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Sage-grouse Partnership Working Committee  
October 16, 2013  
Meeting Notes

Manyberries Curling Rink

Attending:

Valinda Ivanics  
Travis Reesor  
Ronda Reesor  
Ralph Heydlauff  
David Heydlauff  
Christyann Olson  
Sue Michalsky  
Bayot Britschgi  
Greg Seefried – LGX

Regrets: Cliff Wallis, Darcy Wills, Tanya Jangula

1. Call to order at 5:40 by David Heydlauff (co-chair)
2. Review of Agenda - Sue Michalsky (acting co-chair)
3. Review of priorities distributed prior to the meeting - discussion of each section, Policy, Education, Research, and On the Ground Actions, no additions or deletions made from the list. Committee members emphasized the importance of obtaining a copy of the predator control plan from AESRD.
4. Access -working committee included Darcy Wills, Valinda Ivanics, Sue Michalsky, David Heydlauff.
  - a. Sue reported she had spoken with Barry Adams. No response from Tracy Kupchenko and Todd Whiklo. David Heydlauff spoke with Terry Hood and received a written response to questions about legislation and the advantages of the more recent Bill 16 when compared with earlier legislation.
  - b. **Motion:** Working committee will work to draft a case for protecting Sage-grouse through access control for any purpose other than grazing management to sensitive areas within the 42 townships to present to government. The draft will be brought back to this committee's next meeting. Motion carried, all in favour.
  - c. Sue Michalsky, David Heydlauff and Darcy Wills will work on drafting the case, Valinda Ivanics will step down from the working committee due to time constraints.





5. Onefour - reviewed background documents prepared by David Heydlauff and Sue Michalsky that were circulated prior to the meeting. Options for the future of Onefour discussed. The committee agreed that we could support the continuation of conservation research that is compatible with livestock grazing.
6. Concern expressed that this is an opportunity for a new perspective and new grazing opportunities for younger ranchers. Leasing the lands to the Sage Creek Grazing Association will not allow for new younger ranchers to get into the grazing opportunity that the change to designation of these lands could offer. There is potential to ask for a Heritage Rangeland designation administered by the Public Lands Division in order to address oil and gas and other development.
  - a. Review of the ESRD designations of the lands in the area of Onefour indicate it has a level 2 designation which does not preclude oil and gas explorations.
  - b. Heritage Rangeland designation unclear during the meeting and subsequently information sent to all committee members. The Onefour Heritage Rangeland designation currently allows grazing, foot access and there is no oil and gas development allowed.
  - c. Concern expressed that if management would follow the Milk River Management model, that 5 years for a grazing tenure is not enough to give the stability a rancher needs.
7. SSRP Draft - review by Christyann Olson of some of the themes and emphasis on the importance of the work of this committee in planning for conservation of the area. Attendance and participation in information and stakeholders sessions encouraged. Christyann to mail copy of the draft plan to Ronda Reesor.
8. Saskatchewan - expanding reach of the SGP. Idea was favourably received with comments: good to learn from each other, power in numbers, there is a lot in common, would be advantageous for presentations to government, and to funders. How it could be implemented is unclear, conference calls, Skype and other meeting technologies could be used. Suggested that we could try to meet in person once per year. Sue will take back to Cliff Wallis to discuss implementation.
9. Discussion about what's next, how long will we meet and what is the point. Christyann briefly reviewed the funding applications that have been submitted and are being worked on. Simple things that we could start on are collecting feathers with details of where they are found (would need to work out details with David Naugle for genetic testing), collecting Silver Sagebrush seeds for planting in the spring (something that could be done with oil and gas) and if we are successful in getting funds, the first things that would be invested in are the Ranch Plans for the lands adjacent to the Manyberries Badlands (JBarJ) and the Heydlauff's. There is always hope no matter how discouraging things may be.
10. Next meeting date set for November 28th, 2013





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11. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

