

Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, June 10, 2020 (1:30 PM)
(Virtual meeting)

Time	Topic		
1:30 PM	Opening: Getting everyone set up and introductions; Review Agenda, Meeting materials		
Attendance (virtual, via Microsoft Teams):			
John Prinkki Jim Hart		Guests: Marna Daley Tim Love	
Barb Cestero Kerry White		Mary Erickson Corey Lewellan	
Bill Wallace Hilary Eisen		John Durnal (for Sen. Daines)	
Colin Cooney Darcie Warden		Stephen Kimball	
Dane Rider Steve Caldwell		Richard Lyon	
Jeff Schmidt Randy Weimer		Janet McClure	
1:40	Consent Agenda: Past Minutes and Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
Approval of consent agenda moved by Kerry White, seconded Steve Caldwell. Approved			
1:45	Membership applications	Prinkki/Atwood	Discuss membership application Big Horn County Commissioner Gordon Realbird
No new membership applications were presented.			
1:50	Operations Manual and Membership Roster	Prinkki/Atwood /Eisen	Tribal representation
John Prinkki reported he had recently reached out to Commissioner Realbird in Big Horn County for discussion about their representation, and was awaiting response. Members continued discussion toward the addition of seat(s) on the CGWG roster to include representation of Tribes, an agreed to develop a communication to be sent to Tribes encouraging their participation on the CGWG. Darcie Warden and Hilary Eisen agreed to develop a draft letter and bring it back to Members for approval.			
1:55	Report on Montana Forest Action Committee priorities	Schmidt/Warden	MFAC recent events, priorities and actions
Darcie Warden and Jeff Schmidt updated the Group on recent MFAC progress. Implementation strategies are being developed. By July the final plan should be completed with adoption expected by September. Jeff Schmidt is on the Goals committee, with their next meeting scheduled in the coming week. The next MFAC meeting (virtual) will be held on July 6 th and 7 th .			
2:00	DNRC: LGA grant distribution, July LGA grants, other DNRC projects	Stephen Kimball, Local Government Forest Advisor	Information of how LGA funds were allocated, next round of LGA grants and other DNRC forestry topics
Stephen Campbell (Local Govt. Forestry Advisor, DNRC) addressed the Group with updates on the latest decisions on LGA grants. He emphasized that his office has staff time available to assist Counties with issues related to forest management including legal support through grant funds. Since 2017, approximately \$217,000 in grant funds have been awarded. They are waiting on approval for funding in			

<p>2021, with \$4,500 earmarked for CGWG provided the funding is approved. There will be a virtual briefing on July 7th during the MFAC meeting from 1-3 pm. Additional updates were provided on the Montana Climate Solutions Plan (Governor's Office), and the Good Neighbor Authority (also available on the MFAC website).</p>			
2:15	<p>Custer Gallatin Forest Team Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Plan Revision status - Current Projects (North Hebgen, Smith Shields) and litigation update - BMW project - Looking back at the furlough - 	Mary Erickson and staff	<p>Updates, introduction of new staff members, dialog with CGWG concerning new projects and priorities going forward.</p>
<p>Mary Erickson reported the Forest Plan should be released for comment by the 2nd week of July. Injunctions on the East Boulder and Bozeman Municipal Watershed projects have been lifted. Both are due to be awarded soon. East Boulder contract will be administered through DNRC. North Hebgen injunction has also been lifted after the Forest Service developed remedies for certain issues. Kerry White asked about firewood permits in Region 1. Mary reported the FS had decided that free use firewood permits which were available through May, 2020 would not be continued through the end of the calendar year. Users must still have a permit, but at no charge (12 cord limit).</p> <p>John Prinkki revisited the Bozeman Watershed Project. He asked the Group to consider releasing an op-ed or similar communication to draw attention to the long history (and litigation) and the importance of moving forward with the planned management. Members discussed options for getting the message out, concluding that an op-ed would be drafted and circulated to members for their comment and approval.</p> <p>John Durnal (Sen. Daines' office) provided an update on the Great American Outdoors Act sponsored by Senator Daines, which provides funding to address maintenance on federal lands. He will be forwarding further details via email for circulation to members.</p>			
2:50	<p>Report from the three new committees: East Gallatin (Bozeman Ranger Dist.), Cooke City (Livingston Ranger Dist.), and South Otter (Ashland Ranger Dist.)</p>	Prinkki/Atwood	<p>Review progress and discuss next steps</p>
<p>New project subcommittees are still in startup mode. Mary Erickson pointed out the South Otter Project already has an inter-disciplinary team established, putting it ahead of the other projects internally. She recommended contacted them as soon as the subcommittee is ready to begin its work, and encouraged the idea of engaging the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.</p>			
3:20	CGWG Meeting schedule	Prinkki / Atwood	Reaffirm September and December dates
<p>Next meeting (Sept. 9th., Dec. 9th). Meetings to be held virtually as long as virus containment policies remain in effect.</p>			
3:30	Adjourned.		