

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, May 10, 2017 (1:00PM)

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki / Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
1:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes, Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki / Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
1:10	Membership seats/applications	Prinkki / Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications; Bruce Reiersen, Mt. Trail Riders Asso.: Notice of lack of attendance
1:15	CGWG Support Letters for North Hebgen and Smith-Shield Projects	Prinkki/Atwood	Status Report
1:20	Wild and Scenic River (W&SR)	Charles Drimal, GYC	How the W&SR process works and affects local and federal land use
2:20	Wild and Scenic River (W&SR)	USFS; Pam Novotsky / Loren Oswald	Forest Service perspective on process and affect
3:20	Wild and Scenic River (W&SR)	Loren Groskopf/ Par Co., Wyo. Commissioner Prinkki; East Rosebud River	Local perspective; A message from Loren Groskopf. Carbon County position on East Rosebud River
3:30	Custer Gallatin National Forest; Forest Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly and Mariah Lueschen	FPR status report
3:45	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision Outreach	Prinkki / All	Further Work on CGWG Community Outreach events
4:00	Montana Forest Collaborative Network (MFCN)	Tim Love; Chairman; MFCN	What is the Montana Forest Collaborative Network
4:30	June meeting plan	Prinkki	Agenda, location, homework
4:30	Close, if not sooner		

ATTENDING:

Margo Magnant
 Joe Skinner
 Barb Cestero
 Ian Jones
 John Bailey
 Jeff Schmidt
 Jerry Furtney
 Bill Bullock
 Steve Caldwell
 Corey Lewellen
 Bill Wallace
 Jackie Musgrove
 Hillary Eisen
 Darcie Warden
 John Prinkki
 John Beaudry
 Barb Cestero
 Kerry White

Mary Erickson
 Richard Lyon
 Hilary Eisen
 Marna Daley
 Neil Simpson
 Richard Lyon
 Pam Novotsky
 Charles Drimal
 Tim Love
 Chad Benson
 Virginia Kelley
 Earl Atwood

Chairman Prinkki opened the meeting at 1:00PM.

New member Bill Bullock (Commissioner, Carbon County) was introduced. Comm. Bullock succeeded John Prinkki on the Carbon County Commission after Prinkki's retirement.

Consent list items including financial report and minutes from the May, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction.

John Prinkki reported that he has been in contact with State AG and DNRC regarding litigation on the Smith Shields project. He will be writing to them to determine CGWG opportunities to engage and assist with legal process on this project. Steve Caldwell reported that the Park County Commission is discussing options for intervening in the litigation as well, or possibly filing an amicus brief. Kerry White mentioned and briefly described HB281 from the last session which could possibly provide access to funding for local govt or collaboratives to assist with their legal participation in such lawsuits. Prinkki asked the members to begin considering whether CGWG should intervene or file an amicus brief, to be discussed further at a future meeting.

John Prinkki inquired about the timeline for operations beginning on the North Hebgen and Smith Shields projects. She reported that North Hebgen is still in objection period, and so would be a summer-fall 2017 sale at earliest, with operations beginning in 2018 unless held up by litigation. Smith Shields sale is targeted for late 2017, with operations expected in 2018.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act presentations:

Charles Drimal, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, provided a presentation containing a comprehensive review of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and information on how it is implemented relative to numerous Montana resources and projects. Numerous questions were asked during the course of the presentation. Mr. Drimal agreed to share the presentation slides with CGWG, and are now available for review at the media library at CGWG.org.

Pan Novotsky, USFS also provided a report to the members offering a perspective from the Forest Service regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Ms. Novotsky shared with the members a copy of the extensive compendium of Questions and Answers about their administration of projects involving Wild and Scenic Rivers (also now available at CGWG.org).

Following the presentations, John Prinkki reported that he had invited Loren Groskopf, Park County Wyoming Commissioner to add information about experience in Wyoming with W&S. Unfortunately Comm. Groskopf was unable to attend, but did want to share with the members his observation that he was unaware of any instances in Wyoming where a W&S designation had a detrimental effect on private property rights, a concern which had been raised at a CGWG meeting. (Chairman Prinkki had to leave the meeting early at this point.)

Virginia Kelly provided an update on the Forest Plan Revision. The planned summer public meetings have been deferred to September to allow more work to be done on the planning documentation. Over the summer the W&S eligible rivers and Wilderness inventory will be updated and incorporated for public comment in the fall. Webinars are planned for the summer and will be advertised by email.

John Prinkki announced and encouraged attendance at the upcoming Beartooth Front Community Forum meeting to be held in Red Lodge on May 21 and 22. It will include a focus on Public Lands issues.

Tim Love, Chairman of the Montana Forest Collaborative Network was introduced. Mr. Love offered a brief presentation explaining the history of the MFCN and its current mission in support of the various forest collaboratives operating in Montana.

The meeting plan for June was discussed. Meeting to be held in Billings on June 14th. Mike Penfold offered to assist with logistics and lineup of relevant agenda items for the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.