

MINUTES

Eugene District Bureau of Land Management
Resource Advisory Committee
Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000

July 25, 2002
Siuslaw/Willamette Conference Room
Bureau of Lane Management – Eugene District

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Category 1: Peter Hackett , Joannell Mogstad, and Steve Woodard
Category 2: Edward Alverson, James Baker, Robert Keefer, and Penny Lind,
Category 3: Bud Hinman, John Lindsey, Anna Morrison, and June Olson

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Category 1: None
Category 2: None
Category 3: None

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Category 1: Judy Fitzgerald, and Ross Mickey
Category 2: James Thrailkill
Category 3: Jamon Kent

ALTERNATES ABSENT:

Category 1: David Schmidt
Category 2: James Fairchild, and Linda Susan Kelly
Category 3: Philip Barnhart, William Dwyer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayne Elliott (Designated Federal Official), Julia Dougan (Eugene District Manager), Bill Gilmore, Jim Hallberg, Doug Huntington, Sally Nunn, Emily Rice, and Mark Wilkening

Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliot called the meeting of the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 to order at 9:45 a.m. He noted that a quorum was present. He reported that official notice of the meeting had been published in the *Federal Register*, *The Register-Guard*, and *Siuslaw Times*. He said public comment was scheduled to be received immediately after the noon recess.

Mr. Elliott stated that the purpose of the meeting was for RAC members to discuss and recommend “Round Two” Title II projects for funding. He noted that an agenda and a summary listing of project proposals to be considered had been distributed. He referred to a draft document not meant for public review containing a cost analysis of chemical, mechanical/manual, and biological methods for control of invasive species, as requested by members at the previous meeting.

BLM Eugene District Manager Julia Dougan welcomed members to the District Office. She shared the BLM daily update on the Oregon wildfires and explained that many staff were providing support for crews at them. She expressed appreciation for the work of the RAC. She noted that more than \$3 million in resources had been recommended for allocation by the committee since it was formed on February 28.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Anna Morrison requested that changes be made to minutes of the June 13 meeting, as follows:

Page 4, Paragraph 5, Sentence 2:

Mr. Nelson replied that the project was a one-year project, but that the Northwest Youth Corps would likely apply for funding for a different project in the next fiscal year.

Page 5, Paragraph 3, Sentence 1:

Member Edward Alverson asked for an explanation of the budget for the project and if funding for the project by the National Wildlife Foundation had been considered.

Page 8, Paragraph 1, Sentence 2:

He explained that a ~~previously~~ previous study of a single site funded by the US Forest Service had determined that dissolved lead from lost fishing sinkers was a limiting factor for salmon population recovery.

Page 8, Paragraph 2 Sentence 1:

Peter ~~Barret~~ Burrel, Siuslaw Watershed Council staff, stated that efforts were already underway to deal with the sale of lead fishing equipment to eliminate its concentration in popular areas.

Page 8, Paragraph 9, Sentence 3:

He said the proposed ~~week~~ weed control project would provide inventory and control of exotic and noxious weeds in conjunction with the BLM and private land owners.

Page 9, Paragraph 6, Sentence 2:

He said a representative of the Institute was not present and referred to the application for the grant that had been included with those distributed to members with the agenda of the meeting.

Page 10, Paragraph 5, Sentence 3:

He said such habitats were being degraded by the invasion of noxious weeds and succession ~~go~~ of conifer trees.

Page 13, Paragraph 1, Sentence 1:

She said the work was similar to that carried out by Forest Work Camp crews but would be completed by contractors on property on which the camp crews could not go.

Page 14, Paragraph 2, Sentence 2:

He said it was planned as a two-year project because it did not appear to be possible to complete all of the work in a single season and because the project would require closing for of the road.

Page 14, Paragraph 5:

Chairperson Baker declared at a ten minute recess at 2:50 p.m.

Page 15, Paragraph 8, Sentence 1:

Mr. Hinman asked how much would be available for to fund fiscal year 2003 Title II projects.

Page 16, Paragraph 3:

Chairperson Baker suggested that the amount available for funding in the various categories be determined as ~~long~~ far in advance as possible.

Page 17, Paragraph 7, Sentence 1:

Mr. Alverson suggested that it would be helpful to have information about ~~addition~~ additional funding to be included in a proposed project.

Chairperson Baker determined that there was no objection to the requests of Ms. Morrison and stated that the minutes were amended.

Member Edward Alverson requested that changes be made to minutes of the June 13 meeting, as follows:

Page 5, Paragraph 9, Sentence 2:

Mr. Wise replied that the proposal was adapting successful organization efforts in other area areas.

Page 10, Paragraph 7, Sentence 1:

~~Daren Stenger~~ Darin Stringer stated that he was working for Lane County as a forestry technician forester.

Chairperson Baker determined that there was no objection to the requests of Mr. Alverson and stated that the minutes were amended.

Member Bob Keefer moved, seconded by Member Steve Woodard, that the minutes of the June 13, 2002, meeting of the RAC be accepted, as amended. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0.

ROUND THREE

Ms. Dougan proposed that a fall RAC meeting be held that would consider the progress and future of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act process in the Eugene District. She suggested that ways to improve the process could be discussed, site visits of approved projects included, and improvements to outreach procedure developed.

Chairperson Baker said the Round Three process could be improved with such a meeting.

Mr. Alverson said he believed such a meeting would be an opportunity to increase the involvement of Watershed Councils in the work of the RAC. He suggested that representatives of the councils be invited to participate in the discussion.

Ms. Morrison said she believed it was important that RAC recommendations for allocation of resources be limited to projects affecting federal land according to categories provided. She said the lack of funding for Watershed Council work was a decision made by the Oregon Legislature and could not be supplemented by the federal funds.

Member John Lindsey said any outreach effort to expand project applications in the process needed to be clear about the criteria requiring the resources to benefit federal land. He said his experience with a US Forest Service RAC emphasized the importance of collaboration in the use of the funds.

Ms. Dougan said legislation creating the RAC process emphasized the importance of public participation in the resource allocation process. She said the capacity of the Eugene District to support public involvement was not unlimited, but that it was committed to seeking broad based participation. She said the RAC would determine parameters for outreach.

Member Penny Lind said the purpose of the RAC was to create public involvement. She suggested that a criteria requiring leveraging of other resources would broaden the influence of resources allocated by the RAC.

Chairperson Baker said he believed it would be important to be clear in expanding funding applications that the resources needed to benefit federal land. He suggested that there were many recreation and stream rehabilitation projects which would fit the guidelines that have not been considered.

Ms. Morrison said she agreed that a larger variety of public uses of federal land would qualify for RAC allocations than had so far been submitted. She suggested that copies of the first report to the Congress about the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act be provided to members.

Mr. Lindsey said special care should be taken to ensure the correctness of all RAC actions because of the likelihood of a federal audit of programs in the Northwest. Ms. Dougan added that she sought full assurance that projects met guidelines before authorizing the implementation of RAC recommendations.

Member Bob Keefer said he supported holding a fall meeting clarify project submission criteria.

Mr. Elliott said a Fall Strategy Meeting of the RAC would put it “on schedule” for timely consideration of Round Three application submissions. He said the “window” for applications to be received could potentially be January 1 to March 20, 2003, allowing them to be ready for RAC consideration by June 1. He said the RAC needed to complete its work by September 1.

Ms. Morrison said legislation recently considered could affect the analysis required for fire suppression project application.

Meeting facilitator Mark Wilkening explained the process to be followed in RAC deliberations and development of recommendations regarding applications. He emphasized the importance of compromise in the work of Member Categories.

Mr. Elliott reported the Oregon State Office had advised that the Cannery Dunes Project failed to meet the federal land benefit criteria to be eligible for Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act funding. He said the project would be located on private land and could likely benefit land (public domain) managed by the BLM, but not Oregon and California Railroad Grant (O and C) federal land as required by the Act.

Chairperson Baker declared a twenty minute recess at 10:25 a.m.

PRIORITIZING AND RECOMMENDING PROJECTS

Members re-convened in Member Category caucuses to develop initial decisions about support for recommendation for approval of Round Two Project proposals.

Member Category spokespersons reported the consensus recommendations regarding proposals developed in the caucus discussions, as follows:

A. Clay and Whitaker Creek Trail and Campground Maintenance Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

B. Willamette Basin invasive Weed Management Partnership Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No
Category Three Caucus	No

C. Rat/Harms Creek English Ivy Removal Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No
Category Three Caucus	No

D. Watershed Council Training and Educational Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No

Category Three Caucus	No
-----------------------	----

E. Siuslaw Exotic and Noxious Weed Control Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No
Category Three Caucus	No

F. Siuslaw Basin Water Quality Assessment (lead) Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No
Category Three Caucus	No

G. Native Seed Network Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No
Category Three Caucus	No

H. Cannery Dunes Interpretive Sign Project

Support

Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No
Category Three Caucus	No

I. Mt. Pisgah Restoration and Assessment Project

Support

Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	No

J. Lane County Forest Work Camp Project

Support

Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

K. Juvenile Forest Work Team Project

Support

Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

L. Hult Pond Area Roads Complete Phase I Project

Support

Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

M. Cottage Grove Lake/Big River Steam Crossings Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

N. Tyrell Seed Orchard Access Road Paving Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	No
Category Three Caucus	Yes

O. Goodpasture Road Improvement Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes - Reduced to \$157,700
Category Three Caucus	Yes

P. Invasive Plant Species Treatment Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	No
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

Q. Shotgun Park Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes

Category Three Caucus	Yes - Reduced to \$25,000
-----------------------	---------------------------

R. Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Channel Enhancement Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

S. Removal of Abandoned Cars Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

T. Disposal of Illegally Dumped Household Garbage Project

Support	
Category One Caucus	Yes
Category Two Caucus	Yes
Category Three Caucus	Yes

Chairperson Baker determined that there was agreement to recommend for approval projects which had received unanimous support from the caucuses and to no longer consider for approval recommendation projects receiving no support from the caucuses.

Ms. Morrison moved, seconded by Member Joni Mogstad, to recommend to Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott that a request be made to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton's designee Julia Dougan, to approve Fiscal Year 2003 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 funding for Title II projects, as follows:

<i>Clay and Whitaker Creek Trail & Campground Project</i>	<i>\$43,900</i>
<i>Lane County Forest Work Camp Project</i>	<i>\$254,800</i>

<i>Juvenile Forest Work Team Project</i>	<i>\$95,100</i>
<i>Hult Pond Area Roads Project</i>	<i>\$285,000</i>
<i>Cottage Grove Lake/Big River Stream Crossing Project</i>	<i>\$233,000</i>
<i>Cottage Grove/Big River Stream Channel Project</i>	<i>\$48,000</i>
<i>Removal of Abandoned Cars Project</i>	<i>\$16,000</i>
<i>Disposal of Household Garbage Project</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
<i>BLM Indirect Cost at 10% of Program Total</i>	<i>\$140,000</i>
<i>RAC Annual Operating Cost</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0, with members voting as follows:

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<u><i>Category One</i></u>			
Judy Firzgerald			X
Peter Hackett	X		
Ross Mickey			X
Joanell Mogstad	X		
Steve Woodard	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u><i>Category Two</i></u>			
Edward Alverson	X		
James Baker	X		
Robert Keefer	X		
Penny Lind	X		
James Thrailkill			X
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u><i>Category Three</i></u>			
Bud Hinman	X		

Jamon Kent			X
John Lindsey	X		
Anna Morrison	X		
June Olson	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total All Categories:</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>

Members and staff discussed the Goodpasture Road Improvement Project, as follows:

- Goodpasture Road is a Lane County Road, but its problems need to be fixed. (*Hackett*)
- The traffic load on the road could increase with improvements. (*Keefner*)
- Work on the project could be shared with Lane County. (*Morrison*)

Members and staff discussed the Invasive Plant Species Treatment Project, as follows

- Additional cost of project included in BLM budget. (*Gilmore*)
- Confused about “control” versus “eradication.” (*Morrison*)
- It is impossible to guarantee elimination species such as Scotch Broom. (*Keefner*)
- The project was given the highest priority by Category Two members. (*Lind*)
- There is a difference in “philosophies of weed control.” (*Lindsey*)
- Category Two members did not support other weed eradication projects because it was believed that this project had the most likelihood of success. (*Keefner*)
- Mechanical weed removal tools are highly effective. (*Lind*)
- Category One members had a concern that the project was planning to use less effective methods because of its high cost. (*Woodard*)

Category One members caucused and agreed to support the Invasive Plant Species Treatment project.

Ms. Mogstad moved, seconded by Ms. Morrison, to recommend to Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott that a request be made to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton’s designee Julia Dougan to approve Fiscal Year 2003 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title II funding of \$100,000 for the Invasive Plant Species Treatment project. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0, as follows:

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>
--	------------	-----------	---------------

<u>Category One</u>			
Judy Firzgerald			X
Peter Hackett	X		
Ross Mickey			X
Joanell Mogstad	X		
Steve Woodard	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u>Category Two</u>			
Edward Alverson	X		
James Baker	X		
Robert Keefer	X		
Penny Lind	X		
James Thrailkill			X
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u>Category Three</u>			
Bud Hinman	X		
Jamon Kent			X
John Lindsey	X		
Anna Morrison	X		
June Olson	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total All Categories:</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>

Mr. Elliott reported that it had been determined that no funding from Lane County was involved in the Goodpasture Road Improvement project.

Ms. Morrison asked if a reduced amount would make the Goodpasture Road project non-viable. Mr. Elliott replied that it might be possible to segment the project and partially fund its completion.

Ms. Dougan determined that there appeared to be agreement that members of the RAC would not be opposed to using other funds to complete the Goodpasture Road project, if it was only partially funded by Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act resources.

Ms. Morrison suggested that consideration be given to recommending funding for the Goodpasture Road project at \$200,000 and the Shotgun Park project at \$35,500, as requested.

Chairperson Baker said he would like to consider funding the Shotgun Park project at a lower level than proposed.

Ms. Morrison asked if other RACs had approved requests for the Willamette Basin Invasive Weed Management Partnership project. Ms. Dougan said she did not believe the other RACs to whom requests had been made for the project had yet determined their recommendations.

Ms. Morrison asked what would happen if all of the RACs to whom requests had been made for the Partnership project did not approve the request. Ms. Lind replied that the project had already begun operation.

Mr. Lindsey reported that the Salem RAC had recommended funding the Partnership request within the last several days and that he believed it would continue if funding requests were not all approved. He said he supported the project because coordinated action was needed to avoid the pending major weed problem in Oregon.

Ms. Morrison said she had learned that a recently published report characterized Oregon weed abatement programs as lacking coordination and effectiveness. Member June Olson said the Partnership project proposed to address coordination between programs and improve their effectiveness. Mr. Elliott added that the project proposed to seek coordination between all jurisdictions concerned about weed eradication and control in the entire Willamette Basin.

Member Bud Hinman asked if the Oregon Department of Agriculture supported the Partnership project. Mr. Keefer replied that the project's application had included evidence of such support.

Ms. Morrison stated that she was unable to support the Mt. Pisgah Restoration and Assessment project because the Lane Board of County Commissioners had included the work in a proposed ballot measure sent to voters in November 2002. She also said that the park was not federal land.

Mr. Keefer stated that the BLM supported a fire fuel reduction project at Mt. Pisgah on the basis of its relationship to federal land.

Mr. Woodard said that Category One members had chosen not to support the Mt. Pisgah project because it was not on federal land.

Mr. Wilkening recommended that Membership Categories continue their caucus meetings during the lunch break and declared a recess at 12:05 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chairperson Baker reconvened the meeting at 12:50 p.m. and determined that there was no member of the public present wishing to present testimony to the RAC.

Mr. Elliott determined that there was agreement to schedule the RAC Fall Strategy Meeting discussed earlier at 9:30 a.m. on November 7, 2002. This meeting is scheduled to be held at the Eugene District Office, 2890 Chad Drive, Eugene.

PRIORITIZING AND RECOMMENDING PROJECTS (Continued)

Ms. Morrison reported that Membership Category Three had caucused during the lunch break and had agreed to withdraw its support for the Tyrell Seed Orchard Access Road Paving project and to support recommending \$35,500 for the Shotgun Park Improvements project and \$32,000 for the Willamette Basin Invasive Weed Management Partnership project.

Mr. Keefer moved, seconded by Ms. Morrison, to recommend to Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott that a request be made to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton’s designee Julia Dougan to approve Fiscal Year 2003 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title II funding of \$35,500 for the Shotgun Park Improvements project. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0, as follows:

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<u>Category One</u>			
Judy Firzgerald			X
Peter Hackett	X		
Ross Mickey			X
Joanell Mogstad	X		
Steve Woodard	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

<i>Category Two</i>			
Edward Alverson	X		
James Baker	X		
Robert Keefer	X		
Penny Lind	X		
James Thrailkill			X
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Category Three</i>			
Bud Hinman	X		
Jamon Kent			X
John Lindsey	X		
Anna Morrison	X		
June Olson	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total All Categories:</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>

Ms. Mogstad reported that Membership Category One had caucused during the lunch break and had agreed to support recommending \$32,000 for the Willamette Basin Invasive Weed Management Partnership project.

Mr. Alvorson moved, seconded by Ms. Lind, to recommend to Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott that a request be made to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton's designee Julia Dougan to approve Fiscal Year 2003 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title II funding of \$32,000 for the Willamette Basin Invasive Weed Management Partnership project. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0, as follows:

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>
--	------------	-----------	---------------

<u>Category One</u>			
Judy Firzgerald			X
Peter Hackett	X		
Ross Mickey			X
Joanell Mogstad	X		
Steve Woodard	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u>Category Two</u>			
Edward Alverson	X		
James Baker	X		
Robert Keefer	X		
Penny Lind	X		
James Thrailkill			X
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u>Category Three</u>			
Bud Hinman	X		
Jamon Kent			X
John Lindsey	X		
Anna Morrison	X		
June Olson	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total All Categories:</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>

Mr. Keefer moved, seconded by Ms. Morrison, to recommend to Designated Federal Official Wayne Elliott that a request be made to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale A.

Norton's designee Julia Dougan to approve Fiscal Year 2003 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title II funding of \$173,011 for the Goodpasture Road Improvements project. The motion was adopted unanimously, 11:0, as follows:

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<u><i>Category One</i></u>			
Judy Firzgerald			X
Peter Hackett	X		
Ross Mickey			X
Joanell Mogstad	X		
Steve Woodard	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u><i>Category Two</i></u>			
Edward Alverson	X		
James Baker	X		
Robert Keefer	X		
Penny Lind	X		
James Thrailkill			X
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<u><i>Category Three</i></u>			
Bud Hinman	X		
Jamon Kent			X
John Lindsey	X		
Anna Morrison	X		
June Olson	X		
<i>Total:</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

<i>Total All Categories:</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
------------------------------	-----------	----------	----------

Mr. Lindsey asked if it would be possible to request reports of what companies established weed eradication contracts with Title II funding and to establish that a majority of its employees were residents of Lane County. Mr. Gilmore replied that the residence location of contractor employees might be difficult to determine, but that as full a report as possible would be made.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)