

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting (SCRAC)

May 26th, 2010

USDA Service Center, Shasta-Trinity National Forest

3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002

Members In attendance:

Genevieve Seely, Ted James (Chairman), Ken Showalter, Sylvia Milligan, Brenda Haynes, Terry Thomas, Rose Sloan

Members Absent:

Wendy Johnson (Vice-Chairman), Sharol Schaefer, Bob Allen, Les Baugh, Gary Nakamura, Glenn Hawes, Carol Ann Perea

USFS/County in Attendance:

Rita Vollmer (Acting RAC Coordinator)

Public:

Emily Moreno (Note taker), Steve Uhles, Stacy Standish (Dept. of Fish & Game), John Livingston (Shasta College), Ben Lewis (Turtle Bay), Lemoine Waite (Shasta College)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Corrections were requested to be made to:

- Item 3, on page 2: add the word “been” to the sentence “application had;” **corrected – “application has not been”**
- Item 7, on page 2: the addition of “a” after “publish for three;” **corrected – publish for a three”**
- Item 1, page 3, under header “Discussion:” the addition of the are “are” to “students who able to;” **corrected – “students who are able to”**

ACTION: a motion was made by Brenda Haynes to approve the minutes for the date of April 28th, 2010, with corrections to be made.

- a. Motion was seconded by Sylvia Milligan.
- b. Motion was voted on: all members in favor of motion, none opposed, and none abstained.
- c. Motion passed, to approve minutes.

AGENDA REVIEW:

RAC members were provided an agenda for today’s meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments were made by members of the public.

USFS ITEMS:

INFORMATION: Rita Vollmer announced that Scott Armentrout (previously the Deputy Forest Supervisor and DFO for the RAC) had accepted another position on the Sierra National Forest and would no longer participate as the DFO in the RAC meetings.

- Rita Vollmer announced that the USFS would be trying to replace the DFO, as soon as possible.
 - A possible candidate to fill the DFO position temporarily would be Donna Harmon, who has acted as the DFO for the Trinity RAC in previous years.
 - Rita Vollmer also advised the RAC members that Ray Mooney (Public Affairs Officer and RAC Coordinator) should be returning from his detail in Vallejo, CA in June. Until Mr. Mooney returns Ms. Vollmer will remain as the acting-RAC coordinator.
- 1.) An update was given on the number of incoming proposals for the upcoming funding cycle to be considered and voted on. The final date for proposal submittals is May 28th, 2010.
 - Rita Vollmer advised that to-date a total of 4 proposals have been received, but more are expected to come in as final date to submit the proposals approaches.
 - Rita Vollmer also stated that there could be possibly be some problems with the changing areas of the proposal submittal form and e-mailing it. Ms. Vollmer is expecting to receive more hard copies of proposals later in the week.
 - 2.) An update was given on advertising for recruiting replacements members for the RAC.
 - Rita Vollmer advised that the advertisement had currently been running in the Redding Record Searchlight. Ms. Vollmer suggested having the advertisement woven in with the planned field trip that is intended to highlight the RAC's activities to the public.
 - Ken Showalter suggested that the advertisement be considered less urgent, because of the length of the application process and upcoming fund/proposal dates.
 - Ted James suggested that the advertisement continue to run, but that priority be placed on the upcoming voting process.
 - 3.) An update was given on the corrections made to the USFS website, regarding RAC information.
 - Rita Vollmer advised that the RAC information had been moved under a link titled "Highlights." It was also advised that the RAC informational video that had been created in previous years be located, and Ms. Vollmer was attempting to have it added to the USFS website.

RAC ITEMS:

INFORMATION: The RAC had requested that an informational presentation be given by several groups that received approved proposals in the last funding cycle.

- 1.) John Livingston from Shasta Colleges Heavy Equipment Department invited RAC Members outside to view the newly purchased 27,000 ton, Tier 3(least polluting) Komatsu excavator. The excavator had just recently been purchased due to some delays in funding. Mr. Livingston advised the RAC that they had originally intended to purchase the standard grade model of excavator, but was able to purchase an excavator that had many expensive and useful upgrades that are valuable to the education of students. The company (Komatsu) had worked with the college to discount the excavator which had been special ordered by a customer then cancelled after the excavator had been built. The price of the excavator was originally estimated at \$170,000 with about an additional \$10,000 in upgrades that were added; the college received a reduced price of \$136,000. About 80 students are currently in the Heavy Equipment program and about 40 students have used the excavator since the

- college received it. The excavator is extremely versatile and capable of everything from fire line maintenance to road easement mowing; several projects are already being considered in the future (road easement mowing for the USFS, and the removal of Nelson Creek Dam for the Shasta Lake Ranger Station).
- 2.) Ben Lewis from Turtle Bay Exploration Museum gave the RAC an update on the progress of the Sustainable Forest: Mobile Learning Center. Mr. Lewis advised that the mobile learning center is used like a little, traveling museum that is modified to meet the educational needs for students between K-12 grades. Trailer is made available to the public at various events, and schools through reservations that can be made on the museum's website or by phone, and ran by volunteers that are leading members in the forestry management community. The average cost for a school to reserve the trailer is \$900.00 (for transportation and curriculum supplements). Due to the increasing lack of funding for schools the mobile learning center has not seen much activity this year.
 - 3.) Lemoine Waite from the Shasta College Natural Resources Department gave an update on the Happy Valley Elementary School Greenhouse Enrichment Project to the RAC. Ms. Waite and a student assistant advised the RAC that they had been able to initiate much of their initial goals by starting the greenhouse at the Happy Valley Elementary School. Students have recently begun to propagate and care for various native and non-native species; the school is currently planning on attending the Strawberry Festival and attempting to sell seedlings. Ms. Waite advised the RAC that the project was beginning to succeed, but the Natural Resources Dept. felt they may need to request an extension of time from the USFS to continue work, because of delays in establishing an individual to contact at HVES.

SHASTA COUNTY ITEMS:

No comments were made.

RAC-TIVITY:

Nothing was reported for RAC-TIVITY.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Ted James adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.