

**Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Fall Meeting, August 31, 2022**  
**Hybrid (in-person and Teams) meeting**  
**10:00 a.m. (MST)**

**TRTAC Representatives Attendees:**

Avista – Arthur Potts  
Cabinet Resource Group – Rob Kjos  
Green Mountain Conservation District (GMCD) –Terry Hightower  
Elk Creek Watershed Council – Judy Hutchins  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) – Ken Bouwens  
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho – Scott Soultz  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Dave Bennetts/Brian Schwarz  
Montana State Historic Preservation Office – Jessica Bush  
Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Rich Robinson  
Sanders County Commissioners – Tony Cox  
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Les Raynor  
U.S. Dept. of agriculture, Forest Service, Cabinet Ranger District – Ron Torretta  
USFWS – Wayne Kasworm

**Other Attendees:**

Avista – Eric Oldenburg, Lisa Johnson, Davina Brown; Avista Grant Writer – Ruth Watkins; and Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group – Brita Olson; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Neil Anderson. GMCD – Sarah Busmire; Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club – Christine & Carter Sandahl

**Welcome**

Arthur welcomed those in attendance and invited participants to introduce themselves. The purpose of this meeting is to update the TRTAC on the progress of the 2022 Implementation efforts and identify any issues and/or actions that need to be forwarded to the Management Committee for their September 21, 2022 Fall Meeting.

**Other business**

- Results of FERC inspection
- Avista grant writer update – Ruth Watkins
- Clark Fork Heritage Resource Program (Appendix R) update- Lisa Johnson
- Choose a winter meeting date (group agreed on Thursday, January 19, 2023)

**Summary of 2022 Implementation efforts and anticipated changes for 2023**

**Appendix G: Implementation of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)**

***2022 Project Plans***

1. Administration of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
  - 20 Work Authorizations Request to date
  - Avista postponed the process to observe and photo catalog all Private Recreation Permits. Will try to continue for fall of 2022

- Review/Discuss cases – LaPierre, Lyle, Knuth, Sherry and Stevens
  - LaPierre – denied in 2021 for erosion concerns with anchor platform. Reapplied in 2022 with cantilevered platform design. GMCD has approved. Avista will move forward with approval.
  - Lyles – erosion control logs are no longer effective. Seeking erosion control method. Approximately 15 years ago, Avista hired a consultant for the erosion control (per Rick Robinson). Landowner has a discount for erosion control on PRP fees. Discussed gabions and erosion control methods. Erosion extends along shoreline of subdivision. Brita has an informative brochure on methods for erosion control near docks. Short-term recommendation to the landowner will be to replace small logs with larger logs and include woody vegetation planting. Avista/LUSG will review previous erosion control recommendations.
  - Knuth – numerous dead and dying trees and extension to their current dock in shallow area. Propose to hire a forester and assess the site and provide a management plan for dead/diseased trees. Current anchor area was selected for erosion control and existing walking trail. Afterwards, the management plan will be forwarded to the TRTAC and CRMG. Judy requested to meet the forester, Inland Forest Group out of Sandpoint. The TRTAC members approved the dock extension. Arthur will schedule a site visit with the forester and notify the LUSG and TRTAC subgroup to meet onsite
  - Judy Hutchins request to be involved in more on-site visits as a group. Arthur to schedule meet up with Land Use Subgroup
  - Sherry – Group agreed to approve Sherry dock extension/kayak rack but deny gazebo for future discussion during LUMP 5yr review. Goal is to come up with a preferred method for future gazebo requests. Impervious barrier with rock and minimum distance from shoreline and avoid ground disturbance if possible. The TRTAC approved extension and kayak rack, tabled gazebo until further LUMP revisions/standards are developed
  - Stevens – Proposing to install a straight dock and add 16'x16' gazebo. Avista will work with applicant and adjacent property owner to develop shared use dock. Conservation 2 lands. Arthur will discuss with Stevens and Schwindt on shared use dock closer to both applicants and future subdivision use. Gazebo request will be tabled for now, pending LUMP 5yr review.
  - Larchwood Southshore – Subdivision has 2 approved docks, and 2 additional docks were denied by CRMG. This year noted boats are anchored along the shoreline.
- Issued ban to one person who is repeat offender
- Revoked one permit through 2023 for multiple violations
- 5 year Lump Review
  - Use current document as it stands
  - Arthur to schedule date for review
- Lands for review

- South Bull River and Frog pond- Avista recommends maintaining both properties under current management strategy.
- Special use request
  - 13 including Blue Fest
- 2. Monitoring Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
  - Resume replacing permit markers in 2023
- 3. Enforcement Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
  - MFWP and IDFG continue to patrol Avista sites

## **Appendix H: Implementation of Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP)**

### *2022 Project Plans*

1. RRMP Administration and Resource Integration
2. RRMP Recreation Facility Development
  - Annual Activities
    - General clean up: Ongoing
    - Noxious weeds: completed; application sites referenced – may revisit in fall.
    - EWM: Previously discussed; completed.
    - Removal/installation of docks: Completed. Jopling will retire and we will work with new contractor.
  - Primary Recreation Projects
    - Finley/Two Rivers Dust Control: Completed.
    - Flat Iron Dredge boat ramp: Discussions with FWP initiated. Will need to revisit with all parties.
    - Big Eddy access road: USFS addressed with GAOA funds in 2021. Estimate received for additional work and readdressing road.
    - Flat Iron chip seal: Resolved itself.
    - Kiosk replacement: Completed.
    - South Shore Boat Dock: Completed.
    - Bull River Campground: Contractor will evaluate in fall 2022/spring 2023.
    - Bull River Campground Signage: Will be completed fall 2022. Kirby Gulch parking expansion: investigating opportunities with County Parks Board; 2023 project.
    - North Shore paving: USFS needs to expand NEPA clearance; contractor needs to excavate leak.
    - Triangle Pond: Road grading completed; concrete, additional picnic spaces, and pavilion construction scheduled for fall 2022.
    - Pilgrim Creek Park baseball field: Scheduled for fall 2022.
    - Noxon/Bicentennial Park boat ramp: Expected completion in fall 2022.
    - Bull River Campground Valve replacement: Contractor needs to assess for best solution.
    - North Shore Campground sample tap/line repair: USFS working on NEPA for trench; Contractor needs to assess for best solution.
    - Noxon/Cabinet Gorge Reservoir low water boat launch: Completed 2021.
    - North Shore land Purchase: Discussion in progress.

- Corridor Wide access roads: Ongoing; Avista staff will address unpermitted off-road access as needed.
  - Heron, Centennial, Trout Creek, and South Shore Boat launches: will work with a contractor to address in fall 2022/spring 2023.
  - Replacement Rec permit markers: Postponed to 2023.
  - Clark Fork Access entrance and ramp: Will continue to monitor; may not require repairs.
  - North Shore Ramp extension: Evaluating potential; Spring 2023 at earliest.
  - South Shore access road: Address in fall 2022/spring 2023 with contractor.
  - Antelope lake access road: Address in fall 2022/spring 2023 with contractor.
  - Frog Pond access road: Not initiated.
3. RRMP Monitoring Operation and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities
    - Monitoring ongoing; report to be provided by Pinnacle Research and data to be included in 2022 Annual Report.
    - No camp host at Finley for 2022; will likely have new host for 2023.
      - May consider co-host for South Shore on holiday weekends.
    - Co-host assisted at Two Rivers RV Park and parked their personal RV at Pilgrim Creek Park.
  4. Operations and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities
    - Ongoing; no new request.
  5. Interpretation and Education Program
    - Will evaluate adding question/comments signage with Arthur's number at all kiosks.

### **Appendix I: Aesthetics Management Plan**

#### *2022 Project Plans*

1. Monitor recreation, land management, erosion, and facility construction programs to ensure AMP guidelines are considered.
  - On going
2. Continue to investigate measures to restore views and remove vegetation as needed, also addressing any identified issue from the 2018 re-inventory of 41 key viewpoints. Sites will be revisited again in 2023 to take photos to compare to past inventories.
  - No action taken in 2022; survey of key viewpoints will take place in 2023.

### **Appendix J: Wildlife, Botanical and Wetland Management Plan**

#### *2022 Project Plans*

1. Utilize the Wildlife, Botanical and Wetland Management Plan to help guide implementation of Wildlife, Botanical, and Wetland Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement programs.
  - Ongoing.
2. Continue to update the habitat protection spreadsheet as acquisitions are completed.
  - Continue to evaluate two Graves Creek acquisition sites.
3. As approved by the Management Committee at their March 15, 2016 meeting, observations regarding bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and common loons will be reported here annually.

- No observation of new eagle or loon nests in 2022.

### **Appendix K: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Enhancement, and Management Program**

#### **2022 Project Plans**

1. Operation and Maintenance of Acquired Property and Contingency Fund.
  - Twin Creek: Continue to develop site plan; IDFG addressing noxious weeds and MRL replacing underpass with culvert.
  - South Fork Bull River: No activities; will continue to utilize sign-in box per MFWP suggestion.
2. Habitat Acquisition and Conservation and Contingency Fund.
  - No due diligence funds used so far in 2022.
  - Wood Duck: Brita updated group on monitoring/maintaining vegetation. 30 feet of stream was the original focus with potential to expand revegetation out further; wants to explore expansion.

### **Appendix L: Black Cottonwood Habitat Protection and Enhancement**

#### **2022 Project Plans**

1. Continue to protect black cottonwood stands along the Clark Fork Project through the implementation of the Land Use Management Plan.
  - Ongoing.
2. Continue to monitor and maintain the exclosures at Hereford Slough.
  - Exclosures at Herford Slough continue to function well; will revisit in fall of 2022 to check for damage to fences.

### **Appendix M: Wetlands Protection and Enhancement Program**

#### **2022 Project Plans**

1. Continue to explore potential wetland enhancement for the 2016 Twin Creek acquisition.
  - IDFG will coordinate with Ducks Unlimited on future plans at Twin Creek.
2. Monitor enhancements previously completed at Hereford Slough, McKay Creek, Finley Flats and Blacktail Bay/Islands.
  - All enhancements continue to function as designed.

### **Appendix P: Forest Habitat Protection and Enhancement**

#### **2022 Project Plans**

1. Continue to manage those areas that have been classified as Conservation 1, and as such are afforded the maximum protection provided through the Land Use Management Plan.
  - Ongoing.
2. Honey Flats is being managed to minimize impacts to the site (e.g., no motorized vehicles, no timber harvest, and minimize human use of site). The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe and CRMG have expressed an interest in having this site managed for traditional plants and uses. Continue to work with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe to define management options.
  - No activity.
3. Continue to monitor and enforce the road closure to Stevens Creek Point (closure was instituted in 2001).
  - Ongoing.
4. Continue to prohibit motorized use of Finley Flats Point.

- Ongoing. Camp host helps ensure compliance.
- 5. Continue to utilize the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Block Management Program to provide hunter access to the Tuscor, South Fork Bull River, and Wood Duck properties.
  - Will continue to facilitate access through use of sign-in boxes.
- 6. Continue weekly patrols of the forested lands surrounding the State Shop property and continue to reduce the amount of disturbance and litter in this area.
  - Ongoing.
- 7. Initiate timber stand improvement efforts in stands that have disease (beetle kill, root rot, mistletoe, etc.), high fire danger or other problems. This work will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and specific proposals will be presented to the TRTAC and MC as they are developed.
  - Request to cut 40-50 Christmas trees at Tuscor BMA was discussed and denied. Would be okay with cutting under powerlines only.

#### **Appendix Q: Reservoir Island Protection**

##### *2022 Project Plans*

1. Continue to ensure restrictions developed for the protection of these areas utilizing the land use classifications described in the Land Use Management Plan.
  - Ongoing.

#### **Appendix S: Erosion Fund and Shoreline Stabilization Guidelines**

##### *2022 Project Plans*

1. Address erosion concerns identified by the Cultural Resources Management Group (CRMG).
  - Ongoing.
2. Continue to evaluate and provide technical assistance for an erosion control project being undertaken by an adjacent landowner on Noxon Reservoir (Vermilion Point Area). This is a continuation of a 2017 project. The ability to complete this project will depend upon the adjacent landowner's availability.
  - Proposed stabilization options:
    - Gabion Basket: ruled out as viable option.
    - Rock toe using 12-24 angular or flat rock 2-3 ft tall.
    - Install steel pipe with wood or rock retainer to 2-3 ft tall.
  - Avista staff will review prior documentation related to erosion stabilization.
3. Utilize a geotechnical contractor to assist with evaluating erosion control proposals received by Avista.
  - Will contract if needed.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.**