#### **Yellowstone River**

#### **Recreation Project Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes: Monday, June 12, 2017

South Side Senior Community Center, 901 S. 30th St., Billings

Present: Brad Shoemaker, John Moorhouse, Gary Connelley, Ken Olsen, Ted Lovec (via conference phone), Jim Ronquillo, and Kathy Aragon

NRDP Staff: Alicia Stickney and Doug Martin

Public: Eight members of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting: any comments or questions? There were none. A motion was made by Jim to accept the minutes, which Ken seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Draft of Proposed Project Application Form**

Alicia provided the background on a proposed application for the group to consider.

John asked how we expect others to apply besides government or large non-profits? There should be a simpler application.

Ken asked for more specifics on where fishing access sites might go if Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) were allocated funds. There was discussion of how setting money aside would allow the public to go directly to FWP to provide input on where fishing access sites might go. The group requested to hear from FWP.

Barb of FWP explained, the process is in early stages. FWP knows there is a need for access, but does not know the specifics. Barb explained that FWP would like to acquire property, but that is opportunity-based.

Alicia stated the rationale in the restoration plan for recommending an allocation directly to FWP for fishing access sites.

Ken would like more information about the allocation to FWP.

John wondered how average person fits into this application process? There was discussion about a pre-application process. A pre-application process would open up more opportunities.

Alicia explained NRDP had prepared an abstract (shorter) application as an option but did not bring it with tonight. The group discussed what would be included in an abstract application.

Gary agreed with John, that an abstract process might allow all groups/individuals to apply.

Kathy suggested to add “coordination with other injured resources” to the application?

Alicia discussed terrestrial/large woody debris, and riparian categories, their status and priorities.

John suggested to use text from page 11 in the proposed application, a technical narrative. Brad suggested using workshops as a way to allow public to present ideas and engage with groups who could implement the projects?

Alicia described the application process for abstract proposals, e.g., abstract/map/budget.

Brad suggested, pull out pages 8 and 9 from the proposed application, advertise with a call for proposals and abstracts, allow people to present to the council informally. Jim liked the simple application process to develop a list of ideas.

Doug explained that NRDP would do a minimum qualifications screening, but there will be gray areas.

Alicia recommended, also include Page 11, Goals, and basics of what would be done.

Brad summarized: Use all of page 8, page 9, add in Goals and Objectives for short application. He suggested the committee could meet in July and August to listen to submittals.

Alicia stated NRDP already has this basic process laid out, but applicant could ask for project partners. NRDP can prepare a shortened application.

**Motion:** Ken made a motion to release a shortened application to be released and scoped, open no less than 60 days. Kathy seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Jim asked how the request for shortened applications would be advertised. Alicia said we would use the NRDP emailing distribution list, newspaper, send to committee for distribution. Information about who is eligible to submit applications is listed in the application.

**Public Comment:**

Jerry Williams: Yellowstone CD Oil Spill happened at Laurel. We would like the opportunity to comment. Projects in Laurel area:

* Sportsman’s Park
* Riverside Park
* Clarks Fork/Yellowstone rivers confluence BLM Park

How can we be a part of input without getting an engineer, etc.?

Ken said he appreciates the comment and has been trying to represent Laurel. He encouraged Jerry to meet with him so he knows what is wanted.

Jerry Williams: We have a number of proposals. Can we bring all or just one?

Kathy said they can bring as many proposals as they want.

Public workshops will be available. Brad reiterated that parties can put in more than one abstract.

Gene Wade: Would like to add “if known,” to costs question and to clarify budget page. He is unclear on what the terms match and in-kind, mean. Jim explained.

Mike Penfold: We do a lot of grants. I think you’re on the right track. You need to ask people to provide information, need to know what the project is, who the partners are.

Alicia explained that up front information needs to be provided with the application so people know what they are applying for. Basic information is needed.

**Amendment:** Amendment to the motion to include Section 1 of proposed application with staff edits to clarify and streamline, as needed. Kathy made the motion and Ken seconded it. There was no discussion.

**Public Comment**

Richard Herr: For a $100,000 project, how do people know where the money is going?

Brad explained that this information will be in the recreation project plan.

Mike Penfold: Who can apply? R: That is covered in the application.

**Vote:** The amendment to the motion to add the additional Section 1, with staff edits based on their expertise, was carried unanimously.

Alicia provided updates on budgets, administrative costs, reserve budget, contingency, and interest. We need to look ahead and plan for how to spend these funds. At the next meeting, NRDP will review the restoration plan criteria.

Workshops will be about halfway through the 60-day application process. Advertisement for applications will be in papers, recreation department, etc.

Presentations: NRDP may be able to provide mapping of all applications on one map. Projects will be reviewed qualitatively.

Future meeting to be determined.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned.