

SWCC Executive Committee
Meeting Notes
September 13, 2011

Present: Scott Brennan*, Mo Bookwalter*, Sandy Mack, Cory Davis, Gary Burnett*, Anne Dahl, Debbie Austin*, Amber Kamps*

**Indicates Voting Member*

Note: Gary and Debbie left early.

Action Items:

- Debbie will follow up to get the RO to sign the updated Work Plan letter.
 - Keith, Sandy, Megan, and Cory will meet on Wednesday, September 21st at 11am at the Lolo SO to go through the annual report template and assign tasks for completion of the report.
 - The Communications Committee will work to develop a 2011 Update using information from the Annual Report but reformatting it in a way that is more user friendly. December 15th is the deadline.
 - Sandy will ask Julia Riber to give us some reading to prep for the FACA/NEPA/FOIA training.
 - Megan will send an email to SWCC members and participants asking them to submit any questions they have regarding FACA/NEPA/FOIA in order to help focus the training.
 - Cory will talk to Jed Little at Missoula county weed district about sharing data.
 - Anne will get more information about weed mapping.
 - Megan will incorporate a standing agenda item to give updates about what the committees are doing.
 - Sandy will add a column to the CFLR project spreadsheet that spells out contract award date and length of contract.
 - Megan and Scott will coordinate a meeting of the non-agency SWCC partners to discuss capacity and funding by October 11th.
 - Megan will track in-kind contributions from partners by end of fiscal year Oct. 1st, including miles traveled, time spent, and anything invested into the collaborative put into a dollar amount. There will be a separate column for implementation and monitoring.
 - The line officers will tackle the topic of clarifying definitions of permanent, temporary, and short-term specified roads at a future meeting.
- I. Review/approve notes from last meeting
 - a. The notes were approved unanimously.
 - II. Update on action items from last meeting
 - a. Scott and Debbie will attend the next Lolo RC meeting on September 13th (tonight.)

- b. Sandy checked the FS CFLR website to see if the updated work plan had been posted and found out that it hasn't left the RO yet.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: Debbie will follow up to get the RO to sign.
- c. Annual Report
 - i. ACTION ITEM: Keith, Sandy, Megan, and Cory will meet on Wednesday, September 21st at 11am at the Lolo SO to go through the template and assign tasks for completion of the report.
- d. ACTION ITEM: The Communications Committee will work to develop a 2011 Update Report using information from the Annual Report but reformatting it in a way that is more user friendly by December 15th.
- e. Sandy confirmed the date and time for the FACA/NEPA/FOIA Training with Julia Riber. It will be on October 26th from 9am to 12pm Lolo SO office.
 - i. ACTION ITEMS:
 1. Sandy will ask Julia to give us some reading to prep for the training.
 2. Megan will send an email to SWCC members and participants asking them to submit any questions they have in order to help focus the training.
- f. Mo and Cory are still planning to attend the FSC meeting scheduled September 22.
- g. Anne reported that, based on a conversation with the Missoula County Weed District, weed data needs to be downloaded to shape files in order to be shared, and funding is needed for converting the data to shape files. Chantelle Delay at Flathead National Forest is the contact.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: Cory will talk to Jed at Missoula County Weed district.

III. Updates/New Information

- a. The Trust for Public Lands is impressed with the work that our collaborative is doing and is interested in learning more about it.
- b. The agency currently doesn't have planning money for FY 2012 and FY 2013. The Regional Office is aware of this and working to help address the problem.
 - i. CFLR funds cannot be used for permanent road construction, but there is some confusion about how the different forests define permanent, temporary, and short-term specified roads. It is important to clarify this and make sure all three forests are on the same page moving forward.
 - ii. ACTION ITEM: The line officers will tackle the topic of clarifying definitions of permanent, temporary, and short-term specified roads at a future meeting.
- c. Bobby Grillo from MCC is interested in getting involved with SWCC work.
- d. FS Resource Needs

- i. The FS is working to find folks to help with GIS capacity, but we would need to provide CFLR funding for 25% of their time.
 - ii. ACTION ITEM: Sandy will coordinate a meeting among silviculturists to discuss this capacity issue.
- e. A Continuing Resolution, depending on what is in it, is going to affect FS ability to do things like fall burning.

IV. Integration between the MFRC subcommittees and SWCC.

- a. The Lincoln Restoration Committee will likely invite us to hold one of our monthly meetings in Lincoln. It would be great to get their representation here at SWCC meetings.
- b. Debbie and Scott will attend the Lolo Restoration Committee meeting tonight to talk about further opportunities for integrating the work of the SWCC with the Lolo Committee. They will report out at the next SWCC meeting.
- c. The Lincoln Restoration Committee wants to work on implementation, and we don't want to step on their toes. We should allow the restoration committees to get involved to the extent that they want to, and then we add to it.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: We should have a standing agenda item to give updates about what the restoration committees are doing.

V. Colt Summit

- a. Debbie will sign the new decision (reaffirming the original decision) for Colt Summit today. It will be published in the Missoulian, and then the FS will be able to award the public works contracts for the road work associated with the project. The FS is unsure when the vegetative management aspect of the project will move forward with contracting.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: The Communications Committee will develop a press release to highlight the awards for road work when that information is available.

VI. Discussion about collaborative participation post-Record of Decision

- a. There are still some key steps that need to happen between when a ROD is signed and when work proceeds on the ground. We need to decide whether to engage in this aspect of restoration projects.
- b. The Lolo Restoration Committee is coordinating a meeting for its members to address how a project goes from a ROD to being implemented on the ground.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: Megan and Gary will distribute information about this meeting to the SWCC and Lincoln Restoration Committee, respectively.
- c. Brainstorming the roles the collaborative might play:

- i. The ROD doesn't name the number and type of contracts that are used to carry it out. This is a role that the nonfederal partners could potentially play.
 - ii. Amber suggested that some projects may need additional funding, and we should be thinking creatively about ways to accomplish this work outside of the standard contracting mechanisms.

- VII. Update on discussion about flexibility in length of contracts to perform CFLR work.
 - a. There are pros and cons to both short and long-term contracts.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: Sandy will add a column to the CFLR project spreadsheet that spells out contract award date and length of contract.
 - b. The Swan District accomplishes work mostly through contracts. The Lincoln District primarily uses agreements. The Seeley District uses both equally.
 - c. We need to address the issue of how we communicate our accomplishments when they are sometimes reported when work is obligated and other times are not reported until work actually occurs on the ground.
 - i. Boyd Hartwig put together a template that could be used as a way to report actions accomplished on the ground.
 - ii. ACTION ITEMS:
 - 1. Sandy will check into this.
 - 2. Anne will ask the Communications Committee to find out what activities have actually been work done on the ground and to report these accomplishments in an easy to read way for local media reporting.
 - d. There are no targets for implementation monitoring. Contracting Officers build reports, and the inspection reports are filed but aren't reported to rangers unless there is a problem.

- VIII. Partners Capacity to Collaborate
 - a. The capacity of our non-agency partners to continue participating in this collaborative effort is an issue that needs to be addressed because, as our work ramps up, we find that we need more capacity, not less.
 - b. Montana Legacy supporters need to hear the message that now that we have the lands, we need resources to restore and protect them.
 - c. Potential ways to increase capacity:
 - i. Private foundations
 - ii. Policy solutions
 - iii. Federal programs, including RACs
 - iv. Partnership agreements

- v. Major donors
- d. ACTION ITEMS:
 - i. Megan and Scott will coordinate a meeting of the non-agency SWCC partners to discuss capacity and funding by October 11th.
 - ii. The Line Officers will continue to inform their agency colleagues of this issue and the importance of using agreements.

IX. Tracking In-Kind Match

- a. ACTION ITEM: Megan will track in kind contributions from partners for FY 2011 by Oct. 1st. This includes miles travelled, time spent, anything invested into the collaborative put into a dollar amount. There will be a separate column for implementation and monitoring.