

# MINUTES

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management  
**Resource Advisory Committee**  
Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act

June 11, 2009  
Eugene District Office

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Category 1: Betty Jean Keele, Ross Mickey, Alan Peterson, and Steve Woodard

Category 2: James Baker, Robert Hart, Penny Lind, and Bill Richardson

Category 3: Jamon Kent, Joanel Mogstad, and Greg Ringer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Category 1: None

Category 2: None

Category 3: None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Wayne Elliott (Designated Federal Official), Ginny Grilley (Eugene District Manager), Diana Bus (Facilitator)

## **I. CALL TO ORDER – ORGANIZATION**

Facilitator Diana Bus called the meeting of the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act to order at 9:10 a.m. She noted that a quorum of each category of members was present. She distributed copies of a document entitled “BLM Resource Advisory Committee Meeting Guidelines.”

Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott welcomed members. He explained that the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act had been re-authorized and that the RAC was commissioned to recommend to the Eugene BLM District Manager projects to be funded by Title II of the Act. He said the meeting had been properly noticed in the *Federal Register* and *The Register Guard*.

Mr. Elliott stated that the meeting was open to the public and that a public forum was scheduled at 12:30 p.m., when testimony would be received.

Mr. Elliott explained that member Joanel Mogstad had been re-assigned to Membership Category Three for this meeting only in order to fulfill a quorum. Joanel is qualified for both categories one and three as she was a school teacher at LCC for many years previously.

Eugene BLM District Manager Ginny Grilley thanked RAC members for their willingness to serve. She reported that the Eugene District office would be moving to a new location.

Ms. Bus reviewed the meeting Agenda and explained the need to choose a RAC Chairperson.

Ross Mickey was nominated from Membership Category One

Bill Richardson was nominated from Membership Category Two

Jamon Kent was nominated from Membership Category Three

Written ballots were submitted by members, counted by Ms. Bus, and Mr. Mickey was declared to be Chairperson for this meeting June 2009. A new chair will be elected at the September, 2009 meeting.

## **II. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCESSES**

Mr. Elliott referred to a document entitled “Summary – P.L. 110-343” and reviewed information it contained about federal payments for states and counties containing federal land (Title I), special projects on federal land (Title II), and county funds (Title III).

Mr. Elliott also reviewed information in a document dated June 11, 2009, summarizing requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act regarding projects to be reviewed by the RAC.

## **III. PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Courtney Creek Sub-Basin Restoration**

Calapooia Watershed Council Coordinator Tera Putney described a Courtney Creek Sub-Basin Restoration project. She explained that, it would restore BLM-owned headwaters of the creek by focusing on road/stream crossings and improving downstream aquatic habitat water quality in fish bearing streams by adding woody structures, replacing a fish passage barrier culvert owned by Cascade Timber Consulting, and implementing landowner restoration projects. She said the project would cost \$333,435.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **B. Shotgun Creek Aquatic Restoration and Fish Passage**

McKenzie Watershed Alliance Coordinator Jared Weybright presented a Shotgun Creek Aquatic Restoration and Fish Passage project. He showed pictures and described examples of 12 undersized culverts on BLM controlled roads within the Shotgun Creek and Seeley Creek drainages in the Mohawk River watershed which would be replaced. He said the replacements would improve road infrastructure, access to O&C lands, and benefit the quality of fish habitat. He explained that aquatic habitat would be improved by restoring large wood to the creeks for fluvial and resident trout and other species. He said the project would cost \$399,750.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **C. Long Tom Watershed Fish Passage and Riparian Enhancement**

Long Tom Watershed Council Coordinator Cindy Thieman described a Long Tom Watershed Fish Passage and Riparian Enhancement project. She said it would involve three culvert replacements and two riparian enhancement projects in the Long Tom Watershed, providing Cutthroat Trout, Pacific Lamprey, and Western Brook Lamprey access to high quality spawning habitat. She said the project would cost \$203,804.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **D. Linn County Watershed Improvement Program – Watershed Survey**

Linn County Engineer Chuck Knoll presented a Linn County Watershed Survey project. He explained that it would be a cooperative effort between Linn County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Road Departments, three watershed councils, BLM, and private land owners to develop and implement goals for aquatic and habitat improvements cost effectively. He said planning for fish passage, aquatic and riparian habitat, groundwater and surface water quality, and flood management would be improved. He said the project would benefit federal lands and resources in multiple ways and would cost \$66,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **E. Linn County Watershed Improvement Program – Courtney Creek Fish Passage**

Linn County Engineer Chuck Knoll presented a Linn County Courtney Creek Fish Passage project. He explained that the project would replace two undersized culvert crossings on Courtney Creek Drive which prevent fish from swimming upstream into essential spawning and rearing habitat. He said the undersized culverts also discharge high velocity water which scour downstream stream beds and generate downstream sediment and turbidity, depositing gravel in downstream beds and causing upstream flooding. He said the project would cost \$130,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

Members took a ten-minute recess.

### **F. Nelson Mountain Road**

Lane County Public Works representative Mike Russell presented a Nelson Mountain Road – Knapp Creek culvert replacement and road construction project. He explained that replacing the two undersized metal culverts with bank spanning open bottom arches would enhance fish passage and increase the number of coho salmon able to spawn upstream of the project site in the high priority rearing sub-watershed. He said the project would cost \$265,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **G. Lane County Youth Services Juvenile Forest Work Team**

Principal Matt Steiner distributed copies of a brochure describing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center. He reviewed the proposed project of support for a Juvenile Forest Work Team to work year-round on BLM projects constructing, maintaining, and decommissioning trails and boat launches; weed removal projects; stream rehabilitation, litter removal, and campground maintenance. He explained the benefits to the youth, community and BLM from the program in existence on a more limited basis for several years. He said the requested support for the project was \$85,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **H. Northwest Youth Corps**

Northwest Youth Corps representative Joe Waksmundski described the mission of his organization and explained that the proposed project would minimize the potential of sediment loads deposited into feeder streams by maintaining trails at Shotgun Creek Recreation Site, Whittaker Creek Recreation Site, Clay Creek Recreation Site and Upper Lake Creek Falls Special Management Area. He said annual clean-up in high use visitor areas would also be completed. He said the requested support for the project was \$43,404.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **I. Smoke Detection Camera**

Oregon Department of Forestry Western Lane District Forester Link Smith described a project which would add an automated smoke detection camera system to an existing radio tower on Prairie Peak. He explained that the Mt. Nebo project would require the replacement of an existing 20-foot tower and upgrade of another 60-foot tower because of surrounding terrain. He described the equipment, its use, and said it would cost \$141,500.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **J. Oak Basin Prairie and Oak Habitat Restoration**

The Nature Conservancy representative Jean Jancaitis presented a project to conduct restoration activities over approximately 224 acres of prairie and oak habitat in the Coburg Hills southeast of Brownsville. She said several species of lupine, butterfly and other native plants were located there which were listed as endangered. In addition, she explained, the project would generate logging, other contracting work, and other economic benefits which would be used for additional restoration. She said the project would cost \$97,756.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **K. The Kennedy / Carson Conservation Corps Program**

Stefan Aumack, Tom Warren, and Tim Whitely presented a high school program supported by the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and sponsored by the South Lane and 4J School Districts involving youth participating in invasive species removal in areas identified by the BLM. The program is accompanied by ecosystem classroom study. It is to cost \$139,256.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **L. Triangle Lake Noxious Weed Eradication**

Blachly School District School District representative Kimberly Shepherd presented a Triangle Lake Noxious Weed Eradication project. She explained that the project would employ six youth for removal of invasive weeds, restoration of native plants, and habitat restoration on O&C lands. She said the project would cost \$20,255.

Members discussed the project proposal.

Members took a short lunch break.

At 12:30 p.m. Facilitator Diana Bus determined that there was no one present wishing to present testimony in a Public Forum. She recommended that project presentations continue.

### **M. Upper Siuslaw Restoration Crew**

A representative of the Siuslaw Watershed Council presented a project which would support riparian restoration, including tree and willow planting, seedling release, and invasive species removal on BLM and nearby private lands. Work would be designed by BLM staff and managed by Amythyst Enterprises. It would cost \$105,204.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **N. Swamp Creek Restoration Project**

A representative of the Siuslaw Watershed Council presented a project which would include fish passage improvement, large wood placement and riparian fencing with riparian fencing. Three BLM culverts would be removed, opening 1¼ miles of Coho habitat, 110 logs placed in 18 main stream structures of Swamp Creek and its tributaries and a wildlife friendly fence built, creating a 50-foot riparian buffer with 600 native conifers planted. It will cost \$347,253.

Members discussed the project proposal.

### **O. Catalyzing Noxious Weed Control Efforts**

Vern Holm distributed copies of a document listing 45 participating groups in the Northwest Weed Management Partnership. He explained that the proposed project was to support continued cooperative and regional partnership weed management on public and private lands. He said the Partnership produced documents, workshops, education, legislative strategies, and grant writing. He described successes of its efforts to date. He said the request was for \$62,370.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **P. Lower Middle Fork Willamette False Broom Removal Project**

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council representative Jennie Getty described the False-Broom Removal Project. She described the partnership created to work on the eradication project and explained how it would continue through 2011. She reviewed its goals, phases, and priorities. She said \$78,715 was being requested for project for the current year.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **P. Engaging Youth, Community and Watersheds in Detecting And Responding to Priority Invasive Species**

Oregon State University representative Tania Siemens described the importance of the early detection and rapid response to invasive weed species. She described how her project would support the work of student and youth crews in “service-learning” opportunities at the Hult Marsh Area and 11 conservation sites across four watersheds in the Upper Willamette Valley. She said the project would cost \$32,213.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **Q. O&C Reciprocal Right-of-Way Program Database and Shapefiles**

Fred Sperry presented his project proposal to develop a Geographic Information System database retrieval system for road, trail, natural feature, native species, soil productivity, ecosystem health, watershed maintenance, and other infrastructure information. He explained the importance and benefits of the availability of such information. After discussion he agreed that the product of the project would be owned by the BLM. He said the project would cost \$50,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **R. Clean Forest**

David Lockman presented the Clean Forest Project, explaining how the volunteer program aided agencies in Linn and Lane County by removing illegal dumpsites, restoring them to natural conditions, implementing anti-dumping measuring, monitoring sites, forwarding evidence to law enforcement for citation and prosecution, conducting environmental education at community

cleanups, and sponsoring anti-dumping and anti-littering education for elementary students. He said the project was requesting \$90,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **S. Abandoned Vehicle Removal**

Mr. Elliott described the Abandoned Vehicle Removal program submitted by the Eugene District. He explained that Norm Maxwell, Forest Technician for BLM, had operated the program for many years, cleaning federal and adjacent private lands of vehicles posing a threat to human health and safety or important resource values such as clean water and other forest values. He said the project was proposed to receive \$25,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **T. Cadastral Surveys for Restoration Commercial Thinning Projects**

David DeMoss presented the Eugene District proposal for support of completion of the identification of property lines between private ownership and public land in order to locate thinning projects on BLM lands. He explained that contracting mechanisms were already in place and the work was excluded from NEPA requirements. He said the cost of the project would be \$150,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **U. Paved Road Repair and Renovation**

Eugene District representative Jeanne Remiro described a proposal to patch, level and chip seal approximately 36 miles of District roads. She explained the purpose of the project and location of the roads to be renovated. She said the project would occur over a two-year period and would cost \$193,018.

Members discussed the project proposal.

#### **V. Cross Drain Upgrades and Replacements**

Ms. Remiro described a District project that would replace approximately 100 deteriorating culverts using correctly sized corrugated metal and plastic pipes. She said road surfaces would be replaced to original surface type and water quality maintained. She said the project would cost \$211,000.

Members discussed the project proposal.

Members took a short recess.

#### IV. PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilitator Diana Bus reconvened the meeting. She distributed a document which identified that \$1,265,400 was available in Title II Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act funds for the RAC to recommend to the District Manager for projects to be funded. It also listed the 23 project requests which totaled \$3,270,034.

Chairperson Ross Mickey proposed that each Membership Category caucus and identify its highest priority, which would be accepted by the RAC for recommendation to the District Manager *ipso facto*. He also suggested that each Category prioritize its next five highest choices, which would become the basis for discussion by the RAC in choosing its recommendations to the District Manager.

Members appeared to agree to the proposals.

Membership Categories met individually to identify priorities.

Chairperson Mickey reconvened the meeting.

*Chairperson Mickey determined there was unanimous consent by members in each category to recommend to the Eugene District Manager that Round 1 Title II funding of the reauthorized Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act be provided for federal fiscal year 2008 projects, as follows:*

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Abandoned Car Removal</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>District Cross Drain Upgrade/Replacements</i>	<i>\$211,000</i>
<i>Juvenile Forest Work Team</i>	<i>\$85,000</i>
<i>Kennedy/Carson Conservation Corps Program</i>	<i>\$65,000</i>
<i>Long Tom Watershed Improvement</i>	<i>\$203,805</i>
<i>Nelson Mountain Road</i>	<i>\$265,000</i>
<i>Northwest Youth Corps</i>	<i>\$43,404</i>
<i>Swamp Creek Restoration Project</i>	<i>\$347,253</i>
<i>Triangle Lake Noxious Weed Eradication</i>	<i>\$20,255</i>
	<i>\$1,265,717</i>

Members discussed meeting procedures and other concerns.

- There appeared to be consensus that if any approved project was unable to be funded that the Oregon Department of Forestry Smoke Detection Camera Project would be the next recommended project to be funded at the amount of \$43,500.
- A suggestion was made that a project be solicited that would be related to preservation or improvement of elk habitat.
- A suggestion was made that in project presentations differentiation be made between future projects and stewardship projects.
- A suggestion was made that more emphasis be made on monitoring in future fish projects.

Members appeared to set September 22, 2009, as the next meeting date of the RAC, with September 24 as an alternate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)*

BLM later determined that the meeting will be set for September 22, 2009 at the Springfield Interagency Center, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Suite E, Springfield, Oregon.