MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the UCFRB Remediation and Restoration Advisory Council

FROM: Doug Martin, NRDP

DATE: May 15, 2018

SUBJECT: May 23, 2018 Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at the Elks Lodge, in Deer Lodge. Attached are the agenda and backup meeting materials. Below is a summary of the major agenda items.

Clark Fork Watershed Education Program: Update and Contract Renewal: Shannon Gilskey, NRDP and Rayelynn Brandl, CFWEP. Action Item

In 2013, Governor Schweitzer approved an amendment to the May 2012 Final UCFRB Interim Restoration Process Plan that provided long-term funding of the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program (CFWEP) through a $2 million allocation from the UCFRB Restoration Fund in fiscal years (FY) 2014 and 2015. That amendment maintained the same provisions for review and approval of CFWEP’s biennial budget. Those provisions require that CFWEP’s budget be considered by the NRDP and Advisory Council and approved by the TRC on a biennial basis in each even-numbered year.

At the May 23rd meeting, Shannon Gilskey of NRDP and Rayelynn Brandl of CFWEP, will provide background on the framework for CFWEP funding and summarize the FY19/20 CFWEP proposal and CFWEP’s milestones achieved in the past fiscal year. Following public input, the Advisory Council will determine its recommendation to the TRC on the FY19/FY20 scope/budget proposal. The TRC will consider CFWEP’s proposed budget and scope of activities for FY2019/20 at their next meeting, scheduled to occur in early June. The scope/budget proposal and an article published in the School Science and Mathematics Journal by CFWEP are attached.

Deer Lodge River and Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch Funding Recommendation Response to Comment Summary: Greg Mullen, NRDP – Action Item

NRDP will provide a summary of the draft response to comments on this project and summarize the staff’s funding recommendation. A 30-day public comment period was being held for this funding recommendation from April 4, 2018 through May 5, 2018. Copies of the draft response to comments are attached, will be available at the meeting and are also available at the NRDP webpage https://dojmt.gov/lands/notices-of-public-comment/.

At the May 23rd meeting the Advisory Council will consider the acquisition of the two ranches, totaling about 3,400 acres, for $5,180,000. The ranches will be subsequently sold at a later date...
after being encumbered with a conservation easement that will meet the goals of the UCFRB Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plan. The conservation easement is valued at $2.37 million. Once the property is sold, the proceeds from the sale will be returned to the Restoration Fund.

Following public input, the Advisory Council will determine its recommendation to the TRC and the Governor on the funding recommendation for this project.

**Buxbaum Conservation Easement Project Update:** Greg Mullen, NRDP Project Manager, will present a project update of the Buxbaum conservation easement NRDP funding recommendation that is currently out for public comment. The public comment period ends June 4, 2018. The document and associated map are attached and can also be found on the NRDP website at [https://dojmt.gov/lands/notices-of-public-comment/](https://dojmt.gov/lands/notices-of-public-comment/) under “Public Notices” or by request at (406) 444-0205 or nrdp@mt.gov. This project is working to protect 1,193 acres of grassland, wetland, and forest habitat near Maxville with a permanent conservation easement. FVLT is also working with Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to secure public hunting opportunities on the property and access to USFS lands east of the property. FVLT will be requesting funding from the Restoration Fund to support the purchase of this conservation easement on the entire 1,193-acre property and allow for public hunting access. The majority of this easement will be paid by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, up to $537,000. FVLT has requested Restoration Funds of up to $250,000, or up to 25% of the Conservation Easement Value, whichever is less.

Staff will prepare and present the draft response to comments for the Council’s for consideration at a meeting in June or July.

**SBC Greenway Project Update:** Dori Skrukrud, Greenway Service District will present the Council with an update on the progress of the Silver Bow Creek Greenway project.
MEETING AGENDA

1:00 – 1:10  Introductions and Administrative Items  
  •  Past meeting minute summary/approval

1:10- 1:40  CFWEP: Update and Renewal – Shannon Gilskey, NRDP; Rayelynn Brandl, CFWEP – ACTION ITEM

1:40-2:10  Clark Fork River Ranches CE Acquisition, Funding Recommendation Public Comment Response to Comment Summary- Greg Mullen, NRDP- ACTION ITEM

2:10- 2:30  Buxbaum FVLT Conservation Easement Update, Funding Recommendation Public Comment – Greg Mullen, NRDP

2:30 – 2:50  SBC Greenway Project Update – Dori Skrulrud, Greenway Service District

2:50 – 3:20  NRDP Announcements

3:20 – 3:30  Public Comment / Other

Next Meeting – August/September

Note: Full Council mailing materials are posted on the NRDP website at: https://dojmt.gov/lands/advisory-councils/.