

# Park County WPLI Advisory Committee | MINUTES

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August 24, 2016 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm | Park County Courthouse Alternate EOC Room

Meeting called by Bucky Hall, Park County Commissioner and WPLI Committee Chair

Type of meeting Advisory Committee

Facilitator & Note taker Tara Kuipers, UW Extension NW Area Community Development Educator

## Attendees

Committee Members: Bucky Hall, JD Radakovich, Chris Pfister, Jenny DeSarro, John McGee, Michael Hirsch, Karinthia Harrison, Rick Harrison, Phyllis Preator, Hap Ridgway, Dustin Rosencranse, Greg Mayton, John Gallagher, Rori Renner

Other Attendees: Travis McNiven, Natural Resource Advisor for Sen. Barrasso; Sam Hochalter, WY Game & Fish; Park Co. Commissioners Loren Grosskopf & Lee Livingston

Absent: Don Schmalz, Doug Smith, Wes Allen, Bob Jackson, Christine Bekes, Joseph Kondelis

## NEXT MEETING

*(tentative)* Field trip to McCullough Peaks WSA (date TBD based on poll to be emailed)

*(tentative, pending confirmation)* Sue Stresser, Shoshone National Forest North Zone District Ranger presenting on the High Lakes WSA

## AGENDA TOPICS

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### Approval of Minutes |

The July 27 WPLI Advisory Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented to the committee via email.

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### McCullough Peaks WSA Field Trip

A doodle poll to select the best possible dates (a Saturday or a Sunday) will be emailed to the group following today's meeting. The date with the most available committee members & alternates as possible will be selected. Some considerations for the McCullough Peaks WSA field trip include:

- Assure the correct GPS info and maps are available prior to the meeting
- Invite the BLM (Paul) to join us, and keep WGF involved if they are able
- Some "must see" spots on the tour include: overview from McCullough Peaks Road & Whistle Creek Road; 8,000 acre "core strip" boundary based on BLM information; explanation of the ACEC lands bordering the WSA; identified mineral leases near the WSA; current grazing lessee(s) on/near the property
- Ask BLM and/or someone from another agency re: paleontology or geology interests in the area

The field trip will likely be an all-day occasion. Committee members can meet at a location in Cody to carpool and meet at McCullough Peaks Road by 8:00 am to begin the tour. Details will be sent out when date is confirmed.

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### *Visit to High Lakes WSA*

The opportunity to visit High Lakes in winter is a possibility. So, the first effort will be setting a date for the McCullough Peaks in fall 2016. If two dates present themselves as available in the fall, then both visits can be considered. Sam Hocholter, WGF, said he and his WGF colleagues would be available to attend if schedules allow. It was suggested to also include Ken Ostrom with USFS on mapping information when the High Lakes WSA is discussed and visited.

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### *Update on US Forest Service presentation*

Due to the wildfires burning on/near USFS properties, the representative(s) from the forest service were not able to join us. We will continue to coordinate with them and reschedule their presentation at the earliest date that works best for them, and the committee.

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### *September meeting*

No September meeting was scheduled. A meeting may occur, or the committee may not have a regular meeting during the month to accommodate the field trip(s).

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### *Public Comment*

Travis McNiven from Senator Barrasso's office introduced himself as the natural resource policy advisor who works on natural resource-related issues. He is keeping informed on all county's WPLI committees & hopes to attend future meetings, visits, etc. Travis reported that the Wyoming delegation is supportive of the process, and they hope to work on legislation that accurately reflects our committee's desires as closely as possible. He shared that there are many more options for the committee than the previously-considered two: release, or wilderness designation. He encouraged the committee to not be boxed in, and be creative with the options they consider to help the entire group get to "yes." Travis encouraged the committee to think about outcomes we want on the landscape, instead of 'labels' that might force us (and the landscape) into pre-existing categories.

The meeting was adjourned.

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### **Requested Resources**

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