

RAVALLI COUNTY
COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
April 11, 2022

The Collaborative meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Co-Chair Wayne Rusk.

A quorum for the Collaborative Committee requires at least 8 members be present per the By Laws Amended from 10 to 8 January 13, 2020.

I. Roll Call

Members present: Cherie Barton, Steve Schmidt, Jeff Burrows, Marc Cooke, Rob Livesay, Jacob Cummings, Jeff Duus, Margaret Gorski (ZOOM), Larry Jakub, Dirk Krueger and Wayne Rusk (11).

Members Absent:

Rod Daniel

Tom Henderson

Also Present:

Steve Kimball, DNRC (ZOOM)

Andrew Amidon, Ravalli County Forester (ZOOM)

Bridget Mancini, DNRC (ZOOM)

Tim Love, DNRC (ZOOM)

Skip Chisholm, Public

I. Review and approve of March 14, 2022 minutes:

Consensus: approve as presented (11-0).

II. Presentation from DNRC

Stephen Kimball: DNRC grant announcement due Friday April 15th, 2022. April 14th and April 15th the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners will attend a meeting in Helena regarding forest management and the Montana Forest Action Plan.

II. Presentation from MT Forest Collaborative

Tim Love: Montana Forest Collaboration Virtual Workshop April 12th and April 13th. Montana Forest Collaboration Network and Watershed Council distributed \$44,000 in grants. Encouraged RCC to apply for future Montana Forest Collaboration Network grants.

III. Discussion: Review of the RCC Decision-Making Process as defined by RCC By Laws

Steve S: Presented topic and discussed the value of a consensus decision making process. Re-iterated the RCC decision making process as shown on the RCC By-Laws Section 5.

Wayne: Re-iterated the RCC decision making process as shown on the RCC By-Laws Section 5. Provided additional insight regarding mission statement.

Margaret: Commented on modifying group decisions on the floor so the RCC can reach consensus.

Steve S: Commented on building common ground.

Stephen K. Suggested writing out voting topic prior to RCC voting.

Larry: Suggested we define key issues prior to starting the discussion.

Steve S: Suggested working in more dialogue to each meeting.

Larry: Commented on the role of a facilitator and defined the distinction between electronic vs. in-person.

Rob: Asked if he should notify the group when then suggested allotted time has expired.

Steve: Responded that the allotted time is a guideline and is flexible. Suggested the group move on to the next subject.

IV. Professional Facilitator Options:

Steve S: Started discussion regarding the professional facilitator.

Jeff B: Suggested each RCC member serves as a facilitator.

Jeff D: Commented that the RCC had success in the past with a facilitator.

Marc: Commented that a facilitator should serve for one year before looking internally for a facilitator.

Jeff D: Commented facilitator may fall behind if they miss meetings.

Margaret: Commented the need for the RCC to provide direction to the facilitator.

Jeff B: Commented that Kimberly may be available for future meetings.

Wayne: Commented on value of facilitator.

Larry: Suggested we hire Kimberly as a facilitator for six months

Jacob: Suggested we hire Kimberly for a year

Margaret: Suggested six months with a performance review at six months.

Cherie: Seconded Margaret's comments

Jeff B: Commented the timeframe can be flexible.

Larry: Suggested we provide some timeframe for the facilitator.

Cherie: Asked clarification on Jeff B's comment.

Stephen: Commented on the positives of a local facilitator and the importance of providing context to the facilitator prior to the facilitator starting.

Tim: Commented that the most important things leaders do is hiring good people.

Jacob: Motioned that the RCC vote for the facilitator beginning next month.

RCC: Consensus vote 11-0.

V. Discussion and Decision: Inter-Group Communications

Steve S: Commented on finding common ground which can be promoted to improve natural resource management.

Wayne: Commented on having face to face conversation with other groups in the Valley.

Cherie: Commented on what is the mission statement of other groups? The RCC is already a diverse group.

Jeff B: Agreed with Cherie.

Larry: Agreed with Cherie and Jeff B. Commented in may not be productive.

Dyrk: Asked Steve S. to define what groups may be invited to the RCC (e.g. Friends of the Bitterroot).

Steve S. Responded to Dyrk.

Jeff D: Commented on previous experiences with Friends of the Bitterroot.

Margaret: Commented that the RCC may gain credibility if we invite other groups to join our conversations.

Steve S: Responded to Margaret.

Jeff D: Commented that every meeting is open to the public.

Jeff B: Commented that inviting other groups may not be productive for the RCC, especially, when hot button issues are being discussed.

Tim: Commented that strident groups are intransigent, empowered by conflict. Some groups are anti collaborative.

Dyrk: Commented that engaging other groups would muddy the waters significantly.

Steve S: Suggested to move on to the next topic.

VI BREAK 7:13 PM – 7:26 PM

VII. Discussion: Deep dive into the BR Front Project maps

Steve S: Introduced discussion into the BR Front Project, including what are our talking points and when should the new release go out?

Jeff B: Suggested changing local communities to our community.

RCC: Consensus on the concept of a news release letter.

Cherie: Suggested we release the letter now.

RCC: Consensus on releasing the letter after tonight.

Tim: Suggested that the RCC release the letter.

Stephen: Suggested that the RCC release the letter.

Cherie: Commented on the use of “wise use” in the first paragraph.

RCC: Edit paragraph 1. RCC consensus 11-0 on paragraph 1.

RCC: Edit paragraph 2. RCC consensus 11-0 on paragraph 2.

RCC: Edit paragraph 3. RCC consensus on strategy 11-0. RCC consensus 11-0 on paragraph 3.

Jeff B: Include more fire hazard statistics in future letters.

RCC: Edit paragraph 4. RCC consensus 11-0 on paragraph 4.

RCC: Edit paragraph 5. RCC consensus 11-0 on paragraph 5.

RCC: Edit paragraph 6. RCC consensus 11-0 on paragraph 6.

RCC: Edit paragraph 7. RCC consensus 11-0 on paragraph 7.

VIII. May 09, 2022 Agenda Items

Presentation: Forest Service BRF update

Presentation: Tim Love Montana Forest Collaboration Network

Presentation: Stephen Kimball Forest Management

RCC: Position statement on Old Growth, Access and Fire (Facilitator to lead)

RCC: Deep dive into BRF project maps

IX. Public Comment

Skip C: Commented on the News Release.

X Adjourn

Consensus: adjourn at 8:43 PM (11-0).