

# **Sanders County Resource Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Notes**

### **04/08/2020**

Meeting called to order by RAC Coordinator Robin Jermyn at 7:05 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

##### **Group B**

Ron Warren  
Andrew Ordelheide  
John Errecart  
Randy Hojem

##### **Group C**

Robert Brown  
Carol Brooker  
Greg Hanson

#### **Members not present:**

Keven Meredith, Ned Winebrenner, Kim Matthew, Mike Lilly

**Designated Federal Official:** Erin Carey

**Coordinator:** Robin Jermyn

#### **Guest(s):**

Steve Snell  
Jeff Ward

Robin reviewed the agenda and provided opportunity for DFO/Chair to provide direction/intent.

#### **II. Review/Approval of Previous Minutes**

Robin emailed out the previous meeting minutes directly to members on 4/8/2020 for review.

- Motion made to approve previous meeting minutes:
  - Motion – Ron Warren
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Carol Brooker
  - Passed unanimously

#### **III. Project Ranking Review & Discussion**

Robin received all but 2 members ranking sheets prior to the meeting. All ranks were compiled, and the overall rankings were provided to committee members via email on 4/8/2020. Robin reviewed the following information with members:

- A total of \$252,165 funds are available.
- Based on initial rankings the money would stretch to 15 projects, but not fully fund the Sanders County Road Weed Treatment. This project would only receive \$8,547.60 of the \$46,166 requested if no changes were made.

- As originally ranked, the 50% requirement would be met. If ranking is unchanged 81% of funding would be applied to projects that are primarily dedicated to road maintenance, decommissioning, obliteration or restoration of streams and watersheds.

#### Committee Discussion:

- Committee members discussed initial rankings and expressed concern about the 2 projects on the bubble of the funding line because they ranked out the same. Members voiced the need to also re-evaluate a couple of the road projects they felt were rated too high. Members discussed the importance of FS matching funds when evaluating proposals, particularly the weed treatment projects.
- Motion made flip the rankings of the # 14 ranked Plains/Thompson Falls Rd. Sign upgrade/repair project, and the #15 ranked project, Sanders County Road weed treatment project that rated out the same overall.
  - Motion – Greg Hanson
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>- Colleen McCarthy
  - Not passed; 5 in favor; 6 opposed
- Motion made to leave the rankings for the # 14 ranked Plains/Thompson Falls Rd. Sign upgrade/repair project, and the #15 ranked project, Sanders County Road weed treatment, as they are (tied) but combine the funding avail. to both and split it proportionately.
  - Motion – Ron Warren
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Colleen McCarthy
  - Passed; 9 in favor; 2 opposed
- Motion made to move Donlan Dispersed Recreation Access Improvement project from the #12 ranked position to beneath Driveway Peak Access Improvement.
  - Motion – Ron Warren
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Errecart
  - Further discussion had regarding the motion at the request of the chair.
  - Motion rescinded by Ron Warren.
- Motion made to move the Donlan Dispersed Recreation Access Improvement project from the #12 ranked position to the #20 ranked position.
  - Motion – Ron Warren
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Robert Brown
  - Passed unanimously
- Motion made to move the Cox Gulch Road Storage Project from the #13 ranked position to the below the STOP the New Invaders project.
  - Motion – Robert Brown
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ron Warren
  - Passed; 7 in favor; 3 opposed; 1 refrained from voting
- Motion made to recommend all projects as ranked following the adjustments voted on above.
  - Motion – Randy Hojem
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ron Warren
  - Passed unanimously

- With the ranks adjusted, funding allocations will still meet the 50% requirement. Based on final ranks 71% of funding will be allocated to projects that are primarily dedicated to road maintenance, decommissioning/obliteration; or restoration of streams and watersheds.

#### **IV. Title II Project Recommendation**

With adjustments made based on committee votes described above, the final ranking as approved/recommended is:

1. Plains/Thompson Falls RD YCC Crew 2021
2. Youth Conservation Corps Crew
3. Plains/ Thompson Falls Trails Improvements
4. Plains/Thompson Falls Trails Maintenance
5. Fishtrap Recreation Access Improvement
6. Cabinet Recreation Crew
7. Cabinet Road Blading
8. Gold Rush Access Improvement
9. Watershed Improvement Fishtrap Creek
10. Cabinet Road Brushing
11. Cougar Peak Lookout Toilet and Sign Replacement
12. Plains/Thompson Falls Road Sign Upgrade/Repair
13. Sanders County Road Weed Treatment 2020
14. Driveway Peak Access Improvement
15. Finley Flats Dust Abatement
16. STOP the New Invaders
17. Cox Gulch Road Storage
18. Kootenai N.F. Avalanche Forecasting and Education
19. Vanquish the Ventenata
20. Donlan Dispersed Recreation Access Improvement

#### **V. Recreation Fee Proposal Review & Recommendation**

- Motion to recommend the Cabinet RD recreation fees as they were proposed.
  - Motion – Ron Warren
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Errecart
  - Passed unanimously
- Motion to recommend the Plains/Thompson Falls RD recreation fees as they were proposed.
  - Motion – John Errecart
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Carol Brooker
  - Passed unanimously

#### **VI. Other Business**

- FY19 funding expected sometime in within the next week. Sanders will be receiving a FY19 payment in the amount of \$240,004.

- The committee agreed that soliciting for proposals for FY19 funding should start right away if possible, and were agreeable to holding another round of meetings in the fall of 2020 to review and recommend another round of projects if possible.
- Meeting opened for discussion. No further comments/topics to discuss.
- Motion to adjourn meeting.
  - Motion – Ron Warren
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Greg Hanson
  - Unanimously passed. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**