

## Meeting Minutes

### Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

January 21, 2011

Sparks, Nevada

#### I. RAC Attendance and Welcome

7:30 a.m., Friday, January 21, 2011 – meeting was called to order by Will Roger Peterson with the following members of the RAC present:

##### SIERRA FRONT – NORTHWESTERN GREAT BASIN RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

<b>COUNCIL MEMBER</b>	<b>RESOURCE/EXPERTISE</b>	<b>07/13/2010</b>
<i>Mark Freese</i>	State Agency	
<i>Jim Billingsley</i>	Elected Official	X
<i>Mathew Gingerich</i>	Transportation/ROWs	
<i>Thomas Burton</i>	Native Americans	
<i>Michael P. Drews</i>	Public-At-Large	X
<i>Tim Dufurrena</i>	Livestock Permittee	X
<i>Dennis Laybourn</i>	Mining	X
<i>Charles Matton</i>	Wild Horses & Burros	X
<i>William Molini</i>	Wildlife	
<i>Ernest Paine</i>	Livestock Permittee	X
<i>Will Roger Peterson – (Chair)</i>	Recreation	X
<i>Deborah Lassiter</i>	Energy/Minerals	X
<i>David Von Seggern</i>	Environment	X
<i>D. Craig Young</i>	Archaeology	X
<i>Dr. Tamzen Stringham</i>	Academic	

**BLM Staff Present: Gene Seidlitz, Chris McAlear, Lisa Ross, Mark Struble**

**Public Present:**

#### II. Summary of Motions Other Than to Approve Minutes

- Mike made the motion Will Rogers remain as Chair. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
- Chuck made the motion that Craig Young be Vice-Chair. Jim seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
- Mike made the motion the RAC draft a letter in support for a full time person in the admin site (BR Station) in Gerlach. The letter will be forwarded to Gene Seidlitz and the NSO. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Craig made the motion that the RAC send a letter to the BLM Nevada State Director, state legislators, Governor and SHIPO requesting that SHIPO protocol not be reverted back to 1980's protocol, but stays the same. They are concerned that state budget cuts to SHIPO would make it very difficult for BLM to accomplish any consultation on our many projects. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed. Craig and Mike will draft the letter to be reviewed by the RAC.

### **III. Welcome & Introductions – Welcome to new RAC members**

- \*Matthew Gingerich, Transportation/ROW
- \*Deborah Lassiter, Energy & Minerals
- \*David Von Seggern, Environmental
- \*Mark Freese, State Agency (NDOW)
- \*Thomas Burton, Native American Tribes
- \*Jim Billingsley, Elected Officials

#### **Welcome back to reappointed RAC member:**

- \*Charles Matton, Wild Horses & Burros

### **IV. Election of RAC Officers for FY2011 – see motions above.**

### **V. Summary of Action Assignments**

- The WH&B subgroup will draft a letter of support for the Calico gather this fall. The letter will be presented to the RAC at the March meeting.

### **VI. Minutes from the Meeting in Winnemucca, July, 2010.** Mike made the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Dennis seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

### **VII. RAC Subgroup Reports**

- **Black Rock Subgroup – Will Peterson** – There was a meeting held in Reno in December with presentations from the Black Rock staff. The possibility for a full time staff person at the admin site (BR Station) in Gerlach was discussed. Gene stated there has been a fund request for a BLM employee to staff BR Station April – Oct. Gene explained there will be exhibits at the BR Station about how the NCA came to be. The next BR subgroup meeting will be held in Reno on Saturday, March 19. Will explained the makeup of the RAC subgroup.
- **Wild Horse and Burro Subgroup – Chuck Matton** – At the last RAC meeting in July, the WH&B subgroup was tasked with writing a letter in support of the WH&B Strategy. Chuck explained that after the meeting he became aware that the WH&B handbook had already been published, so the subgroup did not write a letter of support. Gene explained that a letter of thanks was sent to Chuck thanking the WH&B subgroup and mentioned that BLM is listening by implementing CTR's.

### **VIII. District Manager Reports**

**Carson City: Bryant Smith, Associate DM** – *See DM report distributed at the RAC meeting.*

#### **Discussion –**

- There should be more positive publicity in regards to Geo Thermal. Mark will check with the Senator's office about a joint press release focusing on Geo Thermal.
- Converting more public land into private. This topic was tabled for a later meeting.

**Winnemucca: Gene Seidlitz, DM,** *See DM Report distributed at the RAC meeting.*

### **IX. FY10 Accomplishments –**

In FY2010 there were three Sierra Front-Northwest Great Basin RAC meeting.

- Review of AARA stimulus projects implementation.
- Review of Ruby Pipeline EIS meetings
- Wild horse program overview, debrief of Calico Wild Horse Gather & Secretary's WH&B Initiative.
- USFWS specialist presentation on the listing of the Sage Grouse and probable impact to BLM resource management programs.

- SNPLMA Round 11 forum & review of nominations (each Nevada RAC was asked to host a public comment forum by April 30, 2010) with comments to State Director Ron Wenker.
- Presentation of proposed New Comstock Wind Energy Project/EIS area (Carson City, Storey and Washoe Counties) by Great Basin Wind.
- April field visit to Silver Saddle Ranch (Carson City) to discuss the transfer of SSR and Prison Hill Recreation to Carson City under the Carson City Lands Bill followed by visit to SNPLMA-funded conservation easements in Douglas County.
- Draft Winnemucca Resource Management Plan.
- Black Rock NCA Wilderness Plan.
- Grazing permit updates and support for renewal timelines.
- Ramifications of Cheat grass die-off and spread of noxious weeds.
- Water consumption and availability issues with renewable energy projects.
- July vegetative management field trip to Paradise Valley, Santa Rosa & Montana Mountains (Winnemucca District).

#### **X. Agenda for upcoming meetings -**

Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings are:

- BR NCA Wilderness Management Plan – public meetings coming up.
- Landscape approach/land health assessment processes – Grazing
- Ruby Pipeline – Summer Field Tour
- Soldier Meadow Ranch – Third weekend in June.
- SNPLMA Round 12
- Geothermal Projects Review - Hidden Cave and Sand Mountain -
- Trego Hot Springs.
- Rangeland Health – Joe Tague presentation.
- Winnemucca RMP
- BR NCA Wilderness Plan
- Livestock grazing permits - Spring
- HMA Field review? Calico - Summer
- SHIPO
- Geo Thermal Projects Review – March
- Rangeland Health – Spring mtg.
- Eagle impacts to wind energy projects -Spring
- Visit BR Station – Summer
- New Wildlands Initiative – on agenda for next two mtgs.
- Right-a-ways

It was discussed and decided to keep the DM reports brief at upcoming meetings.

**XI. FY11 RAC Issue/Agenda Priority Setting & Scheduling of Meetings**

**The next meeting will be held March 30 & 31 in Carson City.**