

Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Meeting Summary

April 15, 1999

Members Present:

John Bailey	Mike Atwood
Jerry O'Hair	Joel Tohtz
Tome Lane	Allan Steinle
Rod Siring	Michelle Goodwine
Roy Aserlind	Brand Oswald
Ellen Woodbury	

Others Present:

Jim Robinson	David Haug
Terri Marceron	Jodi Isaly
Chuck Dalby	Jacque Todd
Amy Miller	John Long
Duncan Patten	Daryl Stutterheim
Joel Cahoon	Scott Zimmerman
Tom Pick	Daryl Smith
Tom Hallin	

Prior Meeting Minutes

The February 25, 1999 meeting minutes were approved with no modifications.

Nominations for Vacancy on Technical Advisory Committee

Mike Atwood suggested Greg Schildwachter, a Wildlife Biologist, as a technical Advisory Committee Member. Mike explained that Greg has watershed and fisheries background and has dealt with sensitive issues involving the timber industry. Mike will contact Greg Schildwachter asking if he is interested in serving on the technical Advisory Committee. Duncan Patten explained to the Task Force that a private Hydrologist and a wildlife biologist are the areas of the Technical Advisory Committee that could be filled by an individual

Report from the Financial Affairs Subcommittee

A. Task Force Account Status

Chuck Dalby and Jim Robinson Handed out the Air Photo Budget Status and an Aerial Photography Status report to the Task Force and Explained the Costs. The

Task Force had budgeted \$21,060 (Task Force amount \$11,060 and HB 223 Grant \$10,000 and actual budget will be 21,233 for the Air Photo Budget Status (over budgeted \$173). DNRC and USFS personnel placed 63 aerial targets along the Upper Yellowstone River between Point of Rocks and The Boulder Road. John Bailey thanked the landowners for their permission to place the aerial targets. The flight was completed April 11, 1999. Amy Miller handed out a copy of the account status on the \$49,138 grant money from DEQ and explained the budget.

B. Status of MOU between Task force and Park CD

Amy Miller has submitted a copy of the MOU to the Financial Affairs Subcommittee (John Bailey, Jerry O'Hair, Rod Siring) for review. The subcommittee will meet April 22, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. to review the MOU and make any necessary changes. The subcommittee will present a draft of the MOU at the next Task Force meeting.

C. Grant Status Reports (Resource Development, HB 223,219)

The committee has approved the Resource Development Grant Program, and DNRC is waiting for the Legislature to pass the budget bill before finalizing the grant. The HB 223 grant has been approved. The 319 grant application has been approved by DEQ and is with EPA, Tom Pick explained that the Park C.D. should have a contract to sign within a couple of weeks.

D. Audio Visual Equipment Procurement

The Park Conservation District has applied for a grant for the Upper Shields Watershed Association to purchase equipment: Overhead Projector, portable Screen, and a Slide Projector. The Park Conservation District asked the Task Force to purchase the equipment at half price to share with the Upper Shields Watershed Association. John Bailey cautioned the purchase because the Task Force at one point will dissolve; however, he mentioned leasing the equipment. A motion was made by Michelle Goodwine to lease the Overhead Projector, Portable Screen, and Slide Projector for \$350.00, seconded by Brand Oswald, and motion passed.

River Articles in Local Paper

Task Force Members discussed the article in the Livingston Enterprise dated April 12, 1999. An environmental group called American Rivers provided the information for the article, the Task Force members did not agree with some of the statements made by the environmental group. The Task Force made a decision to do a guest editorial in the Livingston Enterprise reporting that the Task Force is working on the Cumulative effect study giving the media positive information to print on the Upper Yellowstone River. The Task Force would issue general informative comments in the article. A motion was made to respond to the article by having John Bailey write a letter to the local papers as a guest editorial and sending copies of the guest editorial to Greater Yellowstone Coalition, park

County Environmental Council, and American River. Joel Tohtz Reported that trout abundance near Livingston Increased this year compared to last year's estimate.

Report from Coordinator Acquisition Subcommittee

The Subcommittee (Ellen Woodbury, Roy Aserlind, Rod Siring, Teri Maceron, David Haug) presented the Coordinator Duties to the Task Force. The Task Force discussed the role of the Chairman and working with the Coordinator. The Task Force discussed the coordinator duties and the vagueness on the role of the chairman. The subcommittee agreed to modify the duties to reflect the working relationship between the Chairman and the Coordinator (defining the Chairman as supervisor). The Park Conservation District has agreed to have the Coordinator be an employee of the District. The Coordinator at this time will not be able to have office space in the NRCS building. Amy Miller has spoken to Shirley Gammon and Dana Smithers, both with NRCS, and there is not enough space in the building at this time. The Task Force discussed who would supervise the coordinator and whether the coordinator would be a full time or part time employee. The Task Force agreed to have the subcommittee modify the coordinator duties, develop knowledge; skills; and abilities, and the position description for the next Task Force meeting.

Public Involvement Plan Development

Ellen Woodbury presented a proposal for Public Involvement to the Task Force. The ideas of the proposal are to separate the river into segments, hold a series of meetings in different areas allowing individuals to define their concerns for the river and to define the values that they consider important, and also what stretched of the river are of concern. Ellen suggested to have two meetings a month starting in June, having a couple of Task Force members present at each meeting, and having a facilitator at each public meeting. There was a discussion on using the coordinator to facilitate these public meetings. The Task Force will wait until the coordinator is hired before pursuing the public involvement plan.

Nominations for Guest Speakers

The Task Force discussed potential speakers giving presentations at meetings. Rik Gay, Teton Conservation District, will give a presentation on the Snake River; the Task Force would have to pay for his travel expenses. Steve Barrett, Independent Fire Ecologist, will give a presentation on the effect of fires on rivers. Rob Hazelwood on his presentation given at the American Fisheries meeting in Big Sky. The Big Hole Watershed could give a presentation on their watershed issues. The Task Force will wait until the coordinator is hired before inviting guest speakers.

Outstanding Data Needs-Wish List Follow-Up

Jim Robinson mentioned using Tim Brigman, and Ecologist with DNRC, to collect basic economic data on Park County. The Task Force discussed needing a base for economics.

Task Force members voiced their concern on how the economic information is interpreted. The Task Force discussed social perceptions/roles of the wish list and that these issues need addressed. Tom Pick will have the maps from the inventory study digitized by June to present to the Task Force.

Next Meeting

The Yellowstone River Task Force will be holding its next meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 6, 1999, at the Yellowstone Motor Inn.