

Rocky Mountain Front Ranchlands Group

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

28 December 2022 / 5:30 PM / Buffalo Joe's, Dupuyer

ATTENDEES

Steve Skelton, Trina Bradley, Mark Hitchcock, Jonathan St. Goddard, Clayton Gernaat, Connie Reynolds, Kathy Robinson, Diane Collins, Neal Collins

AGENDA

Reorganization of Steering Committee

- Jonathan St. Goddard, Browning, replaced Kristen Kipp, Browning, as a Director
- Diane Collins resigned as Secretary; Connie Reynolds, Augusta, was elected (Diane moved, Kathy seconded; motion passed)
- Clayton Gernaat resigned as Vice Chair and was elected Treasurer (Kathy moved, Diane seconded; motion passed)
- Kathy Robinson was elected Vice Chair (Mark moved, Clayton seconded; motion passed)
- Wendy Connelly joined the SC as the Valier Director

Financial Report

- The checking account has a current balance of \$920.51.

Executive Director's Update

- Trina was a featured speaker at the Congressional Sportsmen's Summit in Bozeman Dec. 1. She and Mike Freeman (Governor's Ag Policy Advisor) spoke about the importance of grizzly bear management and delisting.
- Trina attended the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Meeting in Bozeman Dec. 6 and 7. She was a featured speaker on a panel about Conflict Prevention. The interview can be seen on the IGBC YouTube Channel.

- Trina attended the Montana Stockgrowers Association Annual Convention in Billings Dec. 7-9. Trina serves as the Chair of the Endangered Species Act Subcommittee.
- Trina met with Lt. Governor Kristen Juras Dec. 14 in Helena to discuss issues with the Livestock Loss Board.
- Trina has been working closely with USFWS and MTFWP on conflict prevention, predator management issues, and the MTFWP's proposed Grizzly Bear Management Plan.
- Trina is a member of the Conflict Reduction Consortium, a collaborative conflict prevention effort with partners in 8 western states. Trina traveled to Cody, WY for the annual CRC meeting in October.

Executive Director's Contract

- Trina has been working without a contract this year. Clayton Gernaat moved a contract for 2022 be approved. Kathy Robinson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Clayton Gernaat moved a contract offering a \$1,500.00 per month compensation be approved for the 2023 year. Kathy Robinson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2023 Budget

- The Steering Committee discussed several parts of the budget. A final budget will be presented at the next meeting.
- The Steering Committee discussed having annual dues or leaving the Charter Memberships open for a longer period. Clayton Gernaat moved the Charter Membership period be extended until December 31, 2023 and no annual fee be required. Diane Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The Steering Committee discussed grant writing fees to be administered to producers with range riders. A cost share was discussed, but the SC decided on a flat fee of \$1500 per ranch per year.

Comment Period on FWP Grizzly Bear Management Period

- Trina discussed the plan with the Steering Committee and will let everyone know when her questions to FWP are answered. The comment period was extended to Feb. 4, 2023.

Upcoming Legislative Session

- Trina will be traveling to Helena for the session, and will keep the Steering Committee apprised of everything happening.

Other Business

- Printing brochures at Staples was discussed. Mark moved, Clayton seconded to purchase 150 brochures at a cost of ~\$200. Motion passed.

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next RMFRG Steering Committee meeting will be March 29, 2023. Location to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.