



MINUTES
Feather River Coordinated Resource Management
Group, Plumas Corporation
Management Committee Meeting
www.feather-river-crm.org

Date: Monday, May 3, 2010

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Plumas Corporation office

Staff: Jim Wilcox, Leslie Mink, Terry Benoit- *Absent*, Gia Martynn, & Kara Rockett

Others present: Julie Newman, Kristen Dalldorf

Members:

Chair- Kevin Pond, *Absent*

Vice Chair- John Kolb, *Absent*

Project & Design Chair – Ryan Nupen

Finance Chair– Dennis Heiman

Monitoring Chair– Terri Rust, *Absent*

Education Chair- Wade/Hoffman

Others-Dan Martynn, Holly George-

Absent, Mark Steffek- *Absent*, Joe

Hoffman, Todd Hillaire, Lori Powers,

John Hafen

1. Review/Approve May 2010 Agenda- *Joe motioned to approve, Lori 2nd, all approved*
Review/Approve March 2010 Minutes- *One correction on Statistical analysis of monitoring data, change wording to say “would like to start applying some stat analysis to our data sets to determine if observed trends are statistically significant”. Dan motioned to approve, John H. 2nd, all approved*
2. Committee Reports
Finance- Dennis Heiman
 - a. SEP RWQCB – Dennis report back - *Opportunity for project funding from collected water board fines; do not have an answer on if we need to submit in advance list of projects; if fines are collected there will be an opportunity to apply; fines at SPI Mill years ago were specified to be used locally; still need to find out if projects need to be approved in advance.*
 - b. National American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) –*Intermountain Joint Venture ranks app, while Washington office reviews. Used RC-Poco state \$ as match. The proposal was considered ineligible due to use of NAWCA as match for NRCS landowner contracts; asked us to withdraw app, but we did not. Recd a formal letter stating we were ineligible. Eligibility reqs did not state specifically but they have discretion to make final decision. Ranked 4th out of four apps by IJV because did not have enough birds and didn't have a 2:1 match (highest point ranking). Was a lot of work, but have not given up on trying again in the future. Jim talked to some folks back east and there is discussion to loosen some of the non-federal match reqs.*
 - c. Cycle 10 RAC Funds for 2011 –*Monitoring request recommended for approval for \$64,490; \$75K for Red Clover Valley project design work recommended for approval; Education proposal for student stewardship projects on Learning Landscapes properties recommended for approval for approx. 30K; Poplar Creek project not recommended for approval due to lack of match and non-commitment from hunting club leasing property from Soper-Wheeler. FS had two RAC apps, neither were selected. Only one more cycle left. Local group working on reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools legislation.*
 - d. Status of County Prop 50 IRWM Contract- *State did authorize the County to resume work on all projects in the contract with the exception of the Upper Middle Fork Project. Plumas Corp-FRCRM recently assisted county in getting the first invoice re-submitted. Had been returned three times, due to changes in reporting templates, etc. County does not currently have staff to administer the contract, so Plumas Corp will be taking on this responsibility for the time being.*
 - e. NFWF Funding- LCII and Red Clover-Dotta 2009 April applied for 1/3 LCII implementation funds that was not funded under Prop 50, approved and contract recd April 2010. Funding is helping finish up env. surveys and NEPA/CEQA work; Total funding 800K, 51K is for coordination throughout the range on meadow restoration techniques and funding sources. 400K this year and 400K next year provided we are ready to go into construction. Leslie submitted a concept proposal to NFWF for Red Clover-Dotta and Clover Valley Ranch, used RC-Poco funds as match. Unsure as to whether or not Poco is actually going to be funded. Rumor has it the state is committed to funding projects, currently avail funding will depend on

May bond sales. Dan asked if Goodwin's NRCS contracts were included as match for fencing, corrals, etc. Not as match, because federal \$\$ can't be used, but addl non-match funding sources were reported. Cannot include fencing outside meadow boundary.

- f. Other funding info- Intermountain Joint Venture recently funded us for meadow restoration coordination throughout the west working with NFWF, funding will support Todd Sloat on the Pit River to do coordination efforts in northern part of state.*
- g. DOC funding for FY10/11 Watershed Coordinator grant pending May bond sales.*
- h. NRCS likely to approve 4 WRP projects in Plumas County this year. Funding dribbling in based on monies not being used in other areas/states. State office folks now working in Washington will likely help support work in CA. Two WRP projects in Lassen Co. funding pond and plug restoration (McBride Project). Other designs being looked at (i.e. sheet piling structures, still and spill)*
- i. Red Clover Valley Ranch, LLC (Beartooth) funding 75K to do environmental work this summer on Upper Red Clover Valley. FS looking at helping fund relief culverts for the causeway across the valley, if project gets implemented.*
- j. Pre-proposal submitted to NRCS- Conservation Innovation Grants Program for project implementation on Red Clover-Dotta.*

3. Project & Design- Ryan Nupen

- a. Bids out for environmental surveys on Upper Red Clover Valley, Greenhorn Creek, and Spanish Creek-Meadow Valley, available on website Getting many inquiries. Do not give out project budget amounts but send them previous abstracts from former projects. Opening bid packages on Friday, May 7th.*
- b. Coordination for NFWF- Jim has given presentations to the Central Sierra RC&D and Mokelumne River Watershed group.*
- c. Status of Greenhorn Creek- TAC meeting set priority areas; recd RAC funding to do project design, CEQA/NEPA, and implement 400 foot bank stabilization project on Russell Reid and PNF property. Shea and Reid properties have fish passage projects identified; design has been done but no implementation money to date. Landowner could apply to NRCS funds to implement. Est. 200K, will require lots of material.*
- d. NRCS engineer's tour on May 25th and 26th looking at pond and plug; first day look at Clarks Creek, then Last Chance Phase I, afternoon Red Clover (drier, low gradient meadows). May 26th look at Boulder, Long Valley, and Ward Creek (wetter and steeper gradient systems). State Conservationist will be attending and is very supportive of work, would like to get NRCS engineers on board, six will be attending. Not currently in their Programmatic EIS for an approved practice, but can still be used for wetland projects. NRCS-CA is currently hiring two WRP managers, one for south and one for north. Have been challenged by natl office to double their acreage for WRP; hence the current support to use pond and plug for wetland restoration.*
- e. RC-Poco: Comments on water rights; documents re-circulated; other concerns cattle grazing in project area; commenting has been on CEQA; NEPA has already gone through; FS can now go ahead and issue decision on NEPA, could then be appealed; Has caused a very convoluted process by not doing the two docs together. This Thursday, May 6th end of the new re-circulation 30 day comment period on CEQA. Have offered to meet on water rights concerns. Other work on permits with ACOE now requires wetland delineation; ACOE has given the CRM the ok to do the delineation themselves.*

4. Monitoring- Terri Rust

- a. 2010 Monitoring Plans- funding from LC II Prop 50 and NFWF, measuring water temps, wells, weeding; installing new staff gages at Rowland Creek downstream at road xing and at Spanish Ranch Bridge on Spanish Creek in Meadow Valley; flow stations in Indian Valley and on Red Clover do not indicate any loss of flow nor decrease in deliveries from DWR water master. No funding but Jim will continue to monitor flows (McReynolds only) and temp at Red Clover, including McReynolds and Poco. Ryan N. going to do SCI on Wolf Creek. (Need to discuss flow data on Wolf with FS.) FS will collect SCI at LC -Murdoch xing and established a new site downstream of Chase Bridge site which will be changed after restoration work; data will be collected this year. DWR is installing crest and stage recorders in Thompson Valley. Dave Boegner recently promoted and will not be doing wildlife monitoring. Do not currently have a*

replacement. Macroinvertebrate sampling on Red Clover and LLC is questionable due to furloughs and change in priorities.

- b. Final Meadow Carbon Report on website under Publications Page>Technical Papers- Sherm Swanson interested in getting funding to continue carbon study. Currently UNR struggling to keep Sherm's department open, rumor is they may be rolling over into Biology Dept.*
- c. Report disclaimer on website- Came up at Monitoring Meeting. At minimum should state CRM should be contacted before using data off of website to ensure they have most current data and that data isn't misinterpreted; will also help keep CRM informed of who is using our data.*
- d. New ET study by Stanford- Neff Walker grad student under Steve Gorelick using newer tech (mobile eddyflux towers) to measure ET on project areas. Loheide's research results: 1.4 acre feet lost to ET per year in restored area vs. 0.8 acre feet in un-restored. DWR looking at satellite imagery wavelengths to measure ET on Thompson Valley project.*
- e. Greenhorn Creek Sample Results- RWQCB processing data; storm samples taken at top of watershed showed high aluminum levels, did not show up in valley samples. Control samples will be taken this month.*
- f. Statistical Analysis of Temp Data- sent to Fraser Schilling's grad student at UC Davis; talking to Ken Tate (UCCE) and Sherm Swanson (UNR); Barry Hill, FS Regional Hydrologist, may analyze our data; Colin Dillingham met with us on partnering on monitoring watersheds for QLG and is assisting the CRM in putting together GIS shapefiles for all our projects.*
- g. Kyle Merriam is looking at ecosystem services and a collaborative forest landscape restoration program \$4mil/yr for 10 years funding available- landscape scale projects such as Red Clover could be eligible for this funding; Deb Bumpus, DR on Beckwourth Ranger District is working with TNC to put together a project on their District that addresses landscape level change to reintroduce fire back into the system for this program.*
- h. WHIP Project- Feather River chosen as pilot area (broader than first expected, includes all three branches, lower FR, and portions of the Yuba and Bear). Gives a report card on a number of characteristics, scoring based on a number of parameters. 200 pg. technical report goes with report card. Didn't score exactly how Dennis had expected. More complicated than need be (eg. Water quality scoring based on water temp, mercury, and algae.) Algae samples have been collected on Walker Mine, Little Grizzly Creek by USFS. Not widely collected, sampling is costly. Intent of project was to use for general public info and monitor general health of watershed over time. Should be on the Sacramento River Watershed Program website now or fairly soon. Idea was that all HUC 3 watersheds would/could have a scorecard that can be repeated every 10 years. Plan is to expand this WHIP throughout the Sac River Watershed, but currently no funding. Ag operations that are wildlife friendly scored 100%*

5. Education- Rob Wade/Kristy Hoffman

- a. Report on YESS & Project WET & WILD Workshop- Rob leading 6th grade rafting trips and Plumas to the Pacific field trips. Youth Environmental Stewardship Summit (YESS) 2nd annual event, about 30 participants. WET & WILD Workshop for Trout in the Classroom teachers, 16 participants.*
- b. Participated in 2010 Earth Day Faire in Quincy on April 21st -Did an education awareness booth on the myths of bottled water. Had a water taste test to compare bottled with local tap water.*
- c. Great Sierra River Clean-up September 25th -Planning to participate watershed-wide in this event. Committed partners to date include ABWAC-Sierra Institute, Sierra Valley RCD, and Trout Unlimited. Hope to have a creek clean-up in every community in the watershed.*
- d. Plumas Audubon Biodiversity Days Month of May- Jim giving presentation this Wed. on meadow restoration at library; John Hafen giving presentation on beavers May 11th 9am at FRC; Tour of Red Clover led by Jim on Sunday, May 30th Memorial Day Weekend; Entire year of Audubon activities dedicated to water education this year, check out their website for more info.*
- e. FR Watershed Newsletter- Just finished first issue. Everyone at meeting given a copy. Is on the website and will be sent out electronically and by mail. Next issue will be in the fall, will be asking partners for stories.*

6. Announcements:

- a. Local Screening of Meadow DVD and Passion For The Land stories, May 18th @ Town Hall Theater in Quincy at 6:30pm
- b. Jim Wilcox will be accepting the 2010 National Wetlands Award in Washington, DC on May 19th Information about all 2010 award recipients can be found at <http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org/awardees.htm>
- c. Feather River CRM 25 Year Anniversary Celebration June 11-12th @ Red Clover, register to attend on website at www.feather-river-crm.org

Next Meeting: Steering Committee-25 Year Anniversary Celebration on June 11th, 10 am in Red Clover Valley.

Reasonable Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting please contact the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Watershed Coordinator at (530) 283-3739, x107.