

**Montana Forest Restoration Committee
Steering Committee – Meeting Minutes
DNRC – SWLO Conference Room
Missoula, MT.
April 20, 2010 – 2-5pm**

Members: Julia Altemus, Adam Rissien, Chuck Roady (phone), Gordy Sanders (phone), Scott Brennan (phone).

Proxy: Mary (*by Julia*), Dale (*by Gordy*).

Guests: Marsha Hogan, Steve Kratville (phone).

Staff: Melissa Hayes

•• **March Minutes** ••

Julia motioned for approval of the minutes; Adam seconded.

👉 Minutes approved.

•• **March Financial Report** ••

Julia motioned for approval of the minutes; Adam seconded.

👉 Financials approved.

Discussion: right now we have about a \$100,000 fund balance and are in the process of extending Marnie's contract to Sept. 15, which will reduce the amount by about \$8750 (prorated from the existing contract). So, we should have enough money to get us through the year and is a good start for the discussion with the Regional Office, which Steve will talk about later in the meeting.

•• **March Old Business** ••

Funding Meeting – Due to very busy schedules, Steve has not had luck setting up a meeting between Leslie, Bob, Gordy, Dale and Julia, but will continue to work on it.

The agreement expires July 1, 2012. That date won't be an issue, but rather the consideration should be the various ways this effort has evolved over the years, and making sure a modified or new agreement reflects that. For instance, the original agreement did not anticipate a coordinator, which we now have. **Steve** and **Marci** also need to talk about the wording that commits .25 time from the State Forester and the constraints that imposes. Though the agreement was flexible enough to allow that contribution to be met in ways that worked best for the DNRC, Marci seems to think there is not much flexibility to increase that commitment.

JULIA will visit with Marci to discuss what she thinks the restrictions are under the agreement.

Julia Riber recently briefed Leslie on FACA issues and Leslie feels comfortable operating where we have been, and is willing to keep moving forward – though we should continue to be diligent as we move forward. Julia Riber is on the May full committee agenda to talk about FACA. **STEVE** will email liaison information if anyone is interested and will keep it handy, if the issue ever comes up.

•• **MFRC/FS MOU** ••

The FS does not have an MOU in their file and it is uncertain whether one was ever signed or if it was just discussed. Steve is not even sure it would be helpful to have an MOU. Right now the FS is showing up when asked,

so there are no issues. Bob Ekey, Tom Tidwell or Gale, and Gordy would have been the ones to sign the MOU. **GORDY** will ask Bob if he remembers. Also, the Principles discuss having an MOU. **MELISSA** will check her old MFRC files to see if there is anything there.

•• **Roundtable Review** ••

There was good attendance and the notes from that meeting were circulated. The group continues to stay focused on *short term* opportunities and efforts that are helpful for contractors. The objective of this roundtable is to make things happen. There was no original intention of making this a perpetual roundtable, but the group will see how things go.

There have been discussions about media surrounding the roundtable effort – possibly an NPR story? Brian is taking the lead on this and Julia is the co-lead. Brian wants to do a show and is looking for volunteers. He has 3 criteria for discussion on the show.

1. Who has been affected? 2. How they have been affected? 3. Efforts of the roundtable. He is also looking for a good story on someone who has been negatively impacted. Matt Arno may be one good person to have on the show.

Next Roundtable Meeting:

Fri. April 23. 1-3pm @ DNRC conference room. The agenda for that meeting has also been circulated.

•• **Review MFRC May Agenda & Food** ••

We have another busy and thorough agenda. Jon Haufler has been invited to sit in on the meeting. It might be a good idea to incorporate Fed. & State perspectives during the lunch session. Are we achieving our goals and is MFRC doing something that is helping the FS to achieve their goals? Maybe that question can be answered when each person gives their perspective. Leslie may be able to be at the meeting all day, but it would be important to hear her perspective/answer to that question. The mixed severity discussion was also a goal, so hopefully that discussion will allow the group to move on. Mary will also have the add a principle discussion, which was on the Nov. agenda but we ran out of time.

It was decided to move the May SC to May 26th 8:30 – 9:30 at Ft. Missoula from 8:30-9:30. **MELISSA** – send out a request for people to help set-up before the meeting and to remind people to Doodle.

•• **Lolo FRC** ••

Graham Roy gave a presentation. He is setting up an organization in Missoula for restoration efforts and wanted to know how he could engage with some of the work on the Lolo and how he can help contractors and not detract from their work opportunities.

Some LRC members attended the NFMA roundtable planning meeting and the group had a good discussion on that. Julia Riber also gave a presentation on FACA rules and guidelines.

The S. Fork of Fish ROD was out 30 days ago and the comment period is over. The group discussed that the project as decided was similar to what the group recommended though some rec components were outside the zone of agreement. Marshall Woods is going into pre-NEPA. Work on Auggie will start this summer. Since it is the first project that has gone through the whole process, there may be some media when work starts around Aug. The LRC will coordinate with the SC about the media opportunities. An update on the SW Crown project was given. Charlie Sells was added as a new member of the LRC.

•• **Bitterroot FRC** ••

The group has not met since the last SC meeting. The scheduled field trip was cancelled due to road conditions. It has been rescheduled for around May 12 and then the next meeting will be May 17.

•• **Helena FRC – Lincoln WG** ••

Because there has been some confusion, the official name of the group is the Lincoln Restoration Committee.

A stop work notice was issued because of agency concerns with the contractors and hopefully in 2-4 weeks there will be a new notice to proceed. This caused some concern amongst local folks unfamiliar with the FS and the processes that they go through – so the issue is on the May agenda and hopefully that will clear up any issues and concerns.

The Lincoln was hoping that a draft from the mixed severity working group would be available for the May 13 meeting. There is interest in Lincoln with moving forward on this issue whenever there is clear consensus. The group is also discussing outreach to new members on the May agenda.

The Co-Chairs recognized that neither of them have been able to engage with the SC, so they added a 3rd co-chair, Gary Burnett, so he will be added to the SC (though the Lincoln does not get 3 votes). The group also created a charter – modeled after the Lolo and SC charters and guidelines and developed something that could help them work through issues. All members had the opportunity to review the SW Crown proposal and would like to do a letter of support from the co-chairs.

Next Meeting: May 13 at the Lincoln Library.

•• **LRT Support Letter** ••

Adam sent a draft Legacy Roads and Trails support letter to Steve to edit. Adam would have liked to see a stronger letter. The letter as written supports the legacy roads program.

VOTE: 👍 thumbs-up on sending the letter. **JULIA** will edit and send out the letter with Dale & Gordy's signature.

•• **CFLRP Support Letter** ••

Over the past year, the SW Crown of the Continent Collaborative has been working on a proposal for funding, which will fund 10 different 10-year long restoration projects. The language of the bill is consistent with the principles and discussed with both the Lolo & Lincoln committees.

A week from Friday (April 30) the proposal will be submitted to the regional forester who will have until May 14 to nominate the proposal to the Sec. of Ag for funding consideration. On behalf of the collaborative Scott is asking that the SC submit a letter of support for this proposal. Scott can provide any additional information needed. Also, since this is a FS project and is nominated by the FS, there are no FACA issues.

Scott sent a draft of the letter (during the meeting) for the SC to review and adjust as needed. The letter needs to be finalized by the close of business, April 30. The letter will go to Leslie asking her to nominate the proposal and work with the Sec. to make sure the project gets funded. **GORDY** will talk with Dale. **Send any comments to GORDY or JULIA** and Steve will also look at the letter.

•• Action Items ••

JULIA

will visit with Marci to discuss what she thinks the restrictions are under the cost-share agreement.
will edit and send out the LRT letter with Dale & Gordy's signature.
Will take any CFLRP comments and edit the letter.

GORDY

will ask Bob if he remembers and MOU.
will talk with Dale about the CFLRP support letter, take any comments and edit the letter.

STEVE

will email liaison information if anyone is interested and will keep it handy, if the issue ever comes up.

MELISSA

will check her old MFRC files to see if there is anything there about an MOU.
send out a request for people to help set-up before the meeting and to remind people to Doodle.

•• Next Meeting ••

May 26, 2010

8:30-9:30 am (prior to the full meeting).

Ft. Missoula