

Upper Yellowstone River Task Force Meeting Summary

August 3, 1999

Members Present:

John Bailey	Mike Atwood
Jerry O'Hair	Daryl Stutterheim
Roy Aserlind	Ellen Woodbury
Teri Marceron	

Others Present:

Jim Robinson	Chuck Dalby
Bruce Rich	Steve Golnar
John Logan	Dave Haug
Amy Miller	Duncan Patten
Tom Pick	Tom Hallin
Greg Schildwachter	Will Rizzo
Liz Galli-Noble	Tammera Crone
Scott Zimmerman	Robert Ebinger
Stan Todd	Rich Moy

Prior Meeting Minutes

The July 15, 1999 meeting minutes were approved with no modifications.

Cumulative Effects Investigation-Riparian, Fisheries and Wildlife Discussion

Duncan Patten, Technical Advisory Committee leader, explained the importance of completing the entire study as stated in the budget. The Task Force discussed the non-funded portions of the study, and the significance of completing the study as outlined in the budget presented by Jim Robinson. The riparian area of the study can get started this field season with the \$35,490 from the Resource Development Grant Program, and more funding can be researched for late winter. The Fisheries study will not start in the field this season and grant funding will need to be established for the next field season. Bruce Rich, Fish Wildlife and Parks. Explained to the Task Force that there was no money in his budget until 2002. Department of Transportation is a possibility for grant funding; the Task Force will work with Joel Marsik on the funding. Greg Schildwachter reported to the Task Force that for the Wildlife study there will need to be information integrated into a database from the Riparian Study and the Upland Study. Funding for the Wildlife study will need to be pursued. The Task Force discussed the importance of proceeding with the study and applying for grant funding. Mike Atwood made a motion to have agencies involved with the Task Force make a solid effort to research and apply for possible funding for the study on the three areas (Riparian, Wildlife, and Fisheries) as listed in the budget, seconded by Ellen Woodbury, motion passed.

Physical Features Inventory-Digitalized Work Product Presentation

Tom Pick, DEQ, explained the digitized work product developed from the Physical Features Inventory data collected in March and April or 1998 (Flight and Float trip on the Yellowstone River). The Corp. of Engineers gave the funding to NRCS to develop the digitized work product. The digitized work product is display on 28 CD's. The Park Conservation District will have a set of the CD's on their office for the

public to purchase. NRIS (Natural Resource Information System) will display aerial images of the Yellowstone River and individual will be able to click on certain areas on the images to review the photos in detail. The information displayed on NRIS will not be specific information such as feet of riprap on the river; the information will be general.

Section 319 Grant Application

Jim Robinson will complete a 319-grant application for the Task Force to request more coordinator funding and possible funds for other areas of the study. Deadline for the 319 grant application is August 27, 1999. Tom Pick stressed the importance of relating the coordinator with water quality improvement. The 319 grant length is for two years and will be available if funded in July 2000.

Upland Land Use Assessment Work Plan Proposal

Tom Pick reviewed the draft of the Upland Land Use Assessment and Analysis. The work plan addresses the upland land use assessment component of the socioeconomic aspects of the river corridor management plan. This proposal will serve as an internal request to authorize funding for the purpose of providing technical assistance to the Task Force to complete the following tasks relative to providing a land use assessment report to the study team for project lands outside of the stream corridor. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service will provide technical assistance through Park Conservation District. The assistance will take the sole form of technical assistance. The Task Force requested the Technical Advisory Committee to review the proposal and work with Tom Pick on the changes.

Task Force Ground Rule Reauthorization

Jim Robinson handed out a slightly updated copy of the ground rules. The Task Force will review the ground rules at the next Task Force meeting and update the ground rules for the Technical Advisory Committee and the Coordinator position.

Coordinator

The Task Force held an executive meeting from 7:00pm to 8:00pm to interview two potential candidates interested in the coordinator position. The individuals were invited to attend the Task Force meeting.

Other Business

USGS will be in the field in early August with a jet boat working on cross sections on the Yellowstone River. The schedule for the USGS on the river will be printed in the local paper. Jim Robinson mentioned that the Task Force has not developed a method on the landowner contact at this time.

Next Meeting

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