

Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Meeting Summary

October 19, 1999

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m..

II. Introductions

Members Present:

John Bailey, Chair	Brant Oswald
Mike Atwood, Vice Chair	Rod Siring
Michelle Goodwine	Ellen Woodbury
Dave Haug	Jim Woodhull
Jerry O'Hair	

Others Present:

John Logan, Ex-Officio	Steve Golnar
Terri Marceron, Ex-Officio	Tom Hallin
Allan, Steinle, Ex-Officio	Todd O'Hair
Liz Galli-Noble, Coordinator	Jeanne-Marie Souvigney
Jim Robinson, DNRC	Stan Todd
Pete Story	

III. Prior Meeting Minutes

The October 7, 1999 minutes were approved with the following modification: "The Yellowstone River Task Force will be holding its next meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 19.....".

IV. 319 Management Plan Grant Rewrite

The Task Force 319 Grant Revision Subcommittee (Mike Atwood, Jerry O'Hair, and Ellen Woodbury) met with Jim Robinson and Liz Galli-Noble on October 15, 1999 and made the necessary changes to the 319 grant proposal. All changes were underlined on the edited version presented at this meeting for Task Force final review.

Discussion of this final draft version led to an issue with the wording "modified regulatory process" on page one and repeated on other pages of the grant. Many members commented that Task Force authority does not extend to the regulatory process, and that their intent was to focus more on the permit application process rather than the regulatory process. After reviewing the subcommittee's discussions on this subject and several word smithing suggestions,

The Task Force unanimously agreed to reword and amend these sections of the grant to read: "...support for a more efficient permit application process for channel and floodplain modification proposals."

Further discussion on the budget component of the 319 grant followed then Jim Robinson pointed out the three-year funding match of \$18,000, which had not been previously addressed.

The Task Force unanimously agreed to ask the Park Conservation District to submit the *Upper Yellowstone River Corridor Management Recommendations 319 Grant proposal as amended.*

Jerry O'Hair added that copies of this final grant proposal should be given to the Park Conservation District board members for their review.

V. Chairman's Update on Meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

John Bailey updated Task Force and community members about the October 13th meeting in Bozeman with Joseph Westphal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Assistant Secretary for Civil Works. Bailey reported that Westphal and his staff indicated that they would like to come back to the area and meet with concerned citizens groups, and that maybe the Task Force could invite them to one of our meetings.

VI. Landowner Permission Letter Review and Discussion

Lis Galli-Noble presented a draft version of a landowner permission letter, response postcard, and budget for the Task Force's review. Response by Task Force and community members were varied. Comments from the members included:

Liz could talk to title companies for deed transfer information.

How would landowners determine who is on their property? Or if they are with the Task Force or some other group?

Some landowners will never sign a blanket permission statement of access because they have been burned in the past; they may not mind giving permission on a case-by-case or day-to-day basis, however.

Brightly colored signs could be displayed by all Task Force researchers for easy identification, and that information should be added to the letter. The cost for the signs should be added to the budget.

Boxes on the postcard should be added to say:

"I must be called each day that researchers are on my land."

"I, _____, am the authorized landowner and the sole contact then giving permission to access my property."

The letter needs to be shorter, should specifically identify research partners, and should tell people how long they will be on the property.

Although still in an exploratory phase, the Task Force may be able to use an automated phone system to call landowners with special requests with weekly informational updates.

People forget over time, so a one-time letter will not work.

The time frame is too long and broad; maybe do the permission in phases, by season, by types of research being conducted, etc.

We could use this type of letter and information more like a newsletter, to inform the public, before the permission letter is sent.

Liz will take these suggestions and come up with a couple different approaches and a second draft of these correspondences to present at the November meeting. There is still plenty of time to get this together before the spring research season begins.

VII. Ground Rule Rewrite Final Review

Jim Robinson made the revisions to the Ground Rules, which had been decided upon at the October 7, 1999 Task Force meeting, and presented the new version to the Task Force members.

After confirmation that he had addressed the Technical Advisory Committee revisions, the only issue to be addressed was an insertion of the words "...at different locations, when needed,..." to the letter "g" subsection of the Rules.

The Task Force unanimously approved of this insertion to letter "g" subsection and other modifications made by Jim Robinson. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the Task Force Ground Rules as written.

VIII. Socioeconomic Assessment Discussion

Liz Galli-Noble facilitated the socioeconomic assessment discussion. Task Force and community members were asked to address a key preliminary question in this assessment process: Who are the social and economic stakeholders in the Upper Yellowstone River basin?

The Task Force and members of the community came up with the following list of Upper Yellowstone River basin stakeholders (grouped by category):

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- ✓ Landowners
 - Agriculture, home owners, large ranches
 - ✓ Recreational Users (many types: fishing, rafting, kayaking, boating, etc.)
 - Commercial v. noncommercial
 - ✓ Government: Federal: Army Corps or Eng., NPS, USFS, DOT, BLM
 - State: State Lands
 - Local: City, County
 - ✓ Yellowstone National Park (watershed headquarters)
 - ✓ Local Tourist Industry
 - bed & breakfast, hotels, motels, guest ranches
 - ✓ Entertainment Industry (film, advertising, TV)
 - ✓ National Resource Extraction Industries
 - Timber, mining, mineral
 - ✓ Cities and Local Communities
 - Livingston, Gardiner, Pray, Emigrant, Springdale, etc.
 - ✓ Special Interest Groups/Organizations
 - Scientific, environmental, agricultural, historical, etc.
 - ✓ Road and Bridge (users, builders, neighbors)
 - ✓ Railroad
 - ✓ Conservation Easements
 - Buyers and sellers
 - ✓ Tribal Governments
 - ✓ Schools
 - NR receipts, students, parents, teachers
 - ✓ Spring Creeks
 - Owners, users, fisheries
 - ✓ County (Park)
 - ✓ National and International Users
 - ✓ Fire Department/Emergency Services
 - ✓ Local Community Members (general public)
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They were finally asked to think about the following: given the stakeholders identified here tonight, please revisit your *Data and Information Checklist* and other handouts from the October 7th meeting, and ask yourselves: "Have you identified the baseline data needs of all of these stakeholders?" Said another way, What information will need to be collected in a socioeconomic assessment to address these stakeholders' values and needs?

IX. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at the Best Western Yellowstone Inn.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m..