trees are marked and taken out during the winter. We burn all residual brush so as to not increase fuel on the property. The third "*leg of the stool*" in this attack on the bug challenge is the spraying of trees in a preventative manner. We have a 300-gallon tank on a trailer that we use for firefighting, so we will use that equipment to treat the trees between May 1st and June 1st. The spraying strategy is based upon what we have learned about the beetles from the Forest Service as well as Warne Chemical.

If I buy land in the Black Hills, then I have a responsibility of stewardship to that land. Just as we all love the Black Hills, we all have a responsibility.

Where can we do better? I am very well aware that the evolution of knowledge is by definition, dynamic and ever changing. We all learn more each day about this beetle challenge. What is the best thing to do? As far as communication, we had an excellent example at the last NFAFB meeting, in that a gentleman brought a two-page document to the group, in color, containing information on the bark beetle. This type of information is very valuable and should be disseminated throughout the Black Hills.

Because of constant evolving information, we can't expect our treatments of the bark beetle infestation to be the same today as they were 10 years ago. Just like in medicine, we do not treat rheumatoid arthritis the same today as we did 10 years ago. Unfortunately, treatment protocols for the bark beetle have been a source of inconsistent information from differing agencies. The first area of conflict is the specific "*flight time of the beetle*". I have been told that they fly in early May. I have also been told by agency personnel that they do not fly until July. This information needs to be quantified and provided in a more consistent manner. The next area of inconsistency is the distance that the beetles fly. I have been told that the beetle flies no more than 2 miles and others have told me that under the proper conditions they can move hundreds of miles. Again, consistency is key. Tree spraying is the third point of communication. What is the best chemical to use, what is the best concentration, what is the best volume to place on the tree, how high on the tree, what types of trees, etc. This is a big deal. It can cost thousands of dollars to treat trees on a property. It only makes sense to assure the most cost efficient information is provided to all in a consistent manner.

Finally, I would just say that I am very gratified to see the work that the Forest Service has done with my wife and I in protecting both the public lands as well as our private property. The commitment, interest and involvement that we have had as a Board is also really good to see. It is frustrating when people ignorantly accuse the Forest Service of being lazy and not doing anything about this epidemic. We as Board members can educate folks through our exposure to the facts and our knowledge of the personnel and their commitment. We can relate this information to our friends and colleagues regarding the Forest Service in a positive manner.

Vonk: How large is your property?

Scherrer: 160 acres.

Heinert: I appreciate the fact that you are trying to model good stewardship, and build good relationships.

Scherrer: When this property came available, the Forest Service wanted it, it would have been perfect, but there are others that wanted to develop it and that would be horrible, so hopefully we can do the best for the property.

Tieszen: I feel completely intimidated; I don't own a house in the Hills, I don't have props or a guest speaker! Two years ago, I came on this Board, and my view is that the recognition of the problem was in the moderate stage, and I think there was a high level of frustration, based on ignorance, and a high level of frustration that there was something that could be done, but wasn't. The awareness now is much, much higher; no one can drive through the hills and not be aware. More importantly is that there is an awareness and understanding that things are being done. There's a lot of discussion about the competing interests, the education level of the general public has increased. They now understand that there are things that can and are being done, but there is no silver bullet – it's a huge issue and you can't snap your fingers and have it

solved. I see now as a result of the cooperative effort with the counties, etc., that we are in this together, private, government, etc., all of us against the beetles. In spite of the fact that lots of trees are changing color, we are making significant progress. It's a slow evolution.

Heinert: Let's take a 10 minute break (3:00).

Heinert: Let's pick back up with the mountain pine beetle discussion (3:08). I'll turn it over to Jeff Vonk.

Vonk: Thank you. After I got the questions from Craig, I visited with our State Forestry Agency, and get their view point. What I got back from them is that they are receiving a multitude of calls from private landowners about infestation moving from Forest Service land to private land. I have a friend that has 160 acres that is surrounded by the forest, and I listened to him for 45 minutes not long ago expressing his frustration. He is educated and treating his property, and he is frustrated that the infestation is moving from the Forest Service towards his land. He has spoken to the Forest Service, and has been told that he can't be helped. I'm not picking up on a lot of positive input. My recommendation would be to figure out some way – maybe an action team that could respond to private landowners. As a responsible party for a State land holding, you all know what we're doing in Custer State Park. There has been frustration on how we progressed, our thinning has worked, and we are pleased that we have gotten to the point where action has been taken on adjacent areas. What I'm hearing is that there is a fair amount of frustration.

Martley: As a follow up to what Jeff said, I too have spoken with property owners, the good news is that the couple of folks I spoke with had 40 or 50 acres, had a good experience contacting the Forest Service, and being handed off to the State folks who came out and marked the trees. They were not aware of the land owner assistance. These are people who are well educated. That is a good news story. On the flip side, two parts, one is personal, in the Black Hills experience, the other is in the perspective of my constituents.

Your cabin permittees are an opportunity yet to be found. In our area, people are just plain clueless. There hasn't been to my knowledge a specific contact to the permit holders about the bark beetle. There has to be a way to reach these people. We have this lot, it's not our property, and if it had all red trees, it wouldn't have much value. Its part of our contract to keep fire breaks, and do all these things, so there's a contractual agreement there that should be tapped in to – make us accountable.

From a perspective of the National Environmental Groups; we all live here, and we get our hackles up when people tell us how to do things, the perspective from afar, is, like Tom mentioned, we are in litigation. There are outside groups that feel invested here. The view from the national Environmental side is that the law says certain things about how you deal with environmental things and you must comply and the rational is that if the wilderness is the type of area that is natural, you have to let a fire burn or let the beetles take over. That may work alright in a huge Forest, but this Forest is so small, that you just can't let nature kill it all, but that is that philosophical view point out there; from a stand point of being an environmentalist. Thank goodness that you did you environmental analysis on these areas, so you can move ahead, the only shield you have in court is to have followed the procedures in the first place – so you have that defense.

Kohlbrand: I thought I knew what I wanted to talk about today, but now I'm not sure. Regarding the awareness in the Hills, the red on the highway 16 corridor is probably the best advertisement. On the Wyoming side we are still pretty green, we are in the 1,000s of trees infested, not 100,000 thousands. We are not getting a lot of calls; the trees are in South Dakota. The awareness is coming up, we are getting more interest, we have a 4-H group, weed and pest, county commissioners, and we are taking a proactive approach.

We've worked real hard with the Forest to work on projects within the forest. We work collaboratively we work with the Forest Service folks on the Inyan Kara Mountain. You can see red from the highway, and the idea was to identify green infested trees and get them chunked. Last week there was a decision made not to do that and that was a conflict with what I thought was agreed upon. There are 4,400 trees totally surrounded by private land – a gateway for the pine beetles to spread. That is extremely frustrating, we have a small staff – I'm afraid in a year that could be four times - 10 times that. I don't know what happened there for that expedient growth. I've already bothered Craig with it so don't need to say more.

We are running a task force of our inmate crews on State, and BLM land, not private. We have infested trees on the Forest, but it is a bit of a process to get the permission to go ahead and do it. It isn't going real smooth – communication issue. I don't want to belittle all the good work being done, because there is a lot of good work, and you are probably doing more than any other National Forest, but I think we can do better. And I think that things are picking up – the Save our BH Coalition is active, and they will become more active. The weed and pest – there are already some statues that will come into play. I wish we could get something done and not get mired down in the process, to do the right thing.

Scherrer: Is this land on the map, private?

Kohlbrand: 1,300 acres of Forest completely surrounded by private. The red is 4,400 infested trees.

Bobzien: Do you mind if I clarify? The Inyan Kara, (Inyan Kaga is the Native term), it is sacred, and has special management rules in our Forest Plan that says insects and disease will be allowed to run their course. So when a project of this nature was stopped it is because it is inconsistent with the Forest Plan. That is why we couldn't proceed. We are evaluating this, and we know that it is the number one concern area in Wyoming. We have an option, with public involvement; look at some type of Plan amendment to look at treatment out there. It's extremely important to Tribes, so consultation is a must. We need to make choices about where we continue our environmental planning to be consistent, to make some kind of proposed change, to reduce impacts. There has been no decision. This is the number one problem in that area. If we don't work there, where do we work?

Kohlbrand: The field work is done in this area; it's just the process work that needs to be done.

Kile: I was raised rural, near a border town; I didn't assimilate well into urban culture. I have an understanding of people who were raised rural, and have urban pushing in on them, they will move away either physically or in their mind. The systematic impacts of our lands are being realized. It has taken us how many years to talk about the impacts on the Black Hills. With an indigenous perspective I understand the systematic impacts taking place in the Black Hills.

I'm working on a project on my land that will be resistant to fire, and I admire those who are

doing stewardship and I admire the Forest Service for their outreach even when people want to blame the Forest Service. I continue to learn, and I continue to admire the people at this table.

Hoyt: I was raised a city person in Huron, South Dakota, so I'll offer a different perspective. I think the Forest Service has done a good job. Recently there was a very large article starting on the front page of the Rapid City journal, and this followed a meeting with Rapid Creek preservation. My friend had invited three speakers to address the pine beetle epidemic, and try to inform the people between there and Rapid City. So I think the public is becoming educated, and the more that you can use mass media to do that educates them more, and I would ask you to extend an offer to Carson who educated 40 sportsmen about the beetles. This is not new, Hopkins said that the way you do this is get it early, chunk it up, and you'll stop the spread. The more education that goes on the more involved they will get, but the more frustrated some will get. So there are now those who are asking, why didn't they get on this when it was small. There is still frustration that we can see these patches, why don't we get in there and address those patches? After Yellowstone burned, the policy changed that we'll fight these small fires, we'll put them out. We are at that point now, people see the evidence now and people say why don't we go get those. The other part is, what could I do to help, and the Save Our BH Coalition is a part of that; just an armature approach to offer assistance. They are asking - do you need more money Forest Service? You may get it through private channels. How can we be more proactive in addressing the beetle in smaller sizes? How about the little spots, when you see the small patches between here and Hill City. I don't know if we have any convicts in South Dakota, but could we get them out there? Education is growing, concern is growing, and frustration is growing. Figures vary but 50 to 80% of the forest is at risk, and I feel helpless to help alleviate the situation.

Brown: Clearly what we really need to take a look at is what we can do now that will make a difference. In 1995 we had the same hearings and a resolution was trying to get passed to react to the beetle. Clearly, if you talk to the average person there is nothing like awareness, all you have to do is drive from here to Custer and you'll see it. Now you have two million people visiting Mount Rushmore, and Custer State Park and 1.2 million acres of Forest Service, it has been my experience with water, that water hydrology doesn't care about boundaries – but what are we going to do now. Will the policy allow the feds to go in the areas and pick up some of their areas? The land I have around Custer, we've thinned trees – we're only as good as our neighbor and the Forest Service. The amount of effort it will take to make it work is overwhelming. A commitment to do something is not overwhelming. What currently is available on brochures, what they can do and how, consistence and communication is good. How many of the people and landowners have this in front of them. In this document it suggests to call State Forestry Agencies. We still need to build partnerships, recognize what's lost is lost, and what can we do with the current problem. The public is aware of it. We all have to live within these systems, there are only so many things we can do. Cooperatively, what can we do in the next 10 – 15 years? Finger pointing is easy, everyone has to do something. You need a federal system that is open to a quick response. We are all aware of it; you'll have some public support. They see it now – they see trees turning color.

Engleskirger: That stretch from Hill City to Custer in the last year has blown up. The large extent of the infestations was out of site out of mind, but in the last year it has gotten pretty bad. The amount of green infested trees between Custer and Hill City is scary. Everyone has seen it – it's in the journal all the time. I think the Forest Service is in a tough spot because everyone wants perfection. My hat's off to you for stepping up to the plate. Unfortunately we are in the middle of a burning house, and we are trying to get out. The \$200,000 for the States was huge

and stirred a lot of interest and got people in the know on the pine beetles. You're also trying to do an additional program on top of your regular program which is an important step in doing more.

You ask the question – What do I hear? I hear car horns because I have a sticker on my truck that says “bark beetle, public enemy #1”, and they like my bumper sticker. People are fired up about it – even our mail lady – came in and said she loves the sticker, and she started venting on the beetle. People want to save the Black Hills. We need to be more aggressive. We do have 100 years of research and it seems like we have to try to relearn all the time.

Schmidt's research stated that with multiple use management and pine beetles – sometimes you have to forgo some of the other resource areas, to save the rest of the Forest.

In the end, more acres treated are what we need. To me, I would rather see 2,000 acres treated than 200 helicopter acres. We're here to get you the money and I have good faith that you'll make it happen. Some areas, it seems like more could be done on the ground – look at the big picture and get things done. I know where you stand.

Scherrer: I need to quantify a comment that I made regarding the meeting that I had with the Forest Service personnel in November 2010. One of the groups at the meeting were those folks who walked thru the Forest Service property around our land. When I asked those people what the percentage of “*fresh bug hits*” were on the adjacent property surrounding our area, they indicated that it was 60 – 80% fresh hits.

Heinert: Thank you. I'll add a couple of comments of my own to complete the round table, as far as my perspective as a Board member. Certainly I agree with everything that has been said. It seems like the mountain pine beetle has done the most in the raising awareness process. The press we have gotten has been very, very good, both in the level of awareness and concern, and it seems to me that it would be good for the Forest Service and the private land owners to take advantage of the support of a more aggressive plan. A spin off of what Suzanne said, make sure you cross your T's and dot your I's. We need to allow ourselves to deviate from the plan sometimes so that we are not incapable of doing the right things. The laws and rules were made from man, but the pine beetles and trees were not. We have to be willing to make adjustments. We can't be too bound up in trying to do things right that we don't do the right thing.

Blair: This drives Craig crazy, and I bounced it off of Christopher, the whole process is a numbers game, and we finally gathered, the public's attention, and we've talked about doing the right thing – the only way to do that is that we have many many Forests – we're not unique – but we are unique about who we are. We are the most urban forest in the most rural state in the nation. Hundreds of thousands of acres of private, the only way to cure this – is not piecemeal. We suffer from paralysis by analysis, the only way to get a handle is to exempt the Black Hills and use it as a study area, and we become exempt for 20 years – and we use the best science to treat bugs – weather it is cutting, spraying, whatever, and at the end of that 20 years, the science that comes out of it will show us how to treat this problem in a much more overall umbrella. It's a numbers game and a money game. Until you're able to show real science; and numbers are real science, and how Jim has been able to treat, we could do that in a forest wide manner. We could put a halt to this, but it will take a lot of people to tell the Federal Government that we want to be exempt and do the science.

Martley: Exempting – I know everyone hates lawyers, but if you want to do something like exemption and if ever there were an environmental emergency this is it. I get it – my constituents don't. What I'm hearing is how does this fit in the national picture, and if you want to pursue exemption, we need to engage people who are constituents from afar, people who will never visit the Black Hills find it to be a compelling, sacred place, and they are the ones that will litigate. Until you can reach out, and get the head of the National Sierra Club or Natural Resource Coalition Club, bring them here, walk them around; there won't possibly be a change. I moved here from Washington DC and my perspective has changed. It's not just about us – it's a National Forest, and you can't get an exemption because things are tough – you have to bring the rest of them along. Reaching out, understanding, contact might help.

Kile: I would like to finish with some of what I hear. Working at Bear Butte, and living there; Bear Butte is a part of the Black Hills. People didn't stop coming to pray at Bear Butte just because of the burned trees, and I don't think the beetles will stop us from loving the land, the picture postcard won't always be there, you gotta love the land, she's our mother.

Bobzien: Thank you for putting thought into these questions before the meeting, this far exceeded my expectations. If I had one wish, I would have had my entire Forest Leadership Team here to hear this. You all know Bob Thompson, Frank Roberts is our Acting Natural Resource Staff Officer. The reason I say that is because we are at a point with the Forest Leadership Team that we have a strategy and a plan we need to check the course. You all hear a lot of the suggestions, why we do things a certain way, why it does matter, and you guys did a wonderful job illustrating that. What we plan to do is close out talking briefly about the strategy, and as we move forward taking your notes and comments, sharing with our Leadership Team, and how we work with the public and do the treatments on the Forest. Our responsibilities as stewards to you and the native people, and your input help us get to it. Everyone has a different perception of what perfection is. We'll re-steer this where we can.

In the paper I talked about a vision that we will have a more open Forest in the future – it's inevitable. We've evolved from the 80s and 90s when it rained a lot, then it changed, we have more fires, more beetles. Our Forest Plan is quite contemporary – it recognizes the impact of the mountain pine beetle and fire. History would say that we'll have a more open Forest; it's still about having the public understand. We have a good Forest Plan, we want to honor that Plan, we want to apply it where we can, and adjust it where we can.

Carroll: Displayed maps of 2005 to 2010 of areas where acres of orange trees have appeared.

Bobzien: One of the areas we've looked at as we apply the Forest Plan and look at these larger areas. Our staffs and specialist try to look at where to go and what makes sense, we try to look at larger landscapes. We had a systematic way of how we looked across the whole Forest; why here, why now. That served us pretty well, but now we are at this cusp, where our schedule, personnel and resources have gotten through a good part of the Forest. Most of the red in the center of the map has been covered by Environmental planning. Not much to do on steep slopes. Bob described his District as ground zero. Bob carried a lot of the most active management, because that is where the activity was.

Brown: Does this reflect the infestation only on National Forest or all lands? Is this the big comprehensive picture?

Bobzien: This map shows all public and private.

Bobzien: We found that thinning in the advance of beetles works. After the beetles hit, then not so much, and we applied this across the forest. We completely stopped doing work on the ground in Wyoming because it was not at risk like it is South Dakota. These different colors represent some of the different land ownership. All said we have, through the efforts of the last six years, we've covered most of the Black Hills National Forest, and Bob and the other Rangers have anticipated the beetles, and it has allowed us to go where the beetles are – where we could do it economically. Some of the areas have not been treated due to the complexity of the landscape. When you treat and thin you are reducing the large crown fire possibilities. We've come out of the drought two years ago, most of the research suggests that the mountain pine beetle situation should collapse, but it hasn't. The here and now is, we are continuing on with our traditional approach, but we know that those methods themselves are not necessary right. Our strategy is to continue thinning, and couple that with additional treatments in hot spots – sanitizing those areas, moving those out commercially where we can. In some of those areas, we are buying time. Some of you said that private land owners haven't gotten treatment. We have 350,000 acres that we don't have environmental analysis done yet. So we are at a point that we have to decide. We have tradeoffs; we have to work closely with our Agency. We are filling the mills right now. Industry has worked fantastically with us, to try to buy time and do the best for the long term.

The second part beyond removing the bug hit trees is where we can go do cutting and chunking. Custer State Park did that. Where it makes sense we'll do that; our legacy trees, in campgrounds, etc., spraying those. Those are some of our additional treatments. We currently have more work than budget.

The other big piece is the other 350,000 acres that we don't currently have environmental plans for and we know we have changed condition. So again, we're working closely with timber industry, working with our own folks on the budget, trying to prioritize. The other aspect of this, Carson eluded to. It was really clear that we need to focus on doing what we can do, but working with others to do more. The State Foresters, and others, a huge public interest, and our State and Private branch of Forestry in the Forest Service are what the income resource is; we wanted more immediate action, to buy us some time. This has worked out well, \$200,000 to assist private land owners.

We have a model for increasing capacity on private lands, but it's a start up model. The advice you have given us will help us apply this. These are just some of the things that we are working on.

Vonk: So you have teams that have spot treatments, and that is along side of the teams that are doing the commercial, do you have a way to accept either financial or labor kinds of help on parts of Forest lands where the private land owners see the approaching infestation – when a guy comes out and says yes, it's here, and there's nothing they can do –especially if the NEPA work is done. It causes a tremendous amount of frustration. An opportunity has been described for the Forest Service because of the tremendous energy and resources that are available. Find out a way to accept that.

Bobzien: For the cross boundary work, there are some authorizations being made by our District Rangers, on each District. Because they are specific case by case situations – generally if it is a commercial timber sale, a Forest Officer has to designate that timber. We are doing a lot of preventative work.

Thompson: We have people call us up and they want to know what can be done. If they have 5 to 20 bug hits adjacent to their land, we'll give them permission to cut and chunk. If it's a large area, we look to see if we already have it in a timber sale and sometimes we do. Some areas might be within cutting units that have been sold. In other cases, we don't have a timber sale there, but the answer is, it needs to come out as a timber sale, there are certain rules, we can't just let people cut down trees and remove them. In some cases we could make arrangements with the landowner, and an operator, to negotiate a small sale. The problem will be in April and May; our phones will be ringing off the hook. If people call us now, we don't have some options. These are in places where environmental analysis is done. In places that environmental analysis is not done, there are some things that can be done. Encourage them to talk directly to the District Ranger. We are very sensitive about the feelings of the private landowner.

Martley: Do you have a strategy for mitigating the time required for an environmental analysis on the 350,000 acres that are not done; have you thought about an exemption?

Bobzien: We had an invitation recorded at an earlier meeting that we requested alternative arrangements from CEQ. We provided a lot of information to them, and it did not move forward. It was December 18th or 20th when our discussion with CEQ and the W.O. did not move forward.

Jaeger: Craig & I were talking directly to the W.O. and CEQ and providing information. We don't know where it will go, but the last information was that it wouldn't go much further.

Martley: CEQ is the one that has the power to exempt Agencies from doing NEPA.

Blair: Does that stop because of pressure from someplace else, or why does that stop?

Jaeger: I can't say that it has stopped, but the impression is that we are having a tough time explaining the definition of an emergency. We've had bark beetles before, so explain to me why this is now an emergency. CEQ does not issue an exemption lightly. We made a good pitch and we continue to work with them. There are other options, such as programmatic work, and we are doing that now. We're looking at our five year plan, and also looking at the areas that we know we can't get to in three to five years, that would allow us to do some of the cut and chunk stuff. I appreciate the additional ideas, thank you Suzanne.

Tieszen: What we've all missed here is that we've underestimated the intelligence of the beetles, they have been able to out run the Forest Service, but they haven't triggered the unlimited resources from FEMA!

Hoyt: There was notice put out to those in the Silver City area that Bob would appear at the community hall, and he did, and he did a wonderful job of explaining the thinning. Bob and his team out drew Santa three to one!

Brown: What is the critical nature of our commercial capacity to do something with this wood that we can cut out early, and does that give us an upper hand? That's an element of our time table. If the Carsons of this world are not here we may not be able to function.

Bobzien: We are very fortunate to have the industry here to do the sustainable thing and at a lower cost. If we wait till the trees are dead the cost is very high. Creating the jobs, the sustainability, etc., is so much more favorable.

Kohlbrand: In dealing with landowners for 29 years, it used to be when you dealt with someone from Colorado who had land in Wyoming, it was hard, but now it is easy, because they have already lost what they own in Colorado. So hopefully the lessons learned in other places will grease the skids for us here, because there are only a couple of green Forests left in the west. Montana, Wyoming, We've got the Bighorns and the Black Hills land, we need to do something.

Bobzien: We had the one last question and last comments on communication with the public.

Heinert: The last question, how can the Black Hills National Forest communicate most affectively on this issue?

Scherrer: Be consistent, gather the data, evaluate the data and be consistent.

Blair: Take lots of pictures of Colorado.

Brown: If you could put an information card out all across South Dakota, with information on how the private landowners, along with the State and Federal Agencies can prevent, eliminate, identify, and what help is available. Also is it 20 miles or two feet – the more info the better.

Engleskirger: The networking, running the trap lines, State Forestry, Industry, Environmental Groups, and Conservation Groups. Make a brochure to distribute, the common voice. A lot of people are educated about pine beetles. People call our office all the time to by Christmas tree permits, but we end up talking about the pine beetles. You would be surprised what people know. Kevin Wooster at the Rapid City Journal has done a great job. If you live in the Black Hills and you see it, if you want to learn you will learn. There's only so much you can do for people.

Kile: I heard a very wise man at a consultation say, with regard to these sacred sites, "Go to the Tribes, go to the reservations, tell them your difficulties, talk to them there".

Martley: You have a website that is mostly friendly, but it is in the Forest Service architecture and it doesn't have a lot of flexibility. You already have the media focusing and if you could take that theme and have an internet presence that all of the interest groups could put a link on – you could get the consistent information, from a link.

Carroll: not only is that a great idea in my view, who in here is familiar with the fire restriction website. It's a place with a map, and you can find out what every Agency and fire department is doing, what the restrictions are, etc. That's not depending on the Forest Service. We pay for this service. Dave Thom brought this up, and the Federal government can't always set up, but we can participate in someone else's site.

Tieszen: The mountain pine beetle subject is bigger than a sound bite or brochure; this is a sportsman club, commissioner meeting, issue. You can take bites out to the public; take some time, answer questions, invite yourself to every group you can think of.

Heinert: Any more suggestions?

Bobzien: Thank you all for your great thoughts, we appreciate you.

Heinert: We'll bring to a close the discussion of mountain pine beetles for this meeting and

move on to public comments.

Public Comments

Chairman Heinert: If anyone from the public wishes to address the Board, please do so.

There are no comments from the public.

Heinert: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 1:00 p.m. at the Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Spearfish Canyon.

Martley: Rapid City Government has an Urban Forest Board. The Board is like this one, and they are seeking members. There is an application on the website.

Carroll: Monday night and Tuesday night two entomologists met with 100 people for a couple hours and talked about what is happening and what we can do. It wasn't an Agency show – it was folks who wanted to know what to do in their yard.

Heinert: At this time I would like a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Bill Kohlbrand, second by Suzanne Martley. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

2011 Meeting Dates:

February 16 – Spearfish Canyon Lodge

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

July – No Meeting

August 17 – Field Trip

September 21

October 19

November 16 – Recognition Luncheon