

MEMORANDUM

To: Tenmile South Helena Forest Restoration Committee, the City of Helena, stakeholders, resources, and media
From: Sarah Elkins, City of Helena Point-of-Contact (Notes taken by Mike Bishop)
Date: November 18, 2016
Re: Meeting notes for Wednesday, November 9, 2016 Collaborative meeting from 1:30pm-4pm in room 309 of the City-County Building

Attendance

Collaborative Committee Members – Chairman Joe Cohenour, conservation organization representative, Co-Vice Chair Mike Bishop, citizen at-large representative, Ron Alles, City of Helena representative, Jeff Chaffee, commercial use representative, Cory Kirsch, county government representative, Doug Powell, citizen at-large

Stakeholders – Gayle Joslin (interested citizen)

Resources -- Brad Langsather (City of Helena technical POC and substitute for Ron Alles, Tillman McAdams (EPA), David Nunn (FS), Sharon Scott (FS)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:30PM

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes requested or suggested.

HEAR THE PUBLIC

No comments.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

No reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Alt 4 release; Forest Service update pending
2. Authorize Letter to Mayer/City Comm for renewal of Collaborative/3 years

A subcommittee will review the current resolution and will report back prior to the April collaborative meeting. Members: Mike Bishop, Angie Grove, Ron Alles, Joe Cohenour

3. Authorize letter to DNRC for funds for note taker during Alt 4 release

Ron shared that after he spoke with Heather DeGeest with the FS, he feels we need the secretarial/administrative aspects of assistance and not facilitative support. The collaborative may not need ERG for this response to Alt 4. Heather offered the services of a colleague at the Forest Service in the Missoula office, Abby Lane to help with formatting of comments, note taking, and other administrative tasks. It was discussed that Sarah Elkins could be asked to help as well.

Cory suggested that Sarah would be his first choice, with concern that public perception of FS involvement. He agreed that as long as the committee has the ability to edit and approve the final document, it should not present a real problem. Gayle indicated a similar concern for the perception of conflict, and agreed that the committee's ability to edit and approve notes is likely to address that concern.

4. Tillman McAdams/EPA, Tenmile Superfund Projects Update

Tilman said that the Tenmile Superfund projects may be unfunded next spring. He mentioned that Neil Marsh, a key scientist on the project retired in early November.

During 2016, a significant waste deposit was cleaned from a residential yard in Landmark. Erosion off of this property was known to move via an irrigation ditch onto the RV Ranch. Levels were at 70,000 pts/million of arsenic, and the action levels are 1,200 – 2,400.

Waste removed from this property has been stored on the RV Ranch, owing to a lack of funding to haul it to the repository.

The Minnehaha drainage is the next clean up priority, initially targeting waste by the National Extension mine.

Discharge of elevated levels of zinc in Helena's wastewater has been a problem for several years. EPA has identified the major source of zinc loading to Tenmile Creek as from the Paupers pit, which has a pH of 3.

5. Forest Plan Update

David Nunn and Sharon Scott said the FS must offer a notice of availability, and plan to release the draft update on Tuesday, November 14th, and publish in the Federal Registry the following Thursday or Friday after Thanksgiving. This would begin the public comment period around November 25th. There will not be a public meeting until after the holidays. A public meeting will be hosted in Helena on January 24th. After the meeting, the FS will provide information on the website, or people can request information via letter to receive hard copy of the materials. Comment period will go until late February or early March, with a minimum of 10-12 meetings across a variety of stakeholder communities.

6. Alt 4 update, release November 14, 2016

Alt 4 will be released on Monday, November 14th as well, comment period will be through the beginning of December. David Nunn presented a handout listing "considerations in the development of Alt. 4." He also presented maps of the evaluation of treatments to compare with previous versions. Abby Lane will be available to take notes for the collaborative meetings scheduled on November 15th & 16th. Heather mentioned that she is reluctant to extend the 21 day comment period.

All materials pertinent to Alt. 4 will be available online:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45725>

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **December 5, 6, 2016** - FRCN Annual Meeting
2. [Rimini Road Update](#)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:35 PM