

RAC Meeting Notes 06.13.24

Location: Watersmeet/ Iron River District Office

Time: Paul Holeva started the meeting at 4:02

Present In Person:

- Daniel J. Gardner A2 developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities Secretary, SISU Dirt Crew
- Amber L. Oja A4 commercial timber industry Area Manager, Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands
- Theresa Pitts B2 regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations Wolf Preservation Team with Michigan Anishinaabek Caucus.
- Connie Julien B3 dispersed recreational activities President of the Peter Wolfe Chapter of the North Country Trail Association
- Pete Heidemann B5 nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations Retired school teacher. Ontonagon Valley Sportsmen's Club.
- Alina J. Shively C3 American Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the committee is organized Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- Marlene Broemer C4 area school officials or teachers Former Ontonagon County Commissioner and former professor at Finlandia University professor New Jersey University, substitute teacher at Ontonagon schools.
- Rachael A. Guth C5 affected public-at-large Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division

Present Virtually:

- Evelyn Ravindran A1 organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups Natural Resources Department Director, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Emily M. Clegg B1 nationally recognized environmental organizations Director of Land and Water Management, The Nature Conservancy, Michigan.

Absent:

- Sarah Topp A3 energy and mineral development, or commercial or recreational fishing interests Upper Peninsula Stream Restoration Manager, Trout Unlimited
- Donald Helsel A5 federal grazing permits or other land use permit holders or represent non-industrial private forest landowners within the area for which the committee is organized Forest landowner. Also former RAC member and MI-TRALE Board of Directors.
- Lindsay Hiltunen B4 archaeological and historical interests PhD student at Michigan Tech and University Archivist.

- Greg Markkanen C1 state elected office Michigan State Representative (District 110)
- Dan Siirila C2 county or local elected office Gogebic County Commissioner (District 1)

Ottawa National Forests Staff Present In-person: Darla Lenz, Forest Supervisor; Paul Holeva, Partnership Coordinator; Charly Loper, Public Affairs Officer; Ian Shackleford, Botanist

Paul Holeva kicked it off. Covered safety and logistics.

Darla Lenz gave a welcome

The group went around the room and introduced themselves

Charly Loper presented the basics on the Ottawa

Ian Shackleford presented about the laws behind RAC. Discussed how the funding is distributed. Discussed the local RAC history and projects funded. Covered the RAC charter. Reviewed roles of chair and each member. Discussed who can apply for Title II funding and the project requirements. Explained how funding has accumulated since 2017 and how the process typically works.

Questions:

- Are there match requirements and are the grants reimbursed or paid upfront? Matches are recommended but not required but any match must be for future work not past work.
- RAC represents all of the Ottawa and not just Gogebic and Ontonagon.
- Concern about more of the funding goes to Gogebic vs. Ontonagon counties.
- None of the past projects were awarded to tribes that staff could recall.
- Has the RAC funded part of projects? Yes, DNR, Road commissions, etc have contributed in part to projects as well.
- Is there a deadline for project completion? Depends on the project. Max 5 years
- Could Aquatic Organism Passages be funded in part? Yes.
- Will we get enough projects to use the funds? Paul has received at least a dozen calls. Roads may use up a lot of funding.
- Once the Ottawa receives proposals, will RAC members get them in advance of the meetings? Yes.
- What is the review period for this? Up to RAC.
- Can the proposals include a map of where the projects are located? Yes
- Can it pay salaries for implementation of projects? Yes.
- Question to assure that there is a quorum in the future. Yes, hybrid is an option
- Will meetings be in Watersmeet. Chair and RAC can set locations.

Paul Holeva reviewed ethics. RAC committee members are considered representatives.

Paul Holeva reviewed suggested timeline and targets.

Questions

- Explain what happens between review and announcement? double checking amounts and massaging proposals.
- Asked about FACA review deadline.
- Asked if he was in the right committee because he wanted to submit a proposal. – he can submit a proposal but may want to consider if he needs to recuse himself from voting on that specific proposal.
- Where are notices published? Will they be sent to members of the RAC?- Mining Gazette in Houghton. Press release will be sent to other papers. Will be sent to 40+ partners.
- Will the FS vet projects before giving them to RAC? Yes

Committee Chair: Alina Shively nominated Connie Julien. Daniel Gardner seconded it. Connie accepted the nomination. Connie Julien is the chair.

Deadlines and meetings

- Deadline for proposals Friday, Sept 20th
- RAC proposal review: November 1st- look at doing a virtual poll to determine date.

Questions

- Does committee go to sites for monitoring? Up to the RAC.
- Do you see the RAC reviewing rec fees? Legally possible but haven't done in the past. Eastern region has a RAC for that.

Meeting adjourned 5:54 CT