

NWCOS Communication and Participation Subcommittee meeting
9/9/04
Meeting Summary

Attending: Rick Hammel, Suzanne Halvorson, Wes McStay, Ann Oliver, Reed Morris, Jeremy Casterson, Jane Yazzie. Vanessa Cameron and Stephen Flaherty submitted email messages outlining responses or comments related to the agenda items.

Agenda items:

1. Follow up on potential new members
2. What document(s) will NWCOS hand to new members?
3. Where and how will NWCOS keep meeting notes?
4. Where and how will NWCOS publish meeting notices?
5. How will NWCOS document who they contact about participating in NWCOS?
6. How should NWCOS participants present themselves to strangers/potential members?

1. Follow up on potential new members

The subcommittee discussed the possibility of contacting people who had “dropped out” of NWCOS, or only attended one or two meetings. Could NWCOS send them a letter explaining what NWCOS has been doing this summer in an effort to reengage them?

Reed volunteered to take the lead on this. He will contact Kristi and Jeremy for the names of folks who have dropped out. In May, Keystone sent out letters to nearly everyone who has been to a NWCOS meeting asking them if they were interested and what kind of materials they wished to receive. NWCOS would not contact folks who told Kristi they were not interested in NWCOS, only those who are still interested, but who are not coming. Reed would draft a letter, which should include the final Protocols.

The subcommittee discussed where they were at in the process of contacting the missing interests:

- OHV interests: Rick contacted the American Motorcycle Association. T. Wright and Les talked to Toni Louder.
- Minority communities/environmental justice: Jane spoke with a Latino couple, and made contact with the Ute Tribe in Ft. Duchesne.
- Hunters/guides/outfitters: Wes has contacted several groups, but hasn't had a chance to contact Bear's Ears Outfitters yet.
- Wild Horse interests: Rick has made many contacts and they are added to the mailing list.
- Oil and gas companies: Vanessa has made several contacts and will continue to reach out to other companies.
- Environmental organizations: Reed has been talking with Center for Native Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation Alliance.
- Chamber of Commerce/Business interests: Jeff contacted the Chamber, but he was not attending to update.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Suzanne talked with Al Pfisher, who stated some interest in engaging as a Cooperating Agency. John Husband has also spoken with Al. Suzanne

also contacted Bob Leachman, who will be assigned to the Little Snake RMP Section 7 Consultation process. He will try to attend the next NWCOS meeting.

- Rafting interests: T. Wright is supposed to contact these folks, but was not there to update the subcommittee.

2. What document(s) will NWCOS hand to new members?

It was suggested that new members receive a one-page cover letter in larger print, as well as a full copy of the protocols. The idea was that a new member should not have to read the entire Protocols before sitting down at a NWCOS meeting. This one-page cover letter would start with something like, "NWCOS expects this from you," followed by the following sections of the Protocols: The NWCOS mission, "New Member Responsibilities" and "Member Responsibilities." The new member would read this cover page right away, and read the full Protocols after the meeting. New members would be given this packet at any appropriate time during the meeting, while not interrupting meetings or drawing too much attention to a new member during the meeting. After reading the protocols and returning to another NWCOS meeting, the new member would be invited to sign the Protocols.

Jeremy will take the lead in drafting this letter. It will be presented to the full group on Sept 23rd for approval.

3. Where and how will NWCOS keep meeting notes?

The subcommittee was mostly satisfied with the way meeting summaries are being done. They liked that Keystone sends out a draft summary to be examined by the full group. This insures consistency and fairness. If possible given budget constraints, the subcommittee recommended that another Keystone employee or a professional recorder be asked to keep meeting minutes on a regular basis.

In a recent development, Jeremy has been working on developing a web site for the RMP revision. This would be set up in the BLM network, connected to the main Little Snake Field Office web site. All NWCOS materials or a link to NWCOS materials would be included on this site.

4. Where and how will NWCOS publish meeting notices?

The subcommittee thought that there should be a fixed procedure for meeting notices. They liked the idea of expanding the meeting notices that Jeremy has been submitting to the Daily Press and Morning News for their Community Calendar. If space permits, these notices should include the NWCOS mission, and additional information on the agenda for that meeting, including some of the natural resource issues the group will discuss. The subcommittee also wished to start printing notices in the media in Steamboat Springs and Rio Blanco County. These notices should also get faxed to the radio stations. Reed will take the lead on this task. Jeremy will send the old announcements to Reed as a starting point. The subcommittee asked that the Planning Committee discuss their role in this at their next meeting.

In addition to meeting notices, the subcommittee discussed the option of submitting a Public Service Announcement or a Press Release to local papers. Jane agreed to contact the papers to inquire about the different options NWCOS would have, and the respective costs.

5. How will NWCOS document who they contact about participating in NWCOS?

The subcommittee agreed to start a list of people they have contacted about participating in NWCOS. This list would include the names of people they spoke with, if they wanted to be added to the mailing list, and if they received a packet with the Protocols. This list should be consolidated and given to Keystone or BLM at regular intervals. Jeremy also reminded the subcommittee that old emails are being kept by himself and Keystone, which contain all the email addresses of people who receive the email notifications.

6. How should NWCOS participants present themselves to strangers/potential members?

The subcommittee had some concerns about how they should present themselves to potential new members. Can they “represent” NWCOS? Can they state personal views while talking to strangers? After some discussion, the subcommittee talked about some potential ways to introduce themselves and some potential “hooks” to get people involved. The subcommittee thought that NWCOS participants should be careful not to mix their opinions with the views of NWCOS on a particular resource issue. However, it would be okay to say something like, “Personally, I am involved with NWCOS because I care about [issue X].” They also agreed that they could freely represent the principals of NWCOS which are laid out in the final Protocols.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.