

**SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) MEETING MINUTES
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SALEM DISTRICT, LOBBY LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM
June 22, 2006**

ATTENDEES:

RAC Members: Mickey Bellman, Wayne Giesy, Mark Luedtke, Dave Schmidt, Walter Cate, Jim Clawson, Leland Gilson, David Hanson, Dave Schamp, Joe Corsiglia, Annabelle Jaramillo, John Lindsey, Charles Hurliman, Janet Wright and Ron Adams.

BLM Attendees: Salem: Trish Hogervorst, Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the Salem RAC, Randy Gould, Fran Philipek, Judy Akahoshi, Ron Exeter, Belle Smith, Rick Kneeland, Maria Gilbert, Scott Brayton, Steve Cyrus, Cindy Enstrom, and Dave Roberts.
Oregon State Office: Jim Hallberg, Statewide RAC Coordinator.

Other Attendees: Janet Oatney, Washington County, Jerry Jackson, Polk County; Ginny Van Loo, Clackamas County, Kendra Morgan, Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District and Chuck Knoll, Linn County.

8:30 AM - Dave Schmidt, Salem RAC Chair, called the meeting to order.

Motion made to accept the overhead percentages used the previous year, 5% for outside projects and 10% for BLM projects. The motion was seconded and voted on. The motion passed unanimously.

Cliff Adams has resigned. A new Category 3 member is needed. The Category 3 alternates are Larry Sowa and Janet Wright.

- Background information:
 - Larry Sowa is a Clackamas County Commissioner.
 - Janet Wright is in her 2nd year as an alternate on the committee. She is an assistant to the Columbia County Commissioners and has been involved with the Salem RAC for the past 3 years. Her duties include writing grants.
- Written votes were collected and tallied.
- Janet Wright was selected by the RAC committee to take Cliff Adams' position.
- Larry Sowa will remain the alternate. Janet is now a voting member.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

RAC Chair, Dave Schmidt, asked Trish to write a thank you letter to Cliff Adams for his participation in the committee.

A legislative review of the RAC projects was done by Fran Philipek and a BLM committee. All the projects submitted met the intent of the legislation.

Wayne Giesy would like to see counties fund more projects relating to weed eradication. Past RAC projects have supported these types of projects but not at a level for controlling the weeds, especially when the weeds spread across boundary lines.

Jim Hallberg, State BLM RAC Coordinator, reminded the RAC that when recommending projects, the guidelines are: 50% road maintenance and 50% other types. (*See attached Summary Table.*) The District Manager has delegation to spend all dollars allocated by the counties. Some districts have recommended approving more projects than there is funding so that if a project falls off the table or the cost of a project comes in at less, they have a priority list of projects to pull from.

Regarding the status of legislation to reauthorize the Act:
It sounds like the Act may be funded for one more year while other funding options are explored.

Ryan Robin, Salem District Budget Analyst, explained the process for reviewing and making funding recommendations on this year's projects.
See attached documents: funding summary, budget finance notes and project funding by county.

Multi-county projects will be discussed as we discuss each county. All in agreement.

At this point the RAC began reviewing, discussing, and voting on projects - county by county.

COLUMBIA COUNTY - Rick Kneeland, Tillamook BLM, facilitated the discussion.

See summary table for specific project details.

Joe Corsiglia, Columbia County Commissioner: The Columbia favors the road overlay as the top priority but also agrees that working with the watershed council is highly ranked.

Motion was made to fund the road overlay project. The rest of the funding to go to the knotweed project.

Corsiglia: Columbia Co. completed Bacona Road (a previously approved RAC project) with county funding. This freed up \$116,000 to be added to this year's funding. The Crown Zellerback trail project, approved last year, could use extra funding. It was not resubmitted as a project for this year.

The additional \$116,000, added to this year's proposed funding, makes approximately \$232,000 available.

The motion was amended to approve all 4 projects listed. Any excess dollars to be added to the CZ trail project. Priority order is: Scappoose Veronia Road Overlay, Knotweed Control, Watershed Fish Habitat, E. Fork Nehalem Watershed, with remaining funds to go to the CZ Trail project.

Motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously.

Question: What type of treatment is used for knotweed control?

Kendra Morgan, Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District:
A combination of injection and spraying is used. In thick stands they inject pathways for access into the middle of the infestation to get better spray control and spray the underside of the leaves using Aquamaster. They can use this near waterways and apply with either backpack sprayers or a tank sprayer. Other chemicals have been tested, but Aquamaster seems to be the most effective in combination with injections. How many repeat treatments are needed? The 2nd year of treatment kills most infestations, but research shows it takes three years of treatment to significantly eliminate the infestation.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY - Rick Kneeland, Tillamook BLM, facilitated the discussion.

Chuck Hurliman, Tillamook County Commissioner: Tillamook's priorities are: Native Plant Coop, Little N. Fork Wilson Knotweed, and Trask Elkhorn Fish Habitat.

See summary table.

Question: Related to the asphalt removal... how did it get there?

Asphalt was probably buried by the contractor. John Lindsey said that there is an agriculture bill that has money available for these types of projects. None of the agencies seem to be requesting any of this funding.

Question: How do you apply? This will have to be researched.

The Trask Elkhorn Fish Habitat Restoration project is a multi-county project in Yamhill and Washington, but each submission can stand on its own as a separate project. It's located where the 3 counties come together.

Motion was made to fund the Native Plant Coop, Little N. Fork Knotweed, remaining funding to go to the Trask Elkhorn project.

Motion was seconded.

Question: Do the native plants include any species that are considered sensitive? Answer: Probably not.

Motion voted on and passed unanimously.

WASHINGTON COUNTY - Rick Kneeland, Tillamook BLM, facilitated the discussion.

See summary table for details.

Wash County recommends the projects in this order: Dairy/McKay, County Work Crew, Plentywater and Trask Elkhorn last. Rick said that BLM's priority order is the same as the county's.

A motion was made to fund Dairy/McKay and the County Work Crew. The remaining funding goes to the Plentywater Creek project.

Motion was seconded.

Question: What are the results of the fish passage projects from money spent before?

The focus has been on instream structures. Fish populations increase and decrease, but where structures are placed, the populations have increased.

For the Upper Nestucca, the 1st year fish counts went up 800% after the project work was completed. Other streams not quite so much. We don't have solid numbers, but it is significant.

Motion voted on and passed unanimously.

YAMHILL COUNTY, Rick Kneeland, Tillamook BLM facilitated the discussion.

See the summary table. All projects, except the Carlton Reservoir project, have been submitted before.

The Carlton Reservoir project was caused by 1996/1997 storm events which put sediment into the reservoir. The project is to contract work to create ways to help prevent future sediment. The reservoir is the City of Carlson's water supply. Yamhill County traditionally does not contribute to Title II. We have not received any feedback from the County this year.

Suggestion: Select a project in case they do contribute funding.

The Carlton project is BLM's top priority.

No motion made or voted on for Yamhill County, if they allocate funds it will be carried over.

BENTON COUNTY - Ron Exeter, Marys Peak BLM, facilitated the discussion.

See summary listing for project details.

Questions: What road is Maxfield? Answer: It's a BLM gravel road behind locked gates.

BLM's priority is the noxious weed control, with the remaining going towards the S. Fork Access Road culvert replacement..

Motion was made to allocate funding to the BLM noxious weed project. Remaining funds go to the S. Fork Access Road culvert replacement.

Motion seconded, voted on and passed unanimously.

LINCOLN COUNTY – Ron Exeter, Marys Peak BLM facilitated the discussion.

See summary for project details.

Ron Adams: OYCC noxious weed project work is starting at Yaquina Head using last year's RAC money. 104 acres will be treated over 5 weeks. Educating the students is part of the program. OYCC is partnering with the Soil and Water Consortium and other partnerships.

Question: What if we split the funding between the 2 weed projects?

Motion was made to fund the OYCC noxious weed project. The remainder of the funding will be applied toward the Lincoln Cooperative Noxious Weed project.

Question: Why not add the road project in case they put in more money?

Motion was amended to include the N. Fork Access Road Drainage project as 3rd priority.

Motion seconded, voted on and passed unanimously.

The culvert is really bad. Would like to see them fund more on the road project.
Chuck said that the Siuslaw RAC did fund the road project, but he was not sure how much.

POLK COUNTY - Ron Exeter, Marys Peak BLM facilitated the discussion

The Polk County noxious weed project has been very successful in the past.

Dump Stoppers Program - Jerry Jackson, Polk County:

There is less garbage than in the past. Forty nine cases were worked. Flyers have been distributed to the public. When we get a call, it is immediately cleaned up. A county prison crew is used and also anyone fined for dumping is offered a diversion if they do volunteer service or community service in picking up garbage.

Noxious weed sites previously treated, have very few re-infestations.

Per Mike Propes, Polk County Commissioner: Polk County's ranking is #1 the noxious weed project and #2 Dump Stoppers.

Motion was made and seconded to fund these two projects.

Motion was voted on and passed with one no vote.

Explanation of the "no" vote: The member would rather see Dump Stoppers as the top priority.

CLACKAMAS - Belle Smith, Cascades Resource Area BLM facilitated the discussion.

See summary table.

Ginny Van Loo: Clackamas's priority: 1) Dump Stoppers, 2) Marmot Road culvert, 3) Molalla knotweed mapping and control, 4) Molalla River rec site cleanup, 5) NW Youth Corp, 6) Law enforcement agreement, 7) Riparian habitat restoration -upper Sandy, 8) NYC trail maintenance.

The Little Sandy is not recommended because the city has funding to cover removing the dam.

Question: Why put in stream structures before the dam is removed?

Dave Roberts, BLM: There is a large amount of gravel behind Marmot Dam. Removing the dam will allow gravel to flow down the river. By placing wood in the stream prior to the dam removal, the gravel will collect behind the tree trucks creating fish habitat rather than washing downstream. The fish would likely recolonize the river by using the habitat and spawning places created by the wood and gravel.

Question: How would you hold the logs? Whole trees with root wads large enough to stay in place will be used. No cables would be attached. We have been talking with the city but they will not be on-line to do this before the dam comes down. The trees would come from the widening of Highway 26 and we would arrange with ODOT to place the logs in the river by helicopter.

Motion was made to fully fund all projects in the funding order listed above. Motion seconded.

Discussion: Mickey Bellman said he did not agree with Marmot Road being 2nd priority. It should be lower on the list. County, OWEB or other grant funding should cover this.

Motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

LINN COUNTY – Belle Smith, Cascades BLM, facilitated this discussion.

See summary table for BLM projects.

Quartzville Road Bridges – Structural Rehabilitation – Chuck Knoll, Linn County Road Department

See handout for specifics on this project. This project was also submitted to the Mt. Hood RAC.

Question: What needs to be repaired? Inspection was done by OR bridge consultants. Propose to add reinforced casings to make the bridges stiffer. Not sure yet if they would have to drain the dam down or install something to divert the water while doing the work.

Have submitted proposals to Federal Highways. Of the 10 projects submitted, 4 were approved.

Question: Was there was an original design life for the bridges? Answer: Not that they know of.

Also talked to the Oregon senators, etc., but they work through the O&C Counties Association. Not sure how they selected the bridges they funded. Defazio's district may be able to ask for transportation dollars to help with funding. Have seen a proposal to take this road off the forest highway listing; not sure where this stands.

Question: Is there any type of enforcement or a weigh master? There is one in place starting this year. Tickets have been given.

There are two multi-county projects with Linn and Marion Counties: dumpsite clean-up and a fish passage improvement project.

How much is in late successional lands? Most of the projects are on late successional lands. Working on T&E Species Surveys but not a lot of logging on BLM lands in that area. USFS is doing more logging. More logging planned for the future. Mainly federal lands in this area. A lot of the private lands were logged when spotted owls came into the picture and they are new growth.

There is an alternate route but it also has a bridge with problems.

Bridges are important but there are also several other good projects on the list. The proposed funding could fund all the projects except the bridges.

Question: We keep funding inventories; where are the inventories?

What is the liability to the county if a bridge fails? All counties looking at this, counties are worried what happens next with RAC funding.

Motion made to fund all projects, placing the Quartzville bridges at the end to receive any additional funding.

Question: Will the logs on the Canal Creek conifer release be sold? Can't the logs sold pay for the projects?

Bridges are long-term projects. The majority are on USFS lands and Linn County also submitted this proposal to the Mt. Hood FS RAC.

Motion on floor, further discussion, motion seconded, voted on and passed unanimously.

MARION COUNTY - Belle Smith, Cascades BLM facilitated the discussion.

See summary table.

The Marion County Commissioners did not notify BLM of their RAC priorities.

All projects were effective and on-going. In looking at the dollars figures, all but one could be funded.

Motion was made to fund all projects with the OSU Extension project being last and partially funded.

Motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY – Belle Smith, Cascades BLM facilitated the discussion

Motion was made to put the money towards the Larch Mountain salamander survey.

The results of the survey will feed into our planning efforts for habitat protocol needed for Survey and Manage Species.

Mickey Bellman said that he was not in agreement with this project and could not support it.

Question: Does BLM support this and is there a purpose? Yes, a contract was completed this week and field work is being done in the Gordon Creek area. Before a proposal can be done, wildlife surveys must be completed. This is a Survey and Manage Species, not a Threatened & Endangered special status species.

Motion was seconded, voted on and did not pass, received 4 no votes.

Ron Adams: The funding would fund the youth crew for a week or two, is this an option?

Identifying this species needs to be done by a trained biologist.

Funding could be applied towards another county. We have done this in the past. Clackamas County is next door.

Motion was made to shift the funding to Clackamas County to fund the NYC trail project.

Explanation: Adding the funding to the multi-county project would fully fund the project.

Motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously.

Suggestion was made to poll the committee on the types of projects they would like to see.

Wayne: Need to try to utilize more value of natural resources on public lands.

What will counties do if renewed for one year? Won't have program to pay the way.

WO won't fund the program forever. It means discrepancy about growth of timber based on amount of cut which creates other problems. *See handout.*

Adding timber to inventory and the logging volume on federal lands is very limited. Jobs are being cut and taxes that would be raised.

Chuck: Would like to see money go into environmental assessments for timber sales.

John: I'm bothered by the loss of timber from bug kill and wildfire. Time to create projects to clean up the damage.

There are issues also based on wilderness areas.

11:30 Public Forum - Is there anyone who would like to address the RAC?

Ron Adams is the incoming chair of the Clackamas College Board. He will be seeing Ron Wyden and has requested to meet with Hooley and Smith while in Washington in regard to the Secure Schools Act. His concern is that if this does not get reauthorized, K-12 will get the funding and universities will be dropped.

Annabelle: The strategy is to stick to the full funding issue.

Public forum closed.

Ginny Van Loo handed out a table showing state by state funding received by counties and how much money would be lost if the act is not reauthorized. *See attached.*

Commissioners will tell you that reauthorization is not looking good, bleak, keep pushing message back.

Having fly-ins to support and meet with Wyden. Sending a kid and his mother who is a teacher to lobby Congress on the Act.

Not an easy sell to Congress. It looks like it might get one more year. Need to figure out how to get stable, school funding, possibly by allowing more timber cutting. A small group has stopped this.

Annabelle: There is support in Oregon for the bill but not across the rest of the country.

Joe: Part of problem is that per capita, the pain is felt more by Oregonians than by other populations. Not sure how other states are doing it, will be a tough sell, need to be able to make a case.

John: Pennsylvania needs to look at other states. Their funding comes from coal receipts.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.