

Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Meeting Summary

May 6, 1999

Members Present:

John Bailey	Mike Atwood
Jerry O'Hair	Joel Tohtz
Allan Steinle	Martin Davis
Roy Aserlind	Brand Oswald
Ellen Woodbury	Stuart Lehman
Laurence Siroky	

Others Present:

Jim Robinson	David Haug
Chuck Dalby	Stan Todd
Amy Miller	Duncan Patten
Tom Hallin	Andy Dana
Edwin Nelson	Dick Blodnick
Gayleen Malone	Ron Hoagland
Helen Nelson	

Prior Meeting Minutes

The April 15, 1999 meeting minutes were approved with the following modifications, under the River Articles in the Local Papers section Joel Tohtz reported that trout abundance near Livingston almost doubled this year compared to last year's estimate. In addition, under the Report from Coordinator Acquisition Subcommittee section, Dana Smither's name is correctly spelled Dana Smitherman.

Technical Advisory Committee Vacancy

Mike Atwood presented Greg Schildwatcher's resume to the Task Force members. Greg is a Wildlife Program Manager, with Intermountain Forest Industry located in Missoula. Mike Atwood has asked Greg Schildwatcher to be a part of the Technical Advisory Committee, he is interested, if his employer's budget will allow the travel and time that will be involved. A motion was made by Ellen Woodbury to invite Greg Schildwatcher to be a part of the Technical Advisory Committee, seconded by Jerry O'Hair. Jim Robinson will write an invitation letter to Greg Schildwatcher on behalf of the Task Force to join the Technical Advisory Committee.

Financial Affairs Committee-Draft Operating Agreement Review

The Park Conservation District approved the draft copy of the operating agreement on May 6, 1999 with the following modifications. The Agreement section #4 District wants the agreement to specify the district as the administrative supervisor for the coordinator or any other future Task Force employees and that any employees hired for the Task Force through the Conservation District need to be hired under the District's personnel policy. The District wants the agreement to state that the administration fees (8%) will not be used for any Task Force employee expenses. The Task Force reviewed the operating agreement and made changes involving the statement of the Task Force implementing a River Corridor Management Plan throughout the agreement, these statements were taken out of the agreement. Other minor changes were made involving payment procedures and communications. Jim Robinson will make the changes and will mail a modified copy of the operating agreement between the Upper Yellowstone River Task Force and the

Park Conservation District to Task Force members to review before the next Task Force meeting. The Park Conservation District will review the modified draft and give their decision at the next Task Force meeting.

Coordinator Acquisition Committee-Revised Position Description Review

The Task Force approved the modified coordinator duties from the previous Task Force meeting. The Task Force reviewed the knowledge, skills, and abilities for the coordinator position submitted by the selected subcommittee (Ellen Woodbury, Teri Marceron, Rod Siring, David Haug, Roy Aserlind). There was one change made on number three to read as follows; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with public groups. The Task Force made a motion that the coordinator position will be filled as full time, seconded and motion passed. The 319 grant is approved for \$40,000 for a two-year period. The Park Conservation District will receive a contract to sign within a few weeks. A motion was made by the Task Force to have John Bailey request more funding for the coordinator position from Mark Simonich with DEQ seconded, and motion passed. The Task Force made a motion for the selected subcommittee to move forward with advertising the coordinator position for three weeks (application deadline June 9, 1999) in Montana's Major newspapers, with various watershed groups, and job service, seconded and motion passed. The Task Force approved the selected subcommittee to spend up to \$500.00 on advertising the coordinator position. The selected subcommittee to review the applications chosen by John Bailey will be John Bailey, Ellen Woodbury, Teri Marveron, David Haug (Conservation District), Ron Haugland, Mike Atwood, and Brant Oswald. The subcommittee will choose a few qualified applicants and have the Task Force review at the next Task Force meeting. Ron Hoagland, NRCS District Conservationist, expressed his concerns with having the coordinator located in the NRCS office at the USDA building south of Livingston. Ron requested to be a subcommittee member if the coordinator was to be located in his office for personnel issues.

Public Involvement Plan Development-Committee Selection

The Task Force will pursue public involvement when the coordinator position is occupied.

Data Needs

Jim Robinson discussed having Tim Brigman, an Economist with DNRC, collect economic data about Park County. The Task Force would like Tim to do a presentation on economics at a future Task Force meeting. Task Force members received information on a grant program (ESRI) to provide assistance to local government environmental protection organizations in the establishment of organizations-wide GIS projects.

Other Business

John Bailey reported that he has been in contact with Mark Simonich, Director of DEQ, working on extending the Task Force with Governor Racicot.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is requesting a short questionnaire to help them schedule the availability of grant funds and contracting dates for RDGP funded projects. DNRC is requesting this questionnaire to be completed no later than May 21, 1999, Chuck Dalby and Jim Robinson will complete the questionnaire for the Task Force and the Park Conservation District.

The Task Force discussed publishing an article in the Livingston Enterprise on the approval of RDGP grant funds from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, John Bailey will contact a Livingston Enterprise Reporter.

The flight on the Yellowstone River was completed on April 11, 1999 for the Task Force by Montana Aerial Photography; black and white photographs are available through the Park Conservation District Office

.A three-year old project titled “An Integrated Approach to Watershed Analysis and Management,” was recently proposed for funding by Yellowstone Ecosystem Studies and MSU-Bozeman. Mary Ellen Wolfe, Program Director of the Montana Watercourse at MSU and a partner in the project, described the proposed project for the Task Force, noting that the overriding project goal is to develop improved techniques for evaluating and managing watershed quality. The specific objectives are (1) to develop practical, scientifically valid indicators for assessing and monitoring watershed integrity; (2) to develop methods for better understanding the values and perceptions of key stakeholder groups pertaining to streams and watersheds, and (3) to develop a model for integrating scientific and public understanding of the diverse factor impacting watershed in order to build a solid foundation for improved watershed management. The three-year interdisciplinary project will focus on the upper Yellowstone River and its tributaries. It will integrate ecological, physical and social science research and education.

Next Meeting

The Yellowstone River Task Force will be holding its next meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 24, 1999, at the Yellowstone Motor Inn.