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Executive Committee meeting notes, June 2017

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council

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Executive Committee Meeting Notes, Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basin Council

June 15, 2017
University of Montana

Attendees: David Brooks, Meg Casey, Maureen Connor, Tom Cox, Bonnie Holsworth, Michael Howell, Verdell Jackson, Jim Rokosh, Travis Ross, Jennifer Schoonen, Dave Shively.
Administration Support: Erin Farris-Olsen, Kelsey Anderson

Not present: Susan Lake

Discussion of Proposed Kootenai Representatives: Chaz Vincent, Mike Cuffe, Mike Cole (County Commissioner).

- Shively agreed to act as an ad hoc chairperson for the meeting
- Discussion about Task Force formation & bill carried by Verdell Jackson. Major purpose was water availability. Power Companies have significant water rights that. Wanzenreid drafted proposal for four councils. \$200,000 proposed. Not supported by the Governor at that time. *Need support from the Governor. Grass roots effort is very important. Task Force had success in passing legislation.
- Letter to WPIC discussed
 - Needs to be done before their first meeting
 - Language needs to be crafted carefully, there was a lot of confusion last WPIC meeting

Charter Discussion

- Shively had edited the draft Charter adopted and revised April 19 & 20 at first Council meeting to accurately capture the revised content. He presented the revisions to the ExComm to ensure that they were accurate. The changes were confirmed.
- Need to change MWCC's CFBC website name to CFKRBC
 - ExCom likes having council materials hosted on the MWCC website
- Charter is a living document so it can be reviewed at a later time
- Discussion on technical advisors- they are not precluded from serving on the ExCom
- Proposition to include any recommended suggestions to the Council at large before the next annual meeting.

Administration-

- Transition plan for administrative duties and function. What infrastructure is best to keep council running (google docs etc)?
- MWCC will update the website:

- EC Membership
- Final Charter
- Correct the name to reflect that adopted via the Charter.

Regional Coordination-

- Regional coordination efforts are varied, but MWCC is tracking what is being done statewide.
- CFKRBC has an opportunity to lead by example. Difficult to keep momentum going without DNRC funding.
- Discussed where CFKRBC stands as compared to other regional efforts
 - Yellowstone-in the early stages. Possibility to collaborate later.
 - Plan to attend the 2018 Symposium in Whitefish, October 9-12th, 2018. Consider pulling together other regional entities for a discussion.
- David met with Ada Montague and Ada had questions about what the CFKRBC intended to do and how the Council was going to proceed.
 - Next steps are up to the Council
 - The Council needs to have credibility with the general public
 - Consider an annual report to the WPIC Committee

Structure of CFKRBC

- Discussion on making the Council a 501(c)(3)
 - Consider the benefits of creating a formal non-profit
 - More financial independence and flexibility
 - Needs clear benefits as it will take time and investment
 - Open to partnership with WPIC—concern that the Council will not receive state support from WPIC based on past experiences
 - Concern for how WPIC may impact the structure
 - Non-profit status would give the Council long-term stability
 - More effective in implementing state water plan and the activities involved
 - Consider drafting bylaws that could be considered appropriate for a 501(c)(3)
 - Crafting the bylaws should help the Council decide what direction to take
- Possibility to create Council as a Public Benefit Organization as a precursor to a non-profit
 - Would need bylaws
 - In the interim, would need to rely on a non-profit to funnel resources
- Possibility that 501(c)(3) status would detract from Council's credibility with legislature
 - Stigma attached to non-profits in certain areas
 - Could be seen as having big donors whereas there is a perception that not being a non-profit means that there is investment from diverse stakeholders

- Concern that the council should not be seen as the government
- Need funding for coordination and assist in travel expenses for stakeholder participation
- A financial plan is needed
- Are there other examples of groups beginning as regional networks and then later developing into non-profit organizations?
- Voted to maintain current structure but look into other organization structures for the future
 - Request from MWCC some models or stories on what has happened elsewhere

Letter to WPIC

- Mike Sweet recommended writing a letter and Vicki Watson wrote the first draft
- Decision to send one letter to the committee as a whole
- Reviewed and revised Watson's draft letter for WPIC
 - Careful on language
 - Shively will send

Funding

- What will the money be used for?
- Apply for a BSWC member?
 - Possibly approach BEF for funding
- MWCC could be an intermediate sponsor between the University and the Council
- Possibility in sharing a BSWC member with Yellowstone Group
- DNRC grant
 - Erin, Kelsey, Jennifer, and Meg (cc group to contribute if available)
 - Have first draft in by June 21st close of business
 - Send letters of support to Kelsey and/or Erin

Next Meeting

- Try for a September meeting
 - Doodle poll