

Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Meeting Summary

July 15, 1999

Members Present:

John Bailey	Mike Atwood
Jerry O'Hair	Stuart Lehman
Allan Steinle	Michelle Goodwine
Roy Aserlind	Ellen Woodbury
Bob Wiltshire	

Others Present:

Jim Robinson	Chuck Dalby
Lionel Dicharry	Dennis Glick
Taylor Pierson	Al Zale
Mike Volesky	Joe Gutkoski
Christine Phillips	Jon Catton
Abigail Dillen	Daryl Smith
Bob Auger	Bruce Rich
Dick Blodnick	Shirley Gammon
Burt Williams	Betsy Buffington
Emma Jay & Bill Dana	Steve Mashuda
Jim Barrett	Jim Angell
Laura Ziemer	Montana Bob

Prior Meeting Minutes

The June 24, 1999 meeting minutes were approved with no modifications.

Election of Task Force Officers for 1999-2001

John Bailey was nominated for Chairman of the Task Force; a motion was made to accept John Bailey as Chair of the Task Force, seconded and passed. Mike Atwood was nominated for Vice Chairman of the Task Force; a motion was made to accept Mike Atwood as Vice Chair of the Task Force, seconded and passed. The ground rules were discussed by the Task Force and will be revisited at the next Task Force meeting.

Report from the Technical Advisory Committee-Cumulative Effects Investigation Work Plan

Chuck Dalby did a presentation on historic channel changes and geomorphology. Chuck explained the goals, objectives, and work products of historic channel changes and geomorphology. Goals include; Map current river channel and historic changes, analyze historic channel changes and effects of channel modification (bank stabilization, levees, etc.) on channel dimensions and stability, and estimate physical cumulative effects of river (bank) management alternatives. Chuck explained the goals, objectives and work products of channel surveys and hydraulic models and delineate floodplain, estimate physical cumulative effects of River (bank) management alternatives. Chuck gave a brief presentation on effects of channel modification on fish habitat. Chuck explained the goals, objectives, and work products of effects of channel modification on fish habitat. Goals include; estimate fish habitat changes due to historic channel modifications, quantify the relative effects of different types of channel modification on fish habitat, and

identify potential linkage between critical habitat types and fish populations. Al Zale, MSU Department of Biology, discussed the fish population study. Fieldwork for the fish population study will not start until the spring of 2000; literature review will be done this summer. Fish habitat comparison will be done between riverbanks with altered banks versus those with unaltered riverbanks. Fish will be Electro shocked during pre-runoff, runoff, late fall, and winter. Duncan Patten, Technical Advisory Committee Chair, explained the riparian proposal. General goal is; determine relationship between fluvial geomorphic processes and floodplain vegetation. Duncan explained the wildlife proposal. Goals include; inform the Task Force, where possible, of effects that have already occurred due to bank stabilization and provide information for projecting short-and long-term effects of future bank stabilization. Duncan expressed the importance of the study being integrated, that the Task Force needs understand the study all needs to fit together so the data will be useful. Social Economics will be addressed when a coordinator is hired for the Task Force. John Bailey asked Dick Blodnick, DEQ, to research what Bill Yellowtail, EPA Regional Administrator, meant at the June 17, 1999 interagency meeting in Helena about "creative" with funding proposals from the Task Force.

Resource Development Grant-Review and Discussion of Scope of Work and Allocation of Funds

Jim Robinson, DNRC explained the budget for the Resource Development Grant Proposal. The Task Force members discussed the budget for phase 0 and 1. A motion was made to approve the budget for phase 0 and 1 for the RDGP funds, seconded and motion passed. Jim Robinson and Chuck Dalby will work with DNRC on developing contracts. The Task Force accepted the concept of the study, however not the budget beyond the RDGP proposal.

Report from Task Force Coordinator Selection Committee

The committee has arranged for interviews to be conducted on August 21, 1999 at the USDA building. Four individuals will be interviewed, and the committee will choose two applicants to attend the next Task Force meeting and give a short presentation and meet the Task Force members.

Next Meeting

The Yellowstone River Task Force will be holding its next meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 3, 1999, at the Yellowstone Motor Inn.