

Park County WPLI Advisory Committee | MINUTES

September 13, 2017 | 5:30 – 7:40 pm | Park County Library – Cody – Grizzly Hall

Meeting called by Bucky Hall, WPLI Committee Chair
Type of meeting WPLI Advisory Committee
Facilitator Tara Kuipers, Tara Kuipers Consulting

Attendees

Chairman Bucky Hall, Facilitator Tara Kuipers, Secretary Shaunna Romero, Committee Members JD Radakovich, Chris Pfister, Jenny DeSarro, John McGee, Christine Bekes, Karinthia Harrison, Phyllis Preator, Rick Harrison, Hap Ridgway, Dustin Rosencranse, Greg Mayton, John Gallagher, Rori Renner

Other Attendees: Bert Miller, Cody Snowmobile Association; Mark Davis, Powell Tribune; Tim Metzler, Public; Ken Lichtendahl, Public; Peter Aengst, The Wilderness Society; Loren Grosskopf, Park County Commissioner; Barry Hawk, Cody Enterprise; Steff Kessler, Wyoming Outdoor Council; Shaleas Harrison, WY Wilderness Association; Tate McCoy, Public / Cody Country Skowmobile Association

Absent: Bob Jackson, Joe Kondelis, Lee Livingston, Doug Smith

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 19 – 5:30 p.m.
Cody Library - Grizzly Hall

AGENDA TOPICS

Approval of Minutes

Following a motion and second to approve the June 15 minutes, committee member Karinthia Harrison asked for revisions to the June 15 meeting minutes related to her presentation on the McCullough Peaks roads. Harrison asked that the minutes of her presentation from that meeting include her remarks that the photos she displayed showed erosion and regrowth between road tracks. The minutes will be considered for approval again at the October meeting.

Committee Timeline

Committee chair Bucky Hall and facilitator Tara Kuipers reviewed the committee's timeline and noted that the group should be on track to stay within the desired timeline, with the goal to complete and submit a final recommendation to the Park County Commission at the end of 2017 and, depending on the Commission's decision, presentation of the recommendation to the Wyoming County Commissioners' Association to follow in early 2018.

McCullough Peaks WSA Draft Recommendation

The WPLI sub-committee, tasked with drafting a proposal for the McCullough Peaks, met four times following the June meeting. On the sub-committee were Dustin Rosencranse, Motorized Recreation; John Gallagher, Non-motorized Recreation; Jenny DeSarro, Conservation; JD Radakovich, Agriculture/Ranching; and Karinthia Harrison, General Public.

Chairman Hall said the committee's goal for the Sept. 13 meeting is to come to a decision on the McCullough Peaks draft recommendation and post it on the Park County web site for public comment. Hall emphasized that this is not the final recommendation.

Kuipers asked the sub-committee members if the draft recommendation had been developed into a formal document and sent out to the full WPLI committee. Kuipers expressed that the draft would provide something the full committee could really dig into now. It will later be paired with the High Lakes WSA recommendation prior to being advanced to the County Commission.

The subcommittee said they were not able to reach consensus in their meetings and had not forwarded their work on to all of the committee members. John Gallagher presented a Google Earth map of the McCullough Peaks WSA subcommittee's proposal and draft Special Management Area (SMA) definitions for the full committee's discussion. These definitions came from proposed legislation for an Oregon SMA. Gallagher explained that the map showed the last version the subcommittee discussed: An area close to 10,000 acres proposed as a full Wilderness area with currently open "cherry-stemmed" roads excluded from the Wilderness area along with closed roads. The remaining land would be designated as a Special Management Area.

Points of discussion included current and future bike trails, access, and exchanging those routes for space outside of the Wilderness area; motorized recreation routes and imposing a 65" permanent width restriction; defining the acreage / boundaries of the SMA and Wilderness areas; management plans.

Public Comment

Comments from members of the public included:

Shaleas Harrison, Wyoming Wilderness Association – Harrison expressed her value for the McCullough Peaks lands being considered by the WPLI Committee. She said she does not want the committee to recommend legislating in uses that don't currently exist and encouraged the group to consider increased potential impact in the future.

Tate McCoy, Powell business owner – A lifetime motorcycle rider, McCoy said he rides over the Peaks three to four times a year and doesn't want to lose something we already have.

Phyllis Preater, WPLI General Public representative, noted that she's received public comment that historically the lower road was used by grazers to bring in salt for the cattle. Two reservoirs are there.

The meeting adjourned.

Actions

John Gallagher will modify the boundary map, including showing the SMA and Wilderness with one road going through it and will also provide one marked up version for the committee's reference. The maps will be sent out to the committee along with the SMA management proposal.

Tara Kuipers will send a confirmation email for the October 19 WPLI Committee meeting and a High Lakes priorities survey. The Oct. 19 meeting will include discussion of the High Lakes WSA and field trip review.

Note: The Forest Service is available Nov. 1 or 2 to present comparable data on soil and water biology; data on the High Lakes doesn't exist.

Resources

McCullough Peaks WPLI draft recommendation & request for Public Comments

<http://www.parkcounty.us/commissioners/wplimcculloughpeaks.html>