

NATIONAL FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

West River Ag Center

1905 Plaza Drive

Rapid City, SD

November 16, 2005, 1:00 pm

Members Present: Tom Blair, Chair, Bob Kloss, Vice Chair, James Heinert, Doug Hofer, Everett Hoyt, Ron Johnsen, Druse Kellogg (Everett), Jim Margadant, Suzanne Martley (Paulson), Pat McElgunn, Nels Smith, Linda Tokarczyk, and Paul Valandra. Forest Service representatives, Craig Bobzien, Brad Exton, and Lonnie Arthur, recorder. Alternate members in attendance: John Culberson, Nancy Kile
There were approximately 10 additional forest service representatives, media, congressional representatives and the general public.

Members Absent: Aaron Everett, Bob Paulson, Jim Scherer and Theresa Two Bulls.

Welcome and Roll Call:

Chairman Blair: Quorum present

Comments to the Chair:

Exton: There are various handouts at each member's place and extra copies are available.

Approve Minutes:

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

Agenda:

Chair Blair: Are there any changes to the agenda?

Exton: Please take the first item on the agenda, Phase II Update, and move it down on the agenda..

Chair Blair: If there are no other changes, the printed agenda will stand.

Housekeeping items:

Exton: A thank you to the Boxelder Job Corps for providing the treats.

Introduction of Druse Kellogg, alternate for Aaron Everett, as various members may not have had a chance to meet her.

Meeting Protocols – Issues:

No additional items.

Hot Topics:

Bobzien: Provided an update on the categorical exclusions that have changed since the prior meeting along with EIS requirements on future projects.

Regular Agenda:

Chair Blair: As noted previously, we are switching the order and will have the presentation on Phase II later on the agenda.

Travel Management Sub Committee Report:

Chair Blair, Thompson, Willems: Updates from the most recent Travel Management public meeting, November 14 at the Ramkota Inn, Sioux Falls, SD. There were approximately 80 people attending along with 11 committee members. The next and last meeting is scheduled for December 5, 7:00 pm, at the school in Sundance, WY. December 15 is the close of the comment period and a 2007-2008 time frame is anticipated for completion.

Thompson reviewed the key portions of the Final Travel Management Rule from the Chief that is dated, November 2, 2005. There is a four-year time period for the completion of the Travel Management Rule.

The sub-committee presented a review of the recommendations, such as setting a schedule, the implementation phase; should it be Forest wide, State wide, Ranger District or other defined areas.

Hofer, Smith: General discussion on Forest-Wide implementation being the best choice when it is time to implement.

Mumm: There is a unanimous recommendation from the sub-committee after long and arduous discussions on the issues that were raised in the last three public meetings.

Blair: As the Travel Management sub-committee chair, I am making a motion to recommend that the sub-committee will make final recommendations for approval or endorsement by the parent board and that recommendation will be sent forward as the OHV Travel Management recommendation to the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor.

Smith: 2nd.

General discussion on the appropriateness of the Chair of the Board making a motion, knowing that the motion is coming from the sub-committee chair who is the same person.

Valandra: I would like to affirm the Chair's making the motion.

Margadant: Second

Unanimous approval of both items.

Blue Ribbon Coalition:

Chair Blair: Greg Mumm has been hired at the executive director of the Blue Ribbon Coalition and I invite Greg to make a few comments about his vision with his position with the new organization and his involvement on our travel management sub committee.

Mumm: General comments on the integration of our travel management plans with the others in the nation such as the Blue Ribbon Coalition. I will continue to be involved with the local sub committee even though I will be the Executive Director of the Blue Ribbon Coalition.

Chair Blair: It's great to have you in your new position and knowing that you are still "out blazing new trails."

Hoyt: Let us offer our congratulations to Greg on his appointment.

Break: 2:15 pm

Phase II Update:

Chair Blair: Since Dave Thom is available; I will invite him to give us a review of the Phase II Amendment.

Thom: One of the handouts that you have is the 1997 Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment 6 Record of Decision – Black Hills National Forest Phase II Amendment. There is also a newsletter of the Forest Plan, Phase II Amendment final EIS Newsletter and Summary. General review of Phase II, the Amendment and Record of Decision signed by the Regional Supervisor, Rick Cables.

Thank you, NFAB members for your assistance in bringing this to completion, you have been very helpful to all of us who have been involved in the process.

Chair Blair: On behalf of the board, I want you all to know that we greatly appreciate all the hard work that has gone into this project. It is evident that we have top-notch people involved.

Biomass and Bioenergy Subcommittee:

Chair Blair: Provided an update on the Biomass public meeting on held November 1. As I mentioned in previous meetings, Biomass is quickly moving to the forefront and it appears timely to create a sub-committee to work with that issue. I have contacted people from various sectors to serve on this committee. If there are any of you who would like to serve, please let me know.

Kile: I would like to be included in this sub-committee.

Chair Blair: I think a field trip to Chadron, NE in January 2006 would be in order.

Valandra: It is important that we plug the tribes into this system that we are creating.

Smith: I move to approve the Biomassing sub committee, the field trip and tribal involvement with the provision that additional members can be added as warranted.

Margadant: 2nd

Unanimous approval.

Kloss: Handout and general remarks on Biomassing.

Bobzien: I acknowledge and want to thank the National Forest Advisory Board and its sub committees for all the work they are doing. If there is a question as to whether your work is relevant, it definitely is and it is a tremendous aid to the Forest Service as we tackle these major issues.

Chair Blair: Are there any final comments from the board?

Hofer: As the Forest Service creates a schedule, keep NFAB apprised.

Tokarczyk: Comments about the matter of public involvement on these issues.

Bobzien: We are tied to the designated Forest Plan and we are not zero-based planning.

Chair Blair: If there are no additional comments from the board, we will take any public comments at this time.

Public Comments and Adjournment:

Kile: I want to inform you all of a series of meetings and dialogue regarding Bear Butte.

Chair Blair: A reminder of meeting dates; there is no December 2005 meeting. The next meeting is January 4, 2006 and the third Wednesday of each month beginning in February, which is February 15, 2006.

If there is no other business to come before the board, the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned: 4: 00 pm