

Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Meeting Summary

February 25, 1999

Members Present:

John Bailey	Mike Atwood
Jerry O'Hair	Laurence Siroky
Martin Davis	Allan Steinle
Bob Wiltshire	Michelle Goodwine
Roy Aserlind	Stuart Lehman
Ellen Woodbury	Joel Tohtz

Others Present:

Jim Robinson	David Haug
Terri Marceron	Steve Golnar
Chuck Dalby	Laura Mogg
Amy Miller	Stan Todd
Lionell Dicharry	John Logan
Dick Blodnick	Mike Lesnik
Vicki Sullivan	Monica Gillow
Jeff Goldberg	

Prior Meeting Minutes

The January 21, 1999 meeting minutes were approved with no modifications.

Legislative Testimony-Resource Development Grant

John Bailey, Chuck Dalby, Jim Robinson, Lorents Grosfield, Brant Oswald, Dan Gutebier, and Gayleen Nalone attended the testimony at the Capitol in Helena on January 26, 1999. Shiell Anderson was asked to give testimony, but was unable to attend. The testimony was positive and went well. DNRC will notify the Task Force by April 1 on the funding for the RDGP grant. John Bailey mentioned the annual Montana Chapter of American Fisheries Society meeting in Big Sky. John did a presentation representing the work of the Yellowstone River Task Force.

Nominations to Replace Vern Hamre on Technical Advisory Committee

The subcommittee (Task Force members: Mike Atwood, Brant Oswald, and Bob Wiltshire and DNRC staff Chuck Dalby and Jim Robinson) did not meet prior to this

meeting to discuss replacing Verne Hamre on the Technical Advisory Committee. The Subcommittee will meet before the next Task Force meeting; suggestions would be helpful for the subcommittee.

Report from the Financial Committee

Amy Miller, Administrative Secretary presented the Task Force with a financial statement for the DEQ grant money (\$49,138). Monthly Expenses are meeting room (\$50.00) and secretarial service (approximately \$240.00). Other expenses allocated are tours and workshops, aerial photos, and administration fees. Funds left after the projected expenses through June 30, 1999 are \$34,595.20. The Financial budget was only done through June 30 because that is when the Task Force officially ends, before the Governor will decide to reinstate the Task Force for another term. The Park Conservation District made a decision to charge the DEQ grant money (\$49,138) an administration fee of 8% except on Amy's administrative secretary salary. Amy and Rod Siring have been working on a memorandum of understanding (mou) between the Task Force and The Park Conservation District and will present the Task Force with a draft copy for review at the next Task Force meeting.

Nominations for Committee to Investigate Acquisition of Coordinator Services

The Task Force was given \$40,000 through the DEQ 319 grant for Coordinator services. John Bailey chose the following Task Force members as a subcommittee to assist in finding a coordinator, Ellen Woodbury, David Haug, Rod Siring, Roy Aserlind and Terri Marceron. Assisting the subcommittee would be Jim Robinson, DNRC and Vicki Sullivan, DEQ. Ellen Woodbury was selected as the chairperson for the subcommittee.

Wish List Discussion – Information Gaps-Task Force Goals for 1999

The Task Force reviewed the wish list (Scientific Information Needs, Training/Education Needs, Health of the River: Biological and Economic, Plan Development Social perception/Roles, and Implementation) choosing items that have been done and those that need work. The Task Force wants to have a coordinator or a facilitator in place to assist with social/economic issues on the wish list that have not been completed. The executive order from the Governor directs the Task Force to provide a forum for discussion of issues that effect the upper Yellowstone River basin particularly, to bring together landowners, sportsmen and sportswomen, and community leaders to develop a shared understanding of the issues and competing values and uses that impact the river. There was general agreement the Task Force needs to get started on addressing these "sensitive" public issues in order to develop a comprehensive plan for the river. A coordinator/facilitator would help organize a series of public meetings to gather public input as well as assist the Task Force with their obligation to help educate the public with expert speakers and provide information and studies on the river. There was discussion on the merit of having other water shed groups and speakers i.e., Teton Conservation District-Snake River, American Fisheries Society Chairman and others, present information to enable the Task Force to make comprehensive plan decisions from an informed basis

Aerial Flight-Landowners permission for Land Access

Chuck Dalby discussed the targets for the aerial flight. The forest Service Office from Missoula will be laying the targets along the Yellowstone River. Jim Robinson is working on a contract between the Forest Service and the Park Conservation District, Because for money to exchange between the agencies a contract must be signed by the chairman of the Park Conservation District. The Task Force mentioned having a section of the letter relieving liability for the landowners. Amy, with Park Conservation District has been asked to find who the landowners are for the targets and send a letter. The Letter will be requesting permission from the landowners to access their land to lay out the targets. Task Force member Bob Wiltshire made a motion to have the Park Conservation District sign the letter that will go to the landowners, Michelle Good wine seconded, and motion was passed. Depending on when the flight will be done cross-sections will also need to be completed after the flight, and Task Force will need additional permission from landowners. An information meeting for the landowners will be held on March 18, 1999 at 7:00 P.M. at the Yellowstone Motor Inn. The meeting will be advertised in the newspaper and in the letter addressed to the landowners requesting permission to access their land.

Bob Wiltshire discussed his concerns on the reduction of Basic River population monitoring by the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. The Task Force agreed a letter from John Bailey, Chair should be addressed to Pat Gram, head of Fish Wildlife and Parks for the state of Montana, requesting help form the their agency with more studies along the Yellowstone River. The other recommendations Bob had will be submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee; Bank Utilization Studies and Side Channel Use Study. Joel Tohtz was not present during this discussion.

Next Meeting

The Yellowstone River Task Force will be holding its next meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 15, 1999, at First Interstate Bank, Livingston.