

MINUTES
MFRC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DNRC Conference Room, Missoula, MT.
June 11, 2008 ☉ 9 – 11 am

PRESENT:

SC Members: Julia Altemus, Mary Mitsos, Steve Kratville, Bob Harrington, Marnie Criley, Dale Harris (phone), Gordy Sanders (phone).

Guests: Melissa Hayes

::Approval of Minutes::

Minutes from the May 28th meeting were approved.

::Financial Report::

The financial report was approved.

*It was noted that we are almost 50% into the grant period, and less than ½ of the money has been spent. With Steve here, it will be a good time to discuss options such as monitoring, as a way to spend the money. (See Funding Update section).

::FRC Updates::

-Lolo FRC-

There was a meeting last night. It was a good meeting with an in-depth discussion on contracting with Jim McCormick.

The Westside group is going to try to meet more regularly with the S. Fork ID team – going out with them for the day would be beneficial.

The Auggie field trip is June 17

The S. Fork Fish field trip is June 28

Plus, there may be alternative field trip dates for those who can't make it.

Cedar Tom – there is a field trip later this month, and we will see how it goes. We are not cutting it off, but still not sure that it will work.

A CAP grant proposal is being submitted to the NFF from Wildlands CPR. Chelsea and Mary will have to excuse themselves from that process, but there will be other staff members who will review the proposal.

-Bitterroot FRC-

Meetings this summer will be field trips.

Mary will meet with **Ginny** and discuss renewing her contract, or at least extending it to the year's end – or at least gauge what she is willing to commit to.

Expansion to the Lincoln Ranger District

Gordy – will talk with Kevin or visit with Tom Tidwell

Steve will have a conversation with Amber.

Trying to start in the summer may be hard, but there are things we can do now to get ready to start in the fall.

It would be a good idea to meet and explain the principles before a project begins, so that we can lay the groundwork.

Steve will schedule a meeting with Kevin in Helena when he is there – either this Friday or next.

Potential facilitators? Brian? He has said he would be interested in doing it. There should also be a request to the Full Committee for members. It will be helpful to have representatives who have the background and know the principles.

Staff support is another consideration.

::Funding Update::

We did not get the Cinnabar grant.

We know that the FS money can't be used for food, but could it be used for travel reimbursement or monitoring?

It is a cost-share agreement, not a grant – so it is done in the spirit of sharing costs. Monitoring would be an ok way to spend the \$, and community participation is encouraged. Field trip travel to monitoring sites – to get people in the field and learning together to reach an understanding could also be a potential use of the money. But, in-kind contributions would also have to be calculated for the field monitoring, etc.

The question of what monitoring really means was brought up. **Marnie** said she would call Melanie Parker to get a sense of what they did.

Next meeting: discuss monitoring.

We should also discuss at the next meeting, attendance at the SC meetings.

We are out of money for food and beverage and are no longer able to reimburse the NFF. The Lolo runs about \$60/month for the coffee and tea. Where else can those meetings be held? **Melissa** will look into alternative locations. Suggestions made were, Finnegan's, the Shack, and St. Pat's Hospital.

Right now we owe about \$100. **Julia** and **Marnie** will each try to cover about \$50.

Gordy will talk with **Bob E.** – can he cover next month?

If the NFF grant is submitted by the end of June, we would hear back about mid-July.

::Funding/Staffing Update::

We can drop this portion off of the agenda for now, but may need to add it again at some point.

::Other::

Booklet Distribution – have not heard anything happening with that? **Gordy** will talk to **Bob E.** about it, and he will have it off the list by next time.

Dale needs about 30 booklets.

Letter to MFRC members – One letter will go to Bob E., one to Marnie, and one to Ginny, for each of the committees. The letter have been sent ‘up’ – and will hopefully get to the Governor.

Annual Report – goal to have a draft by Aug. 15. It will include a piece from both Ginny and Brian. **Mary** can mention this to **Ginny** when they talk about the contract.

Melissa & Chelsea will work on the annual report.

What does the contract for both Brian and Ginny require for them to report?

Bob E. said that his staff could also help with the design and layout. Printing can be done in-house or the DNRC could pay for it.

Should it be more than 6 pages, and if it is not, maybe it could be all in color?

National Partnership Resource Center – has a link to the principles and can be found at: partnershipresourcecenter.org.

Replacing members – Dan T. has been waiting for over a year to be replaced. When? How?

Dan suggested Craig Osterman as his replacement and was going to talk with him about the principles and make sure they were something he could live with. **Gordy and Bob** will then have to sit down with Craig. It is important to be specific about each of the 13 principles when talking with him.

Because replacing members is likely to be an issue that will come up again, we have to come up with a fair and consistent approach.