

Shasta County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting (SCRAC)

March 30th, 2011

USDA Service Center, Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002

Members

In Attendance:	Stan Leach	Les Baugh	Genevieve Seely
	Ted James	Sharol Schaefer	Sylvia Milligan
	Ken Showalter	Brenda Haynes	Gary Nakamura

Members

Absent:	Glenn Hawes	Terry Thomas	Wendy Johnston
		Carol Perea	

USFS/County

In Attendance:	Sue Crowe	Donna Harmon – DFO
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Public:

Maureen Teubert	Steve Uhles	Todd Sloat
Kevin Klocke	Jeremy Kelly	Mary Mitchell
Ben Hopkins (notes)		

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Shasta County RAC members and guests provided self introductions. A 2011 Contact List was distributed for updating and revision. Copies of RAC Website pages, a published meeting announcement, 3/30/2011 Agenda, 9/1/2010 Minutes, upcoming Webinar information, 2010 Request for Proposals example and previous timeline information were disseminated.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: A motion was made by Stan Leach to approve the **minutes** from September 1st, 2010

- Motion was seconded by Brenda Haynes
- Motion was voted on: all members in favor of motion; none opposed, and none abstained.
- Motion **Approved**

AGENDA REVIEW:

The SRAC members will be reviewing the following items for the March 30th, 2010 meeting:

1. USFS Items: Update on 2010 Approved Projects, Information on 2011 monies for 2012, Information on status of Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization
2. County Items: Information on Title III project proposals, Fish & Game fine funds, Production of RAC-TIVITY
3. RAC Items: Discussion/Actions on Election of 2011 Chairs, Set Timeline for RFP, Select project types for “Request for Proposals”

PUBLIC FORUM: No comments were made.

USFS ITEMS:

UPDATE: Advertisement and filling of RAC member positions continues to be a cumbersome process, as does the length of time for applicants to become vetted by the Secretary of Agriculture. One member has just been approved in Trinity County. Currently, there is no Shasta County RAC Coordinator; the position should be filled in April. RAC webpage is in need of update – broken links and no recent meeting notes.

DISCUSSION: The USDA Chief (Rick Alexander) wants a diverse applicant pool. Waiting on clarification what can be done to expedite process. RAC Members continue to express concern in regard to potential negative impacts to committee function, specifically during the project recommendation voting process, with a number of vacant seats. Members expressed that the lengthy vetting process is discouraging for a “volunteer” position. Genevieve Seely proposed that more avenues of outreach be explored.

ACTIONS: Les Baugh offered to bring member vetting process to Chief’s attention via his contacts, if no one objects. Donna will seek clarification on process from Sharon Heywood. Gary Nakamura expressed the option of a letter from the RAC Chairman; Donna concurred it may help expedite things; perhaps an email to Chris Nota from RAC Chairman would provide faster results. Donna will contact Gary Chase (just returned) to update RAC webpage and links.

PROJECT UPDATES:

RAC Monitoring Project: Kevin Klocke and Jeremy Kelly of Shasta College presented to the Committee a large scale GIS map, with accompanying binders containing monitoring reports and maps (Natural Resources Student Monitoring Project). There is a new student on the project, goal to bring enhanced communication. RAC Members encouraged to record monitoring information during current and future project presentations in their binders. Jeremy asked that RAC members seek to obtain specific spatial data from proponents for more accurate project mapping and forward to him. Before & after photos are desirable for all projects; the impact on reporting is greater. Photos can be sent to Melissa Jackson: majackson@fs.fed.us. It was discovered that Title III projects were included in the monitoring database – to be omitted.

Sulfur Creek Fuel Break: Ken Showalter updated RAC on monitoring the Sulfur Creek Fuel Break in the Castle Crags area. Shaded fuel break along 133 eliminated ladder vegetations. Proposed at least two members visit sites, including the adjacent Castle Crags Vista Fuel Reduction site, for a more diverse perspective.

FRRCD Stewardship Project: Todd Sloat gave a PowerPoint presentation of recent Fall River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) activities. Take Home: RAC vision has worked. Map shows there are increasing number of large scale projects because collaborative agreements are more marketable. Substantive Federal funding proposal completed and submitted. Map of highlighted projects, including expected NEPA decision year. Todd noted that the entire forest is basically slated for treatment in the next ten years. Proposed treatments would provide \$11-million in cost savings of reduced fire suppression activity, and 220 jobs (mostly temporary) would be created, not including trickle-down to local businesses. RAC funded projects Burney Gardens, Whittington, and Lower Hat Creek are tracking well and agreements are being finalized. Burney Gardens is a good example of a small scale plan that attracted additional interest. Collaborative plans are less of a litigation target because community is more involved.

BLM Inter-lakes Stewardship Agreement: Maureen Teubert provided a PowerPoint presentation and handout of Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD) activities. A ten year stewardship agreement of 30,000-acres was initially funded by the SCRAC under Title II (\$132,000) and recent additional BLM contribution (\$25,000). Unit 1 of Flat Creek was completed in 2010, and units 2 and 3 are slated for 2011. Vegetation recovered and collected for biomass use, roads ripped, treated areas seeded and mulched, trash removed, invasive species treated and/or removed.

2010 Pacific Crest Trail Work – Backcountry Horsemen of California: Video presentation tabled until April meeting due to time constraints.

USFS ITEMS:

2010 – 2011 Title II funding has become available in recent weeks. Sharon has yet to approve any Project Managers; however, three have been identified. Susan Irwin identified for Shasta College Monitoring. PCT - BCHC should go quickly – need confirmation on NEPA. Platina to Bully Choop Fuels Break project is on hold (\$50,000). Approval is unlikely if Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group cannot rectify current fiscal issues and assume fiduciary responsibilities; or have another organization take over as fiscal agent. However, NEPA should be in order. Monies to be recommended in 2011 - 2012: \$187,350 gross, **\$175,000** net (minus 7% overhead fees) estimated. More funding potentially available if any previous year project monies returned. Focus in 2011 will be to spend all available funds and provide “back-up” projects to fund should difficulties arise. Goal is to use all available funds to the benefit of Shasta County forestlands.

RAC ITEMS:

ACTION: A motion was made by Gary Nakamura to maintain the status quo of (Ted James) Chair and (Wendy Johnston) Vice-Chair for 2011

- Motion was seconded by Genevieve Seely
- Motion was voted on: all members present in favor of motion; none opposed or abstained
- Motion **Approved**

DISCUSSION: 2011 Request for Proposals (RFP) items and timeline discussed; will require additional meeting time and further information to finalize. Interest expressed in once again hosting a Grant Workshop to be scheduled for proponents in Shasta & Trinity Counties. Opportunity to share changes in Federal NEPA requirements; items of particular interest to the Resource Advisory Committee; and expectations in Grants and Agreements process.

COUNTY ITEMS:

Shasta County items postponed until April meeting.

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION:

April 27th - USFS – or possibly adjacent Northern California Service Center (NCSC) classroom

May 25th - Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) – Conference Room – Anderson

Suggested Agenda Items: Title II / III County percentages; Jonathan Kusel Moonlight students; continued Project Updates; Finalize Request for Proposals; Finalize 2011 Timeline

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Ted James adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.