

## Gallatin RAC Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 2, 2022.

This meeting was held from 1:00-5:00 pm at the Bozeman Ranger District. Options for virtual attendance were available on the Microsoft Teams virtual platform. There were videoconference and phone line options. The meeting was advertised in a news release, on our forest website and Facebook page, as well as published in the Federal Register.

Joe Josephson and Esther Fishbaugh (co-chairs) opened the meeting by welcoming the committee members and calling the meeting to order. He spoke to land stewardship and how it has been going on for millenia in our valley by native peoples, and what an enviable opportunity it was to carry on that tradition of stewardship in a present-day manner. Introductions were made around the room, at which point the chairs officially determined that a quorum was present to hold the meeting.

RAC members present were:

- Category A: Garry Edson, Joe Josephson (Chair), Esther Fishbaugh (co-chair), Jon Hudson, Sam Magro
- Category B: Mark DeOpsomer, Robert Knapp, Daniel Porter, Aaron Clausen
- Category C: Patrick Cross, Allison Gidley, Peter Bennett

Forest Service personnel present included:

- Kathy Minor, CGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor and RAC Designated Federal Official
- Kat Barker, CGNF RAC Coordinator
- Karen Tuscano, CGNF Budget Analyst
- Mariah Leuschen Lonergan, Public Affairs and tech Support
- Marna Daley, Public Affairs and Tech Support
- Melissa Simpson, CGNF Recreation Program Management and Tech Support
- Corey Lewellen, Bozeman District Ranger
- Derek Stephan, Bozeman RD Weeds technician
- Lauren Oswald, CGNF Services Staff officer
- Meg Nemitz, Grants and Agreements specialist
- Jamie Balke, CGNF Administrative Assistant

Kat provided a brief outline of the agenda, an introduction to the Teams platform for those attending virtually, and described the facility features to the group.

Karen Tuscano gave a brief presentation on the current RAC status and re-authorization timelines. Funds have been authorized by Congress from 2021 (what we were allocating today) through 2023. The Charter will expire October of 2023. Kathy then spoke about the member terms and how they are expiring 9/2023, reminding members that this would then likely be their last RAC commitment.

Joe and Esther then reviewed the protocol for the meeting including what the quorum meant for both the larger meeting and how it applied to the voting process. He also discussed the meeting roles and responsibilities of the USFS and the RAC.

Karen went over the funding allocations and project spreadsheet. The committee had a number of questions that sparked conversation regarding the source of RAC funding, the Secure Rural Schools Determination Act and about how money is allocated by Counties.

Kat gave a brief review of the six projects. There were some clarifying questions regarding a handful of projects.

Break

Kat facilitated the project presentations by alphabetical order of organization. Each presentation was held to 5 minutes. All project proponents were able to present with the exception of MCC, which was not able to attend due to an unfortunate circumstance beyond their control. The committee members took the opportunity to ask questions.

Presenters were: Rob Detrick (FoH), Jen Mohler (GISA), Chris Nygren (GVBCH), Josh Fairchild (SWMMBA) and Roger Jenkins (Wild Montana).

After the presentations, Kat explained the process for the break-out sessions. She described the physical break-out rooms and the technical aspect of the virtual component. (Break-outs were held on separate Teams meetings set up for each Category). Joe then explained the expectations and goals of the break-out rooms. Each break-out room had a Forest Service representative present (Melissa, Mariah and Marna) to answer or direct questions when necessary and for any tech support for those attending virtually. Kat and Kathy rotated through the break-out rooms. Karen was available to answer any questions, but there were none.

After the break-out sessions, all members came back to the main room and Teams meeting. With Karen working the spreadsheet in real time over the videoconference, the group started populating the spreadsheet and went through their voting process. Each Category had a representative who shared their Group's allocations. Once the spreadsheet was populated with those amounts and discrepancies were clear, the group spent time deliberating and discussing each project and coming to compromises on amounts, ensuring that every decision had the support of a quorum in each Category.

The final allocations as they appeared on the spreadsheet were agreed upon by every member. The award allocations are attached to the meeting minutes.

Following the final recommendations, Kat gave a presentation on the accomplishments of this RAC. The powerpoint covered last year's RAC project updates as well as a summary of what RAC had accomplished over their full term, which included 3 RAC meetings and 1 fee review meeting. Melissa Simpson additionally spoke on the impacts of the fee increase and how the additional revenue was benefitting the forest. Kat finished by expressing a huge thanks to the members for their time and dedication and mentioned briefly the process for putting together a new committee.

Kat's thanks were followed by a close-out from Kathy and then Esther and lastly, Joe. Thanks and appreciation were abundant. No future meetings were scheduled at this time. The meeting adjourned at 4:55.

**Minutes approved by:**

 Dec 8, 2022  
Joe Josephson, RAC Chair

Kathleen Minor,

Deputy Forest Supervisor, Designated Forest Official