

MINUTES
MFRC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
DNRC Conference Room, Missoula, MT.
Oct. 10, 2008 @ 9-11 am

PRESENT:

SC Members:

Rick Franke, Gordy Sanders, Bob Harrington, Chelsea Pennick, Marnie Criley, Mary Mitsos, Dale Harris (phone), Brian Kahn (phone), Bob Ekey (phone).

MFRC Staff: Melissa Hayes, Julia Altemus

::Approval of Sept. Minutes::

Approved.

::Approval of Sept. Financial Report::

Approved.

::Funding Update/2009 Budget::

Steering Committee should approve the budget for next year, which will be finalized with Steve K. in the next few weeks. Make sure that the carry-over from the last budget actually does carry over.

Also add the \$20,000 to the 2009 budget.

Since the next SC meeting is after the full meeting, the **SC will do a budget approval by e-mail**, so that it can be approved and brought to the full MFRC meeting.

::Contracts Review & Approval::

--NFF/Chelsea--

Chelsea and Julia met about her contract and what she was still able to do. They added to the contract and increased the amount in her contract. Also a bullet point was added that Chelsea will help Marnie with the monitoring restoration plan.

Travel expenses and hours remain the same, but the rate went up, from \$15 to \$22.

Changes: the \$7114.40 maximum amount in the grey box at the top.

Vote: approved, with Mary Mitsos abstaining from the vote.

--Brian Kahn--

Julia and Brian met regarding the contract.

Brian's duties now include the Lolo RC and the Helena RC. He will be facilitating the Lincoln Working Group meetings.

Originally his cap was at \$700/month for the Lolo, not that has been doubled to reflect the addition of Helena, as well as added \$100. So, the cap is now \$1500 + \$500 travel expenses for a total of \$2200 for the Lolo and the Bitterroot cap for each month.

The hourly rate also went up from \$70/hr. to \$80/hr.

Modification to section 15: Termination. Brian wants to add a provision to enable him to give 45 days written notice in the event of another obligation. He does not want to sign the contract, commit, and then not be able to fulfill that obligation if some other matter arises.

The Committee understands the intent of the modification and will work with the DNRC attorney to make the changes to reflect that if something comes up, Brian can give written notice and leave without having to have MFRC approval.

Change: written notice under this provision is changed from 45 days to 60 days.

Other Changes: add the hourly charge to the contract – and modify the language of the cap so that it reflects the hourly rate.

Add a section about providing a report to the annual report as well as a "professional conduct section" – as Ginny has in her contract.

Vote: Approved.

--Ginny Tribe--

Ginny was originally not going to renew her contract, but since the Bitterroot is involved with 2 projects, she would like to stay and see those through.

She would like to begin phasing out and be done by June 30, 2009

Her payment was not changed, but a \$75 capped supply fee was added for any materials she may need.

We want to make sure that communication is clear to the Bitterroot that even though Ginny may be done in June, the whole effort is not done in June.

JULIA – will attend the next few meetings to talk about what will happen after Ginny is done.

Adam is working on an environmental representative and is on the agenda to discuss the possibility of having a chair. Maybe there should be co-chairs to maintain a balance?

Changes: Add her daily rate along with the amount of the cap. Since she charges mileage, is there a maximum travel amount for her?

Add under responsibilities: language about Ginny helping to transition the committee – in finding a replacement as well as the maintenance of the Bitterroot RC.

We need to start thinking about this now – who will replace her and when will that replacement begin?

Vote: Approved

::Proposed By-Laws::

Julia, Mary & Karen DiBari worked on the by-laws. Karen took notes and then put them together.

Change the name from By-Laws to Charter.

Bob E. – is going to work on a preamble that would replace Art. I sec. 2, and focus on the roles of the committees.

Art. II, Sec. 4 – term limits – if you impose term limits, you tend to lose important history & expertise, but there also needs to be a balance in place. There should not be term limits, but there should be a mechanism in place to change if it is needed, so as to encourage new leadership, but allow for flexibility.

Possible suggestions: set a target turnover – of 25% by the end of 3 years, or at the end of a 3-year cycle? There is potential to have change come from the FRC Chairs. When they change, the SC will have new additions, as well as the new chair or co-chairs of the Helena.

There should not be term limits for the MFRC or the FRC's.

Art. II, Sec. 7 – scratch it or fill vacancies?

Vacancies should be an opportunity for discussion.

Talk to **Steve K.** about laying out the role of the FS in the Charter and what the legal obligations of adding a section would be.

Get comments to Karen and she can make the changes.

This charter does not have to be conclusive, we just need some guidance.

Add a section that if you disagree with something, it is your responsibility to bring a solution to the group.

Executive Director – concern that having an ED would divert our efforts into trying to fund this position. At this point, we don't have to deal with staff management and fundraising for those positions.

If we do get an ED, we may want to apply for 501(c)(3) status.

Add a staff support section – rather than an ED.

With the Helena and the possibility of adding other areas in the future, we need to have a coordinator or more interns.

Also add contracted services in the staff section – in reference to the facilitators.

Article IX, Conflicts of Interest – are inherent in this process, but still need to be disclosed.

BRIAN – will work on this area.

EVERYONE - Article X – need comments and feedback – because these are the major issues that come up.

::FRC Updates::

-Lolo FRC-

Going well. Eastside group is actively working on Center Ridge and they are giving a presentation on Tues.

Westside – will be outlining some prescriptions for units. There may be an experimental plot that the group can work on, and Cameron may have come up with some ideas.

Chelsea and Marnie will be coming up with a monitoring database, and may get some students to help gather baseline data next summer for the S. Fork of Fish. They will also coordinate with the FS to see what data they have or will gather and what they need, and maybe a student can work on filling in the gaps with the data needed.

Staffing – still hoping to have an executive committee, which will be helpful to ease some of the workload for the chair.

Possibility of this structure going toward a stand-alone budget. Steve was contemplating this issue, with committee budgets of \$20,000?

It would be good to look 5 years out – where do we want to be? The FRC's functioning on their own and coordinated by the SC?

Also, the possibility of adding another intern, and who would they be staffed through?

Discussion of Administrative needs – meeting on the afternoon of the 5th?

Get a hold of **Steve K., Marnie, Bob E., Julia and Mary** to meet.

-Bitterroot FRC-

The next meeting will be the 27th, where there will be discussion about co-chairs and forming subcommittees, as well as representation from environmental groups.

Darby Lumber Field Trip – about 10 people came.

-Lincoln FRC-

Kick-off meeting in Sept. Seemed that people were interested and concerned. It was short on environmental people, but Gabe is going to be on the committee, just wasn't at the first meeting.

Michael Garrity declined to participate.

The FS did well in how they talked about projects and restoration.

They will meet from 9-11am.

::Annual Report::

Printing cost estimates –

Gateway Printing –

\$650 for color cover and B&W interior – for 200 copies and \$1250 for all color. Or \$1450 for all color on 500 copies.

Allegra – waiting for an estimate.

State Printing costs – need to talk to Marci about.

What if we printed 100 copies and then send the rest out as .pdf files?

::Next Meeting::

Nov. 14, 2008 * DNRC Conference Room