

**Medford District
Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
Meeting Minutes**

**March 27, 2002
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office**

The objectives of the Committee are to improve collaborative relationships between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and local communities, and provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) or the Secretary's designee(s) consistent with the provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, P.L. 106-393.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Category 1

Gene Bowling
Amy Burrows
Daniel Ratty
David Hill

Category 2

Phillip Lang
Richard Smith
Jack Shipley
David Strahan
Howard Heiner - Alternate
Jeff Hanson - Alternate

Category 3

Jim Kolen
Sue Kupillas
George Fence
Susan Morgan
Scott Richardson - Alternate

***WELCOME - Mary Smelcer, Acting District Manager, Designated Federal Official (DFO)
Sue Kupillas, Jackson County Commissioner, Medford RAC Chairperson***

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Mary Smelcer, Acting District Manager, Designated Federal Official. Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Ron Wenker, District Manager, was not in attendance as he was on detail to the State Office in Portland. Mary introduced Teresa Gallagher-Hill as the Facilitator for this meeting.

Sue Kupillas, Chair, welcomed everyone and said the group had lots to do in this meeting. Sue felt the first meeting was very positive and felt the group would be able to work through the projects. We will be inventing the process as we work through the projects.

INTRODUCTIONS

RAC members and BLM support staff introduced themselves.

MEETING GUIDELINES - Teresa Gallagher-Hill, Facilitator

Teresa explained there would be a Public Forum for each group of projects, by county, where the public could address the Committee.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER - Sue Kupillas

Each Committee member was furnished an abbreviated version of Robert's Rules of Order. Sue explained that she was not a stickler for detail but voting would be done the proper way. She welcomed constructive criticism on ways to conduct the meetings.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - Sue Kupillas

There were no corrections to the minutes of the February 14, 2002 meeting. The minutes were approved by the Committee.

AGENDA REVIEW - Teresa Gallagher-Hill

The agenda was reviewed.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP

Role of Alternates - Mary Smelcer

- Agency Solicitors and attorneys for O&C Counties have confirmed that the rules don't allow for participation by alternates.
- Per diem is not authorized.

Comments from RAC members:

- Under utilizing alternates by this policy.
- Lack of per diem disincentive and needs to be addressed. Can we vote to pay per diem if funds allow?
- Lawyers were clear that voting members were appointed by Secretary of the Interior.
- Not a voting member till made a permanent member.

Bylaws - Mary Smelcer

- Other RACs have not developed bylaws.
- Decision is up to RAC to determine if they are necessary.

BLM Prioritization of Projects - Bob Korfhage, BLM Project Coordinator

- Handed out each county's prioritized projects.
- Projects are also posted on Medford's website.
- Web Address is: www.or.blm.gov/Medford

PROJECT REVIEW - Sue Kupillas

- Important to success of process and RAC.
- Inventing process as we go along.
- Open to suggestions.
- Input from all is valuable.
- Improve collaborative effort amongst Committee and BLM.
- Citizen input encouraged in an open and meaningful way.

- In future years, RAC should be more involved in the process of selecting projects.
- Interesting and fun challenge.

Question on Process

Q. Are we trying to keep dollars assigned to a specific county in that county?

A. Haven't discussed with other counties. Hope to use a balance sheet approach. Mary and Sue will be talking to the other counties on this issue. County has a right to not agree with agency using their county's dollars on projects they object to by a majority vote of county commissioners.

Voting Process

- Each group (A, B & C) were provided with colored cards. When vote is taken, each person would raise their card either for/against. Cards would be counted by color to determine if there were enough votes from each group (3 required) for the vote to pass.

PROPOSED KLAMATH COUNTY PROJECTS

Wedge Watkins, Klamath Falls Resource Area, gave an overview of the Klamath County projects and explained the process used to select projects. The three categories of projects were:

1. Forest Management - forested areas in riparian reserves.
2. Road Network in a specific watershed.
3. Noxious Weed Treatment

Public Comment

Anita Ward - Would like to see a coordinated effort between Klamath and Jackson Counties for the noxious weed program. Klamath River Working Group supports the Spencer Creek projects.

Committee Results: The attached tables reflect the motions made and approved in regards to recommending projects for Title II funding.

CURRY AND DOUGLAS COUNTY PROJECTS

Lynda Boody, Field Manager Glendale Resource Area, gave an overview of the Curry and Douglas County projects and explained the process used to select projects. Criteria used:

1. Resource Enhancement and Protection
2. Collaboration and Partnership Opportunities
3. Public Safety Concerns
4. Benefits to Public

Committee Results: The attached tables reflect the motions made and approved in regards to recommending projects for Title II funding.

JACKSON COUNTY PROJECTS

Lance Nimmo, Field Manager Butte Falls Resource Area, gave an overview of the Jackson County projects and explained the process used to select projects. Criteria used:

1. Providing Broad Ecological & Multiple Resource Benefit
2. Provide Targeted Ecological Benefits to Streams & Riparian Resources
3. Reduce Threats to Public Safety, provide Recreation Opportunities & Protect & Maintain Facilities

Public Projects

Keith Massie, Chief GIS Jackson County, gave overview of proposed Digital Orthophoto project.

- Would identify structures, vegetation, roads using GIS.
- County has flown the west half of Jackson County with Title III dollars.
- Project would involve flying the east half of the county.
- Flying is 10-15% of cost. Film processing and printing is the rest of the cost.
- Project can be partially funded.
- Will propose a Title III project for funding of application to get the data to the public.
- Benefits - Fire Operations.

Sarah Bunten, China Gulch Fuel Reduction Project:

- Proposal involves using goats to browse brush to show what alternative uses can do.
- Requesting \$44,200 for 2002.
- Would involve 200-300 goats on 83 acres for 6 week treatment.

Michelle Baskes, Middle Applegate and Humbug Creek Fuel Reduction Project:

- Proposal involves use of sheep and goats as well as hand work.
- Project also includes a plan for a roadless area in Middle Applegate.
- Middle Applegate involves 158 acres of BLM land and Humbug Creek involves 11 acres of private land.
- Private groups to do monitoring.
- Could be partially funded.

Public Comment

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Kathleen Donham | - | Supports BLMs effort to eradicate noxious weeds.
Audubon Society supports decommissioning unnecessary roads. |
| Anita Ward | - | Likes the wide variety of projects proposed. |
| | - | Would like to see Emigrant & Soda Mtn roads paved. |
| George McKinley | - | Jefferson Sustainable Development Initiative supports Boaz project. |
| | - | Tools are available to market small diameter timber. |

Discussion:

- Recommend setting a dollar value for projects on private land (\$300/acre).
- Don't set hard cost constraint for all projects but consider for future.
- Set guidelines.
- Look at specific projects.

- Don't pay full cost.
- Incentive for landowners.
- Cost share.

Committee Results: The attached tables reflect the motions made and approved in regards to recommending projects for Title II funding.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY PROJECTS

Abbie Jossie, Field Manager Grants Pass Resource Area, gave an overview of the Klamath County projects and explained the process used to select projects. Criteria used:

1. Resource Protection
2. Collaborative/Partnership Opportunities
3. Public/Worker Safety Concerns
4. Benefits to the Public and Government
5. Community Economic Development

Committee Results: The attached tables reflect the motions made and approved in regards to recommending projects for Title II funding.

TABLED PROJECTS

- Need to look at how we fund private land projects.
- Would like for BLM to provide estimate of costs per acre for various types of work.
- RAC would like to see video of Maple Gulch and Big Butte projects before making a final vote.
- Mid Applegate Pilot Project - applicant and BLM need to revisit and propose project next year.

Decision: Motion was made for approval of all projects previously voted on by RAC. Motion was approved. All votes taken today were unanimous.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? - Mary Smelcer, Sue Kupillas

- Talk about 2003 process.
- How to solicit public projects for 2003?
- Time line - How involved do we want to be?
- Sue wants feedback on process from today's meeting.

Public Comment

- Good summary on projects.
- Want hard copy.
- Would like running tally of percentages of road projects and restoration projects.
- Want maps of road decommissioning and obliteration.
- Need maps of projects.
- Need to provide project binder for lobby.

- Post minutes on web page. (Note: Minutes will be posted on BLM web page after they have been approved by the RAC and signed by Chair.)

IDENTIFY NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA

April 11, 2002, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., BLM Medford District Office, Oregon Room.

Agenda Items

- Road Decommissioning and Obliteration Video
- Info on costs per acre on fuels treatments.
- 2003 process
- How to solicit public projects for 2003.
- Time Line
- Per diem costs for alternates.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Action Item (Mary):** Can RAC Pay for Alternates' travel and per diem?
- **Action Item (Mary & Sue):** Is it acceptable to cross-share county's funds? How to handle?
- Get more info on proposed road decommissioning - **BLM to prepare more information, such as a video for 4/11/02 meeting.**
- **Assignment:** BLM will contact ODF to find out how they determined cost per acre for their cost share programs.
- **BLM** - copy of slide show summaries.
- **BLM** - summary of projects by category. Keep a summary tally of projects by category.
- **BLM** - map of projects on-line.
- **BLM** - binder of projects for lobby.
- **BLM** - post meeting minutes on-line.

/s/ Steve West

4/11/2002

Steve West, Vice Chair
Medford District BLM
Resource Advisory Committee

Date

Attachments (4)

- 1 - Klamath County Title II Project Recommendations
- 2 - Curry & Douglas County Title II Project Recommendations
- 3 - Jackson County Title II Project Recommendations

4 - Josephine County Title II Project Recommendations