

*Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting*

*May 10, 2005*

*COIC Administration Building*

*Minutes*

**Members Present**

***Group “A” Outdoor Recreation, OHV users, Commercial Recreation, Commercial Timber, Energy and Mineral Development, Grazing Permittees or other Land-Use Permittee:*** Peggy Spieger, Oregon State Snowmobile Association; Kenny Read, Jefferson County Rancher; John Morgan, Ochoco Lumber Company and Patricia Gainsforth, Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District.

***Group “B” Nationally Recognized Environmental Organization, Regional or Locally Recognized Environmental Organizations, Dispersed Recreation, Archeological and Historical Interests:*** Tim Lillebo, Oregon Natural Resources Council; Kelly Cannon Miller, Historical Consultant; Ryan Houston, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and Arlie Holm, Architecture Society of Central Oregon.

***Group “C” County or Local-Elected Official, American Indian Tribe, School Officials or Teachers, Affected Public at Large:*** Commissioner Bill Bellamy, Jefferson County; Commissioner Mike Daly, Deschutes County; Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Lani Hickey, Klamath County Public Works.

***Staff:*** Leslie Weldon, Larry Timchak (via conference) and Laurel Skelton USDA Forest Service  
Scott Aycock and Kelly Elzner, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC).



NOTE: *Italic, underlined font* indicates Minute items that require staff follow-up.

**Call to Order/Introductions**

Chair Bellamy called the meeting to order and asked that introductions be made, and for the sake of the new members, individuals were asked to provide a little background information on themselves.

**Overview**

Chair Bellamy gave a brief overview of the history, process and activities of RAC. He asked the members to review the project applications provided to them in the project application binders. He informed the group of the importance of full group participation during the July 6 and 7 project funding recommendations meeting(s) and noted that there must be a majority of members present from each group (Groups “A”, “B” and “C”) in order to recommend projects. It was also mentioned that if members are traveling from out of the area and need assistance with lodging accommodations, they should let staff know.

**Minutes**

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2004 meeting.

**M/S/U Reed/Spieger/Unanimous**

**Election of Chair**

Mr. Lillebo moved to re-elect Commissioner Bellamy to serve as Chair to the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).

**M/S/U Lillebo/Morgan/Unanimous**

**Reauthorization and Program Continuation**

Designated Federal Official Larry Timchak provided a brief program update via conference call. He explained that efforts to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 is underway, but with little anticipation of action this year. There has also been discussion regarding whether or not to retain the current formula used to allocate RAC funds, which up to now has been very favorable to Oregon.

Mr. Timchak also gave a brief recap of the activities that took place during the Reno RAC meeting. He noted that currently 50% of the funds go to Roads and Watershed projects, but that there is interest in adding hazardous fuels projects to the priority list. Commissioner Daly mentioned that one of the key issues that he brought back from the Reno conference is that the supporters of the RAC program really need to work hard to gain support from Congressmen and Senators from other states.

### **Secure Rural Schools Act**

Chair Bellamy explained that the RAC makes funding recommendations for the Title II funds from the Secure Rural Schools Act. These projects can be introduced by the Forest Service, private individuals, ad-hoc groups or other organizations. Title III funds are retained by the counties for activities such as search-and-rescue and emergency services; community service work camps; easement purchases; forest related education operations; fire prevention and community planning, and community forestry. Title III funds are fairly significant, as an example: Deschutes County receives approximately \$300,000; Jefferson County receives approximately \$60,000 and Klamath receives approximately \$600,000. Staff will prepare a Title III report for the July 6, 2005 meeting.

### **Policy/Value Statement**

Mr. Aycock explained that attachment "B" in the meeting packet is a Draft Policy/Value Statement document that was brought before the RAC during the July 2004 decision making meeting, however no decision was made regarding the document. He further explained that, to date, the RAC decided not to create formal bylaws for the committee. So, in an effort to capture any policy or procedural decisions made over the course of the last several years, staff produced what is now referred to as the Policy/Value Statements document. Mr. Aycock mentioned that this will be an agenda item on the July 6, 2005, agenda and suggested that the RAC members review the document and be prepared to take action on it at the July 6 meeting.

### **2006 - RAC Application Binders**

Staff distributed the project application spreadsheet and summarized the contents of the 2006 RAC application binders. Mr. Aycock noted that in addition to the project applications the binders also contain the Forest Service priority ranking, Paul Cuddy's NEPA review, and project updates of previously funded projects.

Mr. Aycock mentioned that during staff's initial review the following two projects were identified as having received funding by RAC for a design phase/first steps and are now requesting funds for implementation: DE-007, which was funded at a lower amount than requested last year and has some unfinished work to be completed and DE-012, which is also applying for funds to building on past work. Staff will provide a more detailed report on the projects that have previously been funded by the RAC for design and/or planning, and that are now applying for implementation.

Mr. Aycock drew the Committee's attention to the 2006 RAC Proposed Projects map hanging on the wall and explained that staff prepared the map to serve as a visual aid for locating projects that are requesting 2006 funds.

Chair Bellamy explained to the new RAC members the importance of setting ample time aside to review the project applications. He also requested that members contact staff if they have questions, require any additional information from specific project applicants, or would like to request a project presentation.

NEPA Review: Ms. Skelton summarized Paul Cuddy's NEPA review and provided a brief overview of NEPA. Chair Bellamy requested staff to follow up on CR-002, DE-001 and JE-001 for NEPA clarification. *Ms. Skelton will provide an update prior to the July meeting(s).*

Forest Service Prioritization: Ms. Skelton explained a team of Forest Service reviewers met and ranked the Forest Service-initiated proposals. A copy of the ranking is included in the large project binder.

50/50 Rule: Ms. Skelton reminded the group of the 50/50 rule. Secure Rural Schools Act, Sec. 204 (f): The Secretary shall ensure that at least 50% of all project funds be used for projects that are primarily dedicated - (1) To road maintenance, decommissioning, or obliteration; or (2) To restoration of streams and watersheds.

2005 Project Status: Ms. Skelton provided an overview on the project status summary sheets. The summary sheets were included in the project binders for RAC members' perusal.

### **Project Selection Background Information**

Mr. Aycock explained that Attachment "C" is a summary of previously-funded projects and includes the total amount leveraged. Ms. Skelton recapped Attachment "D" and mentioned that the attachment provides an approximate FY06 funding amount. *Staff will provide an updated total prior to the July meeting(s).* Lastly, Mr. Aycock explained that Attachment "E" provides a recap of additional grant sources and added that if RAC Members have any additional sources to add, to contact him directly and he will update and redistribute prior to the July meeting(s).

### **2006 Project Application and Selection Process**

Mr. Aycock provided a brief overview of the application process and recapped the 2006 project selection timeline. He pointed some key activities and asked the group to be sure to contact staff if there was any interest in participating in a May field tour, and to contact staff if there were requests to invite specific project applicants to provide a project presentation on July 6. *Staff will contact Members with any updates to the timeline.*

2006 Decision-Making Process: Mr. Aycock recapped Attachment "G", and explained that two days have been scheduled to allow ample time to complete the process. He mentioned that it is possible that the second day may not be necessary and that the Chair will address the group on the afternoon of the first day to determine if the second day will be needed. *Staff will provide a map of previously funded projects prior to the July meeting(s).*

## **Adjourn**