

Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee

Meeting May 5, 2003

Members Present:

Group A

Lee Disney
Keith Glover
Tim Ryan
Tony Johnson
Ken Stephens

Group B

Wayne Hirst
Robyn King
Peter Kitts
Bill Martin
Dan Seifert

Group C

Eileen Carney
Russ Hudson
Marianne Roose
Rita Windom

Members Absent:

John Hossack

Tim Linehan

Gary Huntsberger
Bruce Vincent

Forest Service Present:

Bob Castaneda - Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Mark Romey (Staff Officer – Operations), Malcolm Edwards (District Ranger – Libby), Glen McNitt (District Ranger – Rexford), Ed Monnig Acting Planning Staff Officer, Jennifer Brady – Acting District Ranger - Fortine, Sandi Mason - Facilitator, and Willie Sykes Public Affairs, note taker

Public Present:

Gary Callihan, Ron Carter, Mike Powers and Jim Racicot (Libby Business Working Group), Mike Justus (DNRC) and Ray Stout (Tobacco Valley News).

Lee Disney, Lincoln County RAC Chairman, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sandi Mason read the roll call of RAC members.

The corrected minutes of the April 7, 2003 meeting were approved.

Biomass Presentation

Gary Callihan with the Libby Business Working Group presented a powerpoint on biomass energy production. There were many questions on the feasibility of this type of project in Lincoln County. Under this demonstration, the Libby biomass project would use byproducts of the forest

to produce energy for Libby (correct me if I'm wrong here). Right now it's in the conceptual stage. There are many logistical components that have to be put in place, but it has some potential. Other countries and communities are using this energy process and they wanted to test the waters in Libby.

Charter/Election of Officers

There was a topic to re-do the charter and election of officers. Bob explained that the terms of RAC membership would expire at the end of September of this year. Bob will check on a blanket charter, the use of alternates and the chair and vice chair positions. What if members are not fulfilling the requirements of RAC membership? Bob will check with the RO and report back to the RAC at the June meeting. Rita and other RAC members would like to open the selection process to the community again.

Marianne Roose reported that John Hossack informed her that he would have to resign from the RAC, citing health reasons. An official letter of resignation from John may be forthcoming. The RAC voted that Tim Ryan, replacement member, be made a regular RAC member and he now has the ability to vote on projects. Bob will check with the RO on this process.

Prioritization of Projects

The new proposals and the eliminated proposals are similar thinning projects. The new proposals will cost \$500 less than those eliminated. The RAC is not setting a precedent for allowing project locations to be changed by the FS. Such changes will be considered and voted for on a case-by-case basis. The proposal is to eliminate McSwede and implement Treasure McMillan, Bear. Mark Romey presented and proposed these two thinning projects that have forest health and urban interface implications. This decision was agreed to by the RAC. This is Mark Romey's proposal for D5 replacement for this year's projects. Mark will get this proposal to Barb Edgmon to be put on the master list.

Dan Seifert of the Stillwater State Forest would like to drop the unfounded remainder of last year's road maintenance proposal. However, he would like to keep the Young Creek fencing project, but reduce the grant proposal from \$10,00 to \$6,500.

Glen McNitt reported that the rails to trails project might not be feasible because the FS cannot get an easement from the landowner to cross his property. He does not want to deal with the FS because of the associated

impacts to his property that this easement may bring, such as traffic, litter, etc. Glen suggested an alternate trail route but it will be more expensive. The County Commissioners suggested that they might want to talk to the landowner about this easement issue.

Prioritizing 2002 Projects

Bob wants to prioritize the 50% of the BMP projects deal with those first. Projects removed from the list were: Lake Creek, Rabbit Creek, O'Brien, Pipe Creek, Rattlebone Lake Road and Libby Creek Road.

Bob asked the Rangers if they had any projects that had NEPA completed but were not on the list. Or can we get the analysis done for September or early next year. Also, he wants them to come prepared to discuss these projects at the next RAC meeting.

- Glen McNitt maybe has something in Pinkham.
- Malcolm Edwards maybe has something in Pipestone.
- Jennifer Brady has one that's through NEPA and will propose it at the next meeting. The Fortine District has other projects that's water related that's not on the list but are a priority and will discuss those at the next meeting.
- Bob will check with Mike Balboni at Three Rivers Ranger District to see what his district has.

The RAC will check on the other 50% of projects at future meetings. A question was raised about how to inform the public. We have put out a news release and there's the website at www.fs.fed.us/rl/kootenai/rac that has a lot of good information.

Action Item: Do we accept projects as we get them or when they are brought up? Decision: For this round of projects, the decision was to accept the projects as we get them but they won't be reviewed and approved until the August meeting.

Mike Justus, DNRC, talked about bubble caps for Doug Fir bark beetles and would like the RAC support with this project. He's proposing to use these bubble caps for the beetles on private land, which might benefit public land and will send this proposal to the SO. He thanked the RAC for funding this project last year and may ask for funding again this year.

Lee Disney presented some examples of letterheads and RAC signs for the group to make a decision on. The sign that goes on the projects was approved with the changes that the group specified. The RAC letterhead was approved.

Presentations will be coordinated for the July meeting w/districts, SO and other agencies.

Peter Kitts will coordinate the weeds project at the July meeting.

Next Meeting

The next RAC meeting will be held in on June 2, 2003 in Troy at Northwest Music at 6:00pm. The plan is to have snacks and if they can prepare dinner Sandi will check and let the RAC know by email.

Some agenda topics for the next meeting are:

- Follow up on the use alternates
- Who approves the replacement of inactive members
- Chair and Vice-Chair position – Bob will check on this
- Stream restoration projects from Rangers that have completed the NEPA process.

Submitted by:
Willie Sykes
May 9, 2003