

Minutes

Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Work Group Meeting

June 24, 2009

1. A meeting of the REA Work Group was convened at the BLM National Training Center at 1:15 p.m., June 24, 2009. The agenda items are shown at enclosure 1.
2. Attendees:
 - a. RAC members: Norman Perry, Glen Collins, Frances Werner, Richard Lunt, Linda Kennedy, Maggie Sacher, and Steve Saway.
 - b. BLM personnel: Don Applegate, Arizona Recreation Program Lead; Len Marceau, Recreation Planner, and Ruben Sanchez, Field Office Manager, Kingman Field Office; Tom Dabbs, Gila District Manager; Scott Florence, Arizona Strip District Manager; Becky Heick, Colorado River District Manager; Angie Bullets; and Helen Hankins, Associate State Director, Arizona State Office.
3. Action on agenda items:
 - a. The Chair asked all attendees to introduce themselves and then discussed the purpose and agenda for the meeting.
 - b. Draft minutes of the March 25, 2009 and May 20, 2009 REA Work Group Meetings. Motion made by Norman Perry, seconded by Frances Werner, to approve the minutes as stated. Motion was approved.
 - c. BLM Kingman Field Office Fee Proposal. Len Marceau discussed the updated Draft Business Plan for the Kingman Amenity Fee Site Program (copies had been previously sent to the Work Group members) and fielded questions from RAC members. Questions included: how were increases determined (the percentages varied), is there catch-up going on, and will more increases be needed? It was noted that Mohave County was reducing fees for Hualapai Mountain Park, which may generate complaints for BLM's fee proposal. Some comments included: BLM should cover costs with the fee program; socio-economic impacts should be considered (Mohave County users are mostly rural and low income) and there are different demographic users at the different fee sites; some costs are covered by taxes (appropriations); and Windy Point and Wild Cow Springs do not have water – so could be hard to sell the fee increase there. The group also delved into the financial details with comments and questions. The Kingman Field Office manages the three fee sites as one business unit. Tracking revenues and costs for each site separately could be troublesome. The group discussed the financial details on pages 11 through 13 in the business plan. It was not clear how accurate the estimated annual expenses (page 13) are because the BLM's accounting system does not necessarily track costs to that level of detail, operations costs could be funded by various accounts, and project codes were not used solely for the fee sites. But the group accepted the financial details as the best estimate available of revenues and expenses. Regarding public outreach, the Work Group felt the Kingman Field Office did an excellent job in notifying the public of the business plan and proposed fee increases. However, results of

the public outreach generated only ten comments, and five of those were opposed to the fee increases. Most of the Work Group felt that this reflected a general acceptance by the public of the proposed fees, as many folks do not comment unless they are opposed. After further discussions, a motion was made by Norman Perry, seconded by Glen Collins, to accept the fee proposal and to recommend to the full RAC that the proposal be supported as presented in the Draft Business Plan. The motion carried 3 in favor, 1 opposed. Regarding the financial details, Maggie Sacher wondered if new numbers could be provided after one year to verify the estimated revenues and expenses. This generated some discussion of the feasibility and the idea did not gain traction because it was likely to be too burdensome.

d. BLM State Director's response to RAC letter re: Western Slope No-Fee Coalition email. The Chair summarized the key points from the State Director's letter. The letter reaffirmed that REA Work Group meetings must be open to the public but do not require a Federal Register notice. A local notice to announce the public meeting is adequate. An office location will need to be selected for the public to attend in person (with BLM and/or Forest Service staff). RAC members can either attend in person or via teleconference as is the normal practice.

e. Other REA Work Group business. Due to Maggie Sacher's interest in the REA Work Group discussions, Glen Collins made a motion to nominate her to be a member of the REA Work Group. Motion was seconded by Norman Perry and unanimously approved by the Work Group. The full RAC will have to vote to approve the appointment.

4. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m.
5. Minutes submitted by: Steve Saway, REA Work Group Chair
6. Date approved: September 16, 2009