

DRAFT

Missouri River Basin Resource Advisory Committee
Minutes
General Business Meeting
September 18-19, 2023
BLM Eastern Montana Dakota District Office
Miles City MT

Attendance:

September 18, 2023, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

RAC members: Perri Jacobs, Jeff Schafer, Kevin Wagner, Trisha Tonn, Art Hayes III, Nathan Jagim, Doug Krings, Mark Good, Greg Jergeson, Miles Hutton (chair), Doug Kary, Stacey Barta, Jody Mason

Public (Teams-virtual): None

Public (In-Person) Sandra K. Brown, Todd Devlin, Dennis Teske, Christine W Keltner, Joey Grewell

BLM: Wendy Warren, Kristin Kaiser, Regina Baltrusch, Lori (Chip) Kimball, Eric Lepisto, Greg Morel, Kristine Braun, Mark Jacobsen, Edward Kraft, Nate Arave, Ann Boucher, Zane Fulbright, Donna Bradley

September 19, 2023, 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM

RAC Members: Perri Jacobs (vice chair), Jeff Schafer, Kevin Wagner, Trisha Tonn, Art Hayes III, Nathan Jagim, Doug Krings, Mark Good, Greg Jergeson, Miles Hutton (chair), Doug Kary, Stacey Barta, Jody Mason

Public (Teams-virtual): Dennis Teske

Public (In-Person): Christine W. Keltner, Lance Kalfell

BLM: Wendy Warren, Kristin Kaiser, Regina Baltrusch, Eric Lepisto, Greg Morel, Kristine Braun, Mark Jacobsen, Nate Arave, Ann Boucher, Zane Fulbright, Shane Findlay, Donna Bradley

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Mark Jacobsen welcomed members and the meeting was brought to order, housekeeping items for the meeting were reviewed. Brief self-introductions were completed by attendees; each person was asked to include the number of years of Natural Resource experience each one brought to the meeting. The total was 642 years. The RAC member briefing packet contained the BLM pamphlet, Our Public Land Heritage: From the GLO to the BLM, 2023 EMFZ Fire Information, a brief summary of the North Dakota RMS/EIS alternatives and the Consolidated Subcommittee Recommendations and Comments.

Mark Jacobsen and Wendy Warren reviewed the travel reimbursement process. RAC members were asked to complete forms and provide receipts timely to prevent end of the fiscal year issues resulting in delayed reimbursement.

The June MBRAC minutes were discussed, and errors noted. Doug Kary made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Perri Jacobs seconded, all members voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Kelley Lewis (Vice-Chair) resigned from the Missouri Basin Resource Advisory Council. Miles Hutton (Chair) thanked Kelley for her service. Miles Hutton called for nominations for a Vice Chair from the current membership. Stacey Barta nominated Perri Jacobs, Greg Jergeson seconded the nomination. No discussion followed and no others were nominated. Doug Kary asked that nominations be closed. Miles Hutton called for a vote, all in favor, none opposed. Miles Hutton welcomed Perri Jacobs as the Vice Chair.

Applications are currently being accepted for RAC membership to fill this vacancy and the terms that will expire January 2024.

Miles Hutton provided a consolidated list of recommendations for comments and suggested amendments to be considered by the full RAC.

Members asked several questions regarding process, subcommittee actions and how all members were to receive the information prior to a meeting. Some members requested more information be available to all members to enable them to be prepared to discuss the recommendations from the subcommittee. Kirsten Kaiser indicated that the RAC charter is the best source of information for member duties, responsibilities, what makes a quorum and ethics for the subcommittees etc. She instructed members that the subcommittee should bring their final recommendation written and ready for the full RAC to review, discuss and edit during the meeting. The goal today is to develop a final document from the RAC to forward to the BLM. The document sent forward must have consensus agreement on all items.

The meeting agenda was to review the ND RMP Subcommittee Recommendations. Kristine Braun and Greg Morel shared the presentation Draft RMP EIS North Dakota for members to be familiar with the RMP Alternatives before discussing items to reach a RAC recommendation. Each topic was discussed. Greg Morel, Kristine Braun, Kirsten Kaiser, Wendy Warren, Mark Jacobsen and Regina Baltrusch answered the questions RAC members asked for clarification of the RMP/EIS document and the public land the RMP will be able to influence management. The RAC members discussed the subcommittee recommendations, making changes to reflect the consensus of the whole RAC. Miles Hutton asked for a call of support/rejection for each item. If consensus was not reached, the comment was not carried forward as a recommendation to the BLM. Regina Baltrusch was the scribe for the document. Miles Hutton will write a cover letter and send the document to the ND RMP/EIS team. The comments will be considered by BLM in selecting an Alternative for the ND RMP.

Public Comment

A Public comment period was facilitated both days.

September 18, Todd Devlin, Prairie County Commissioner and Dennis Teske, Prairie County Commissioner, addressed the RAC.

Todd Devlin asked the RAC to support the commissioners' efforts for public access related to the Milwaukee Bridge. The bridge surface and road need repair. Funding is available through a FLAP grant, but delays have increased the estimated cost from \$1.4 million to \$9.2 million. Prairie County

Commissioners have supporting documents for a ROW to the portion of the road that crosses private property. Mr. Devlin requested the RAC to send a letter of support to be included in their application for the FLAP grant. Mr. Devlin deferred discussion of a permit for use of a gravel pit on BLM to Dennis Teske.

Dennis Teske expressed the difficulty the county is having obtaining a BLM permit to access gravel from a BLM gravel pit. Maintenance of the county roads has been deferred and the road base is becoming dangerous to transport product from the farms and ranches to market. Public access is limited for recreationists that wish to use the public land. The commissioners also need to complete an application for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Teske requested the RAC to write a letter to BLM supporting Prairie County in obtaining a permit by winter. Mr. Teske would like to have the gravel available when the ground freezes and road work can be accomplished. He appreciated the emergency use permit that BLM issued a year ago due to road damage from rain. Eric Lepisto suggested a Community Pit be considered; this would change the BLM process that could be beneficial in obtaining use.

Other Public in attendance declined to speak.

Doug Kary made a motion that RAC write a letter to Senators, Representatives and BLM informing them of the issue with a request to resolve this by December 1, 2023, Art Hayes III seconded the motion. The motion carried. The letter will be written after the ND RMP agenda item is completed.

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Mark Jacobsen welcomed members and brought the meeting to order. Travel packets were completed, and members were asked for suggestions or concerns that could improve for arranging the next meeting.

Miles Hutton continued to chair the process of the ND RMP EIS Subcommittee recommendation.

Tabled Items

Potential agenda items for the next meeting were proposed and may include a field visit.

The next meeting date to be determined, likely in 2024.

Doug Kary made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trisha Tonn seconded it. All in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Miles Hutton
Missouri Basin Resource Advisory Council Chair

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