

Southwest Resource Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, October 26, 2012
Dolores, Colorado

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Members

Eric Sanford, Zane Odell, Renzo DelPiccollo, Phil Chamberland, Wally White, Paul Joyce, John Reams, Barbara Hawke, Deborah Gangloff, Andrea Robinsong, Dale Irby, Lynn Padgett, Kathy Welt

Staff

Lori Armstrong, Barb Sharrow, Shannon Borders, Connie Clementson, Matt Azohcar, Liz Francisco, Marnie Medina, Marietta Eaton

Visitors

Brian Meinhart-Udall's representative, LeeAnn Hill-Dolores River Coalition, John Whitney-Bennett's representative

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Kathy Welt at 9:10 a.m. A quorum for the meeting was determined, and everyone introduced themselves. John Reams moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Wally White seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Andrea Robinsong nominated Kathy Welt for the chair and John Reams seconded the nomination. Barbara Hawke nominated Wally White for the vice chair and Phil Chamberland seconded the nomination. John Reams moved to cease nominations and accept both nominations. Dale Irby seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Reports from each field office and the district managers as follows:

Tres Rios Field Office

See attached report titled Field Manager Reports

Gunnison Field Office

See attached report titled Field Manager Reports

Uncompahgre Field Office

See attached report titled Field Manager Reports

Resolution (see attachment)

The sub-RAC provided the attached resolution. Kathy Welt and Lynn Padgett provided edits and the RAC discussed the resolution. Andrea Robinsong moved to wait to vote on this resolution until they have received executive summary from the BLM and voting to occur within two weeks of receiving the summary. Lynn Padgett seconded the motion. Renzo DelPiccollo suggested further discussion. Andrea Robinsong provided insight into the differences between the RAC and sub-RAC and the benefits of the

varied levels of engagement on a single project within the confines of a sub-RAC. Barb Sharrow said her staff was willing to put together an executive summary to better inform the RAC prior to the next meeting. Lynn Padgett moved to adopt the edited language (see attachment) and Eric Sanford seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument/Anasazi Heritage Center

See attached report titled Field Manager Reports

Land Tenure Overview

See attached reports for each Field Office

Public Comments

Lee Ann Hill-They have about 20 organizations that focus on landscape protection to ensure the Resource Management Plans are complimentary. They work with lots of stakeholders for solutions that work for citizens and the environmental concerns. They also appreciate the cooperating agencies involvement. They would like to see strong Areas of Critical Environmental Concern programs included in tributaries and hope to see it in the RMP range of alternatives.

Additional public comments are attached.

The following resolution was offered by Lynn Padgett, but was not formally proposed as a motion.

Resolution in Support of Encouraging the UFO to Expeditiously Complete the Draft EA for the "Ridgeway Travel Management Plan Update"

WHEREAS: There was a grass roots request for an enhanced public trail system to connect existing pedestrian paths and trails between the Town of Ridgeway and Ridgeway State Park that was brought to the BLM UFO about 8 years ago, and

WHEREAS: The BLM UFO issued a scoping notice and public comment period from March 30 to May 18, 2012; and

WHEREAS: The BLM UFO staff specialists conducted field work in July 2012; and

WHEREAS: The BLM UFO has revised its timeline for completion of the Draft EA several times; and

WHEREAS: Public comments regarding the urgency of completing the Draft EA so that a volunteer community group can apply for Great Outdoors Colorado funds by December deadlines and the importance of completing this process was expressed today by email received from Rodney Fitzhugh; and

WHEREAS: The enhanced trail system is supported by Town of Ridgway and Ouray County and will have immediate positive impacts on the local economy, education and recreational opportunities for adults and youth; and

THEREFORE: be it resolved that the Southwest Resource Advisory Council encourages the BLM UFO to finish and release the Draft EA as expeditiously as possible so that the 30 day public review period and preferred alternative can be known in time for GOCO grant deadlines.

Barb Sharrow and Lori Armstrong explained the balancing act amongst projects, and Barb indicated the preliminary Environmental Assessment should be done November. Additionally, a public map is not available because the area is not fully mapped.

District Manager Report

Lori Armstrong reported that the BLM budget down about 10% and the agency is working on a 6 month Continuing Resolution.

Drought in western Colorado has had a big impact in terms of range management. Many permittees have shifted turn out dates and sold livestock. The drought has also affected the river season and the fire season was much more intense last year.

The departing RAC members received a photograph as recognition and appreciation for their service to the BLM.

The dates (see below) for upcoming meetings were noted. Andrea Robinsong moved that whereas two-thirds of the Resource Advisory Councils are west of the continental divide, the Southwest RAC requests the location of the Statewide RAC meeting be moved to a more central part of the state such as Glenwood Springs or Grand Junction. Wally White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The District Manager will relay this information to the BLM Colorado staff.

Upcoming Meetings and Field Trips

- Feb. 13-15: Statewide RAC in Denver (date tentative)
- May 16-17: Tres Rios Office (location tentative)
- Aug. 15-16: Gunnison Field Office (location tentative)
- November 14-15: Uncompahgre Field Office (location tentative)

Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- Land Tenure

Adjournment

Eric Sanford moved to adjourn the meeting. Wally White seconded the motion. The motion carried.