

National Forest Service Advisory Board NFAB MEETING-

West River Agricultural Center, 1905 Plaza Drive, Rapid City, SD June 15, 2005, 1:00 pm

Members Present: Tom Blair, Chair, Bob Kloss Vice Chair, John Culberson (Heinert), Aaron Everett, Bryce Healy, Doug Hofer, Everett Hoyt, Ron Johnsen, Jim Margadant, Bob Paulson, James Scherrer, Linda Tokarczyk, Theresa Two Bulls, and Paul Valandra (Colombe). Staff members: Marisue Hilliard, Brad Exton, Frank Carroll, and Lonnie Arthur. Approximately 15 members of the public, board alternates, additional staff members, media and congressional representatives were present.

Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Blair

Comments to the Chair

Carroll: We do have an obligation to meet with a quorum present as the agenda and minutes are recorded in the Federal Register.

Chairman Blair: How do we cancel if there is no need to meet? What is the timeframe to cancel? Frank will research.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Blair: If there are no comments, the minutes will stand as written.

The name of Everett Hoyt was inadvertently omitted from last month's Members Present and will be added.

Minutes approved.

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Blair: If there are no changes the printed agenda will stand.

Housekeeping Items:

Carroll: Thank you to the Boxelder Job Corps for providing the refreshments

Chairman Blair: Last month's meeting was short and there were questions about traveling distances for short meetings. I do apologize if anyone felt it was not worth his or her time to attend.

Johnsen: There is no need to apologize for a short meeting.

Meeting Protocols – Issues

Chairman Blair: I have photographs of OHV damage in the Black Fox area for the board to review. These vehicles were encountered by a private citizen and are evidently in violation of cross-country driving and corresponding resource damage.

When encountering violations, maybe we can notify the RC Journal for an article from Bill Harlan to help to provide a measure of public awareness regarding the use of OHV's and possible resulting resource damage.

We need to encourage the public to turn in violators, and they (the public) need to know how to react when encountering prohibited activities.

Chairman Blair: I will ask Doug Hofer to comment on what needs to be done.

Hofer: Contact an officer such as a Black Hills National Forest Law Enforcement Officer; remind the public, do not attempt to take matters into their own hands.

Paulson: What are the fines?

Thompson: I will cover fines and other items later in my report.

Carroll: Distributed a handout, the Region 2 Mid-Year Report

Chairman Blair: How long does it take for mature trees to assimilate moisture?

Thom: It will take a good year when and where there is absorption to the sub surface.

Hot Topics:

Carroll: Our Summer Tour is scheduled in conjunction with our August 17 board meeting. Rick Cables will join us. Last summer we toured the Jasper fire area and Black Fox areas. Do any of you have suggestions for the tour for this summer?

Chairman Blair: Maybe we can meet in Deadwood.

Everett: Since we are currently working Invasive species and Travel Management, it may be well to tour those corresponding areas.

Scherrer: We already have members looking at those areas, I suggest that we table this item for now and put on the agenda for the next (July) meeting.

Hoyt: Even if sub-committee is working on these issues, it should not exclude the entire board from participating on a tour.

Chairman Blair: Let's bring this up at end of meeting.

Regular Agenda:

Kloss: Update Phase II – Board findings and resolution on Phase II Amendment and next steps.

Just a reminder, it's a phase we are going through!

Kloss: Here is a document that contains the sub-committee's findings and recommendations. We regret that it is late, but in the overall scope of this entire project, a few weeks are miniscule. It is hoped that the findings and recommendations will bring us to a common place and we have the option to agree or disagree.

Hilliard: Bob, maybe you can give the board the why and the changes that you are recommending.

Scherrer: What I am looking for is a verbal executive summary.

Kloss: There are two findings to date; the 3rd will be covered, which is Research Natural Areas, next month. This is a consensus document and we are looking for a resolution from the board.

Scherrer: Who has read it other than sub committee?

Chairman Blair: If you need more time, we can table or take a break so we can have time to peruse the document.

Hilliard: Thanks to the sub committee for its work, we can do a brief review of the document.

Kloss: So everyone is aware, there has been extensive deliberation from the sub-committee.

Scherrer: I make a recommendation to approve

Everett: 2nd

Chairman Blair: Is there any discussion?

Paulson: Is an appendix needed and can appendices be added in the future?

Hilliard/Thom: If we add, we will present it to the board and have it approved.

Hoyt: Appendices are individual opinions and will not represent approval of the group, is that correct?

Everett: I would like to submit one clarification; in Finding 1, add (pine) after (including).

Paulson: Move to approve.

Margadant: 2nd

Valandra: I need a brief update on Phase II

Chairman Blair: This has been a long and complex project and many of us have to come up to speed as new members. I am going to ask Dave Thom to provide you a briefing aside from this meeting.

Carrroll: As a note, we are charged to make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture, and we are a legal advisory group to the Chief – US Forest Service.

Dave Thom will update Paul Valandra.

Hoyt: As a sub committee member, I wish I had all of the history connected with this project, but I have been able to review minutes and discuss with other board members and Forest Service staff to give me a chance to at least have an increased perception of what is involved.

Margadant: Various comments relating to Phase II.

Scherrer: Everett will you give us your editorial opinion?

Everett: Essentially, I can agree with the document.

Hofer: Are we ready for this? I need more time to reconcile the findings.

Chairman Blair: Let's continue to discuss, but let's consider tabling for now and use 10-15 minutes of presentations before we take action.

Culberson: We need to move off dead center and take action, are we here to just kick this around or move on?

Teupel: (from floor) I would recommend that the agency organize a training session for new board members.

Hilliard: We need to show how the Forest Service will use this document vs. the public comment.

Thom: We are developing a recommended alternative based on comments and recommendations that we have received.

Carroll: We are looking for a resolution not consensus.

Scherrer: A month is not going to make a great difference in our understanding of this document. We can hang loose for a month but we will not have a revelation of understanding.

Chairman Blair: We will have a pre-meeting for new members the morning of our next board meeting to update the board on this history of this project.

Tokarczyk: I request to interchange the use of species and wildlife as they are printed in the document. Use species vs. wildlife to expand what may be accurately included.

Break: 2:25p.m.

Kloss: I will make a few comments on diversity (forest).

Culberson: Do we need some clarification on the document with the edits?

Scherrer: My motion did not include the edits. We need to clarify.

Carroll: There are not substantive changes made in the edits.

Everett: The forest service staff made the non-substantive changes.

Scherrer: May I amend my motion to include changes?

Tokarczyk: Be sure to include my recommendation on species language
I make a motion to change wildlife to species where appropriate

Scherrer: 2nd

Unanimous approval

Chairman Blair: Is there a motion to table the Findings and Recommendations document until the next meeting.

Scherrer: So moved

Hofer: 2nd

Chairman Blair: Please send the board a revised copy by end of business July 15.

Paulson: Is there a date by which appendices may be submitted?

Thom: Currently, there is not a closure date for submission to appendices.

Hofer: What about alternative language, i.e. habitat structural stage

Chairman Blair/Thom: Make an amendment at next meeting.

Motion carried: Culberson opposed.

Travel Management:

Blair reviewed notes from the group's second meeting.

Thompson: Highlights from the meeting; we are looking at having a possible facilitator for this travel management group to keep things in order and run the meetings. The first public meeting may be possibly in September. We are looking at a User Needs

Assessment, which is a forest service document. On the question of fines for violations, i.e. resource damage. For egregious actions, the fine is \$5,000 and or 1 year in jail.

Scherrer: To review the points of meeting, I led the charge and I am irritated about not having a map. Get it together. Get it on the Internet prior to print. I know it all takes time, but we need to get this thing completed.

Paterson (from floor): There are other trail users; hiking, biking, horseback.

Scherrer: Start with OHV then expand to the other trail users

Rowe (from floor): We are looking forward to a healthy forest again; I will use the analogy of a cancer cell and the spread of the disease, how physicians treat disease and how the medicines/therapies work.

Kjar: The map is ready to go to the printer, but can get it on the web and link it to the various sites such as GFP,

Thompson: As far as staffing to support the sub committee, we are looking at a staff position. We want to obtain data from outside groups and creating quality information.

Invasive Species:

Tokarczyk/Teupel: Presented a review of the minutes of the Invasive Species meeting, June 7, 9:30-4:00.

Chairman Blair: The sub committee will prepare a final report for the board to be received not later than close of business July 15.

Scherrer: What do you want from us as a board?

Brown: Just a comment, but I would like everyone to begin to think in terms of biomass use vs. burning, relating to invasive species/weed control at burn sites.

Break: 3:30 p.m.

Carroll: We need to hold an election of officers, Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for Chair:

Scherrer: Are the chair and vice interested in serving another term?
Yes they are, (acknowledgement from Chair and Vice Chair.)

Scherrer: I make a motion for the nomination for chair and vice chair, Blair and Kloss.

Margadant: 2nd

Valandra: I move to cease nominations

Everett: 2nd

Margadant: I want to clarify that Bob Kloss is included in this nomination.

Everett: 2nd

Culberson: I move that nominations cease and we submit a unanimous ballot.

Unanimous approval.

Chairman Blair: It is time for public comments

Colin Paterson: I just wanted to follow up on fines for violations.

Lloyd: For the egregious violations those are the fines, however, for lesser violations the bail/collateral forfeiture is in the \$100.00 range.

Chairman Blair: As we have completed all the items on the agenda, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Scherrer: I move to adjourn

Everett: 2nd

Meeting adjourned 4:30