

Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

09/30/2020

Meeting called to order by RAC Coordinator Robin Jermyn at 6:05 p.m.

I. Call to Order, Agenda Review and Committee Update

Roll call initiated by Robin Jermyn.

RAC Members Present Virtually:

Group A

Zach Whipple-Kilmer
Karen Sheets
Colleen McCarthy
Don Feist
Mike Lilly

Group B

Ron Warren
John Errecart
Randy Hojem

Group C

Kevin Meredith
Carol Brooker
Greg Hanson

Members not present:

Ned Winebrenner, Kim Matthew, Bob Brown

Designated Federal Official: Erin Carey

Coordinator: Robin Jermyn

Guest(s):

Heather Berman

Robin reviewed the agenda and provided opportunity for DFO to share opening comments.

3 representatives were present from each category, so a quorum was present.

II. Elect Chair & Review/Approval of Previous Minutes

Carol Brooker went on record at the 9/23/2020 meeting nominating Colleen McCarthy as chair for the committee. Robin verified that this motion still stands.

- Motion – Carol Brooker
- 2nd – Ron Warren
- Passed Unanimously

Robin agreed to continue to facilitate tonight's meeting but would follow up with Colleen on how future meetings will be handled.

Robin emailed out the previous 2 meeting minutes directly to members on 9/28/2020 for review.

- Motion made to approve the 9/23/2020 meeting minutes:
 - Motion – Ron Warren
 - 2nd – John Errecart
 - Passed unanimously
- Motion made to approve the 04/08/2020 meeting minutes:

- Motion – Ron Warren
- 2nd – John Errecart
- Passed unanimously

III. Project Ranking Review & Discussion

Robin received all but 3 members ranking sheets prior to the meeting. The 3 missing were the members not present at the meeting. All ranks were compiled, and the overall rankings were provided to committee members via screen sharing. Robin reviewed the following information with members:

- A total of \$240,004 funds are available.
- Based on initial rankings the money would stretch to 14 projects, but not fully fund the Plains/Thompson Falls RD RAC Proposal – Weed Treatment project. This project would only receive \$24,262.20 of the \$29,646 requested if no changes were made.
- Robin noted that projects 2 & 3 as well as 9 & 10 had same overall ranking. Committee was not concerned with this since all these projects were above the funding line.

Committee Discussion:

- Kevin M. inquired about whether or not any of the projects below the funding line were likely to receive GAOA funding. Erin discussed that there were a lot of deferred maintenance projects submitted for GAOA funding, but projects like those below the funding line here were not rating out high to receive GAOA funds this next year.
- Randy H. noted that the Cabinet Ranger District Youth Conservation Corps Crew project is above the funding line but is actually for the 2022 season. He stated he is a proponent of the YCC programs, but just wanted folks to be aware that this is not a project that will be implemented in 2021, but instead the money would be in the bank for the following year.
 - Several others contributed thoughts as to whether it makes sense to adjust this rating or not. All agreed that the YCC is one of the favorite projects, but since it is an out year project perhaps the ranks could be adjusted. Carol provided some information regarding the status of out year SRS funds. Heather discussed opportunities for the RO to provide out year YCC funds.
 - Ultimately the group decided to leave the ranking as is and not chance this program not receiving funds the following year.
- Several folks discussed that they really wanted to see the eDNA project receive some funding, but it rated out at #18.
- Karen Sheets mentioned that the Kootenai road projects would not receive any funding this round if the rankings stay as is.
 - John Errecart offered his thoughts on his approach to rankings this round. He stated that he looked at the repeat projects that were submitted this spring that already received funding and rated them lower in order to share the wealth to some other program areas this round. All of these projects are good, and all the programs could use the additional fiscal support.
- Motion made to fund 50% of the requested amount of the Aquatic eDNA Sampling on the Cabinet Ranger District. The money would be pulled from project 14, Plains/Thompson Falls RD RAC

Proposal-Weed Treatment. The eDNA project would receive \$8085, and the Weed Treatment project would receive \$16,177.

- Motion – Ron Warren
 - 2nd- Zach Whipple-Kilmer
 - Passed unanimously
- Motion made to approve the overall rankings of all 21 projects, as modified with the adjustment listed above to the funding levels.
 - Motion – Randy Hojem
 - 2nd – Greg Hanson
 - Passed unanimously
 - As ranked, the 50% requirement would be not quite be met for this round of projects. This round of rankings resulted in 47% of funding that would be applied to projects that are primarily dedicated to road maintenance, decommissioning, obliteration or restoration of streams and watersheds. The last round was at 71%, so overall the group has still met the 50% requirement.

IV. Title II Project Recommendation

The final ranking as approved/recommended is:

1. Cabinet Ranger District Recreation, Trails and Wilderness Crew
2. Fishtrap Lake Trail #1104 Extension and Improvement
3. Plains/Thompson Falls RD Trail Maintenance
4. Plains/Thompson Falls RD Rec Access Rd Improvement - Brushing & Blading
5. Plains/Thompson Falls FPO/GAOA Recreation Seasonal
6. Sims Meander Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project
7. Mouth of Swamp Boat Ramp & Camp Site Improvements
8. STOP the New Invaders
9. Vermilion Area Trails Maintenance Project
10. Cabinet Ranger District Youth Conservation Corps Crew
11. Vermilion Boat Launch Toilet ADA Upgrade
12. Scotchman Peaks Recommended Wilderness Area Trail Maintenance Project
13. Vanquish the Ventenata
14. Plains/Thompson Falls RD RAC Proposal-Weed Treatment (*will not be fully funded*)
15. Jack's Gulch BMPs
16. Donlan Dispersed Recreation Access Improvement
17. Road Blading
18. **Aquatic eDNA Sampling on Cabinet Ranger District (*will receive 50% of funding requested*)**
19. Cabinet Machine Roadside Brushing
20. Campground Unit Marker Posts
21. Cox Gulch Road Storage

V. Open Discussion

- Colleen inquired about the possibility of scheduling monitoring trip(s) to look at project proposals, or approved projects post implementation.
 - Robin/Erin agreed that this is certainly something that could be arranged this next year with input from the group on which projects they would like to see.

- John E. also mentioned that it would be nice to get reports regarding the number of acres treated, or miles of trail completed, etc.
 - Robin will compile this information and provide a power point to the group for the next spring meeting.
- Ron inquired about how well received the Fee increases have been by the public. Heather responded stating that the official increases have not yet been implemented. Some will go into effect with the new fiscal year, but the seasonal rentals will not go into effect until they open next spring/summer.
- No further comments/questions received.
- Motion to adjourn meeting.
 - Motion – Ron Warren
 - 2nd – Zach Whipple-Kilmer
 - Unanimously passed. **Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**