

MINUTES

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management
Resource Advisory Committee
The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Re-Authorizing
Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act
Round Two – New Bill

September 22, 2009

3106 Pierce Parkway, Suite E
Springfield, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Category 1: Ross Mickey, Alan Peterson, and Steve Woodard

Category 2: James Baker, Robert Hart, and William Richardson

Category 3: Betty Jean Keele, Jamon Kent, and Joanell Mogstad

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Category 1: None

Category 2: None

Category 3: None

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Category 1: None

Category 2: Penny Lind

Category 3: Greg Ringer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayne Elliott (Designated Federal Official), Ginnie Grilley (Eugene District Manager), Emily Rice (meeting facilitator)

I. CALL TO ORDER – ORGANIZATION

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Manager Ginnie Grilley called the meeting of the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act to order at 9:20 a.m. She welcomed members and invited them, BLM staff, and visitors to introduce themselves.

Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott explained that two members of membership Category Three had not yet been officially appointed and that a quorum was achieved by assigning two members to it who qualified for more than one category. He said that proper notice of the meeting had been given in the *Federal Register* and *The Register Guard*. He 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 reviewed the meeting Agenda and explained the need to choose a RAC Chairperson from any Membership Category.

Joni Mogstad was nominated.

Bill Richardson was nominated.

Written ballots were submitted by members, counted by Mr. Elliott, and by a tally of 5 to 4, Mr. Richardson was declared to be Chairperson.

Members Jamon Kent and Ross Mickey left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

II. PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

A. Oregon and California Land Grant Lands Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements Database and Shapefiles

Fred Sperry presented a proposal to design electronic a data retrieval system for road information regarding road ownership, control, cost control, maintenance, surface type, condition, public access and other information. He explained that the checkerboard ownership of the current road system made any use extremely cumbersome and that the proposed system would reduce administrative cost, increase efficiency, and provide for faster and more secure implementation of projects. He said the project would cost \$40,000 and he was requesting \$25,000.

Members discussed the project.

B. Youth Services and Juvenile Forest Work Team

Principal Matt Steiner described how Juvenile Forest Work Team from Martin Luther School crews worked on a variety of projects including maintenance of Shotgun Park Off-Highway Vehicle system, Row River Trail, public boat landings, and BLM campgrounds. He explained that the teams reduced a backlog of BLM forest maintenance and targeted forest health, and invasive plant removal projects. He said over 200 youth were served with job training and paid employment. He said the program supported a goal of reducing criminal recidivism through job growth, career planning and environmental education. He said the project cost \$162,500 and he was requesting \$120,750.

Members discussed the project.

C. Lane County Sheriff's Work Crew

Deputy Dan Buckwald presented the application of the Lane County Sheriff's Work Crew. He explained how the Work Crews worked on the backlog of maintenance and restoration needs on BLM lands needing intensive hand labor not able to be completed by other funding or contracts. He said the work performed enhanced Federal lands and public infrastructure, restored habitat and reduced the risk of wildfires. He explained that the work was coordinated with BLM staff to ensure that it was coordinated with other restoration land restoration activities. He said \$252,456 was requested.

Members discussed the project.

D. Northwest Youth Corps Environmental Stewardship

Cole Southworth described how the Northwest Youth Corps Environmental Stewardship 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 Recreation Management Area. He said the project would also eradicate invasive plant species at the recreation areas and address deferred maintenance projects. He said the total cost of the project was \$86,473 and that he was requesting \$48,353.

Members discussed the project.

E. Smoke Detection Camera System

Link Smith of the Oregon Department of Forestry Western Lane District described the purpose, operation, and successes of automated smoke detection cameras currently operating on Lane County BLM forestland. He explained the intention of his department to add two cameras atop Prairie Peak and Mt. Nebo and how they would enhance fire detection and prevention. He said they were requesting \$141,500, with first priority being given to the Prairie Peak installation costing \$43,500.

Members discussed the project.

Members took a short recess at 10:45 a.m.

F. Oak Basin Prairie and Oak Habitat Restoration

Jean Jancaitis presented information about the Oak Basin Prairie and Habitat Restoration project of The Nature Conservancy. She explained that 155 animal and plant groups in the Willamette Valley were considered imperiled and six are listed as endangered, including the Fenders blue butterfly. She said the proposed project would support restoration of over 224 acres of prairie and oak habitat and provide logging economic benefits. She said the total cost of the project was \$239,099 and that she was requesting \$97,756.

Members discussed the project

G. Calapooia Watershed Council Noxious Weed Control

Calapooia Watershed Council Director Tara Putney described the noxious weed identification work of the Council and its importance to wildlife and fish species in the Calapooia River watershed and its sub-basins. She said her project would cost \$38,440 and the application was for \$30,440.

Members discussed the project.

H. Shotgun Aquatic Restoration and Fish Passage Project

Jared Weybright presented the McKenzie Watershed Alliance/McKenzie Watershed Council Aquatic Restoration and Fish Passage Project which he explained would replace eight undersized culverts on BLM controlled roads within the Shotgun Creek and Sheeley Creek drainages, located in the Mohawk River watershed. He said they would improve road infrastructure, access to O&C lands, and benefit the quality and quantity of fish habitat for threatened Upper Willamette River Chinook. He said the total cost of the project was \$315,000 and that \$291,000 was being requested.

Members discussed the project.

I. South Fork Ferguson and West Fork Jones Creek Fish Passage

Jed Kavel presented the Long Tom Watershed Council South Ferguson and West Fork Jones Creek Fish Passage Enhancement Project. He explained that the replacement of two culverts proposed in the application would provide cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and western brook lamprey access to high quality spawning and cold water refuge habitat in the Long Tom Watershed, increasing production of the culturally important species. He said the application was for \$137,830.

Members discussed the project.

J. Triangle Lake Noxious Weed Eradication

Kimberly Shepherd and four youth members of the 2009 summer crew presented the Triangle Lane Noxious Weed Eradication project. They explained that the project would provide for the removal of invasive weeds, restoration of native plants, and restoration of habitat on BLM and O&C lands. They said it would employ six to seven youth from the Triangle Lake area, instill work ethic, create an opportunity for high school elective credits, and expose crew members to career possibilities in natural resources industry. They said the application was for \$69,800 and would fund the project for three years.

Members discussed the project.

Chairperson Richardson declared the meeting to be in recess for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Members Kent and Mickey rejoined the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Chairperson Richardson reconvened the meeting at 12:40 p.m. He determined that there were no persons present who wished to present testimony in the Public Forum. He invited presentations of project applications to continue.

K. Clean Forest Project

David Lockman presented an application from The Clean Forest Project. He explained that the Project sought to establish a long-term volunteer program to aid agencies to restore and improve forest and land health by increasing respect among forest users, decreasing dumpsites, hazardous waste, and educating citizens to be good stewards of their public land legacy. He said the total cost of his project would be \$100,800 and he was applying for \$90,000.

Members discussed the project.

L. Scheid Rockshelter Excavation and Data Recovery

Eugene District Archeologist Heather Ulrich described the Scheid Rockshelter and its potential importance for archaeological deposits. She said it was unique as one of the last remaining undisturbed rockshelters in the western Cascades with intact archaeological deposits and that its resources should be preserved. She said the \$53,000 cost of the excavation was an estimate only and that the application for \$25,000 would likely cover only the cost of protecting the internal deposits.

Members discussed the project.

M. Ferguson Road Culverts

Eugene District Civil Engineer Jeff Spring presented the Ferguson Road Culverts application. He described how improving the stability of the aquatic system by replacing culverts prevented unwanted sediment getting into area streams. He explained how it also ensured long-term access to BLM managed land. He said the total cost of the project would be \$219,000 and \$177,000 was requested.

Members discussed the project.

N. Abandoned Vehicle Removal

Mr. Elliott represented Norm Maxwell, applicant for the Abandoned Vehicle Removal project. He explained that 676 vehicles had been removed from public lands by Mr. Maxwell through the project to date. He noted that the application continued to be for \$25,000.

Members discussed the project.

III. GROUP DELIBERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairperson Richardson directed that each Membership Category would deliberate and determine its ranking of Projects. There was consensus that if all three groups agreed that a Project was worthy of funding, it would be funded without further consideration and that negotiations to reach agreement on the funding of additional Projects would take place until all funds were allocated.

Members of Categories began to discuss their opinions of Project applications at approximately 1:30 p.m. On the call of Chairperson Richardson, they re-convened and reported their choices and identified their consensus on Projects, as follows:

A. Oregon and California Land Grant Lands Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements Database and Shapefiles	\$25,000
B. Youth Services & Juvenile Forest Work Team	\$120,750
C. Lane County Sheriff's Work Crew	\$252,456
D. Northwest Youth Corps Environmental Stewardship	\$48,353
E. Smoke Detection Camera System	\$43,500
J. Triangle Lake Noxious Weed Eradication	\$66,800
L. Scheid Rockshelter Excavation	\$35,000
M. Ferguson Road Culverts	\$177,000
N. Abandoned Car Removal	<u>\$25,000</u>
	\$793,859

Negotiation among members of the Categories led to agreement to recommend Project additions and adjustments, as follows:

E. Smoke Detection Camera System	\$141,000	<i>Adjustment</i>
F. Oak Basin Prairie and Oak Habitat Restoration	\$97,756	
G. Calapooia Watershed Council Noxious Weed Control	\$30,440	
I. South Fork Ferguson and West Fork Jones Creek Fish Passage	\$28,761	<i>Design Work</i>
<i>Only</i>		
K. Clean Forest Project	<u>\$90,000</u>	

Further negotiation followed regarding the South Fork Ferguson and Jones Creek Fish passage and the Clean Forest Project. Members agreed that if an additional \$10,000 to the Ferguson and Jones Creek project would be needed to cover engineering and design work then it would come from the Clean Forest Project resulting in \$80,000 to the Clean Forest Project. Mr. Elliott said he would contact the Long Tom watershed council and determine what amount would be necessary to fund engineering and design work.

	\$387,957
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Total to be Allocated to Projects	\$1,138,316

Jamon Kent moved, seconded by Ross Mickey, to recommend to BLM Eugene District Manager that the Projects identified be funded under Round Two of Title II funding of the reauthorized Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. The motion was adopted unanimously, 9:0.

It was announced that the next meeting of the Eugene District RAC would be held in the Spring of 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 2: 15 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

Note: Wayne Elliott contacted the Long Tom Watershed Council (Ms. Dana Dedrick) on September 28, 2010 regarding their need to fund engineering and design work. Ms. Dedrick responded on September 29, 2010 that an additional \$10,000 would be needed to fully fund the engineering and design work on both culvert locations. Thus, as per the committee agreement the Clean Forest Project is reduced from \$90,000 to \$80,000 and the South Fork Ferguson and West Fork Jones Creek Fish Passage project (Long Tom watershed Council) is increased from \$28,761 to \$38,761.