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Public Comment for 03/21/2016 RMAC meeting

The BOS meeting audio for February 23, which can be heard at:

http://eldorado.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=761, item 16-0032, is worthy of RMAC review for the following reasons:

1. Supervisors Veerkamp, Novasel and Frentzen explicitly expressed their preference for retaining local control of South Fork American (SFA) River management, versus transferring control to State or Federal entities.
2. In response to questioning, Steve Pederson stated that there had been no effort to tap other funding sources such as SMUD special revenue fund or grants to address the funding shortfall at the River Management Trust. Four supervisors (Veerkamp, Novasel, Frentzen, Mikulako) encouraged staff to explore other revenue opportunities, including tapping SMUD funds, grants or TOT fees. Supervisor Mikulako was surprised that RMP elements had been unaddressed due to RMT underfunding while the SMUD special revenue fund had not been tapped, and stated that this would be on his radar screen. There were several acknowledgements of the SFA's economic importance to the county, and its international stature. Supervisor Novasel volunteered her belief the river was being well managed.
3. Although all supervisors passed Supervisor Ranalli's motion to direct staff to open discussions with state and federal (BLM) entities to explore potential cost saving opportunities, there was no approval to utilize county funds or funds from the River Trust Fund for these discussions.

Contrary to what is stated in the 03/21/2016 RMAC agenda, there was no direction from the BOS to hire the consultant for an additional \$25,000 to participate in cost saving discussions with state parks or BLM. Thus there is no basis for RMAC to approve this Parks request.

The last time this consultant was hired to update the RMP, his fees totaled over \$500K. Today neither the county nor the RMT can afford a six figure bill for a RMP update.

After two years of consulting work, the draft RMP update failed to include the core known and needed element updates that had been discussed at RMAC meetings and deferred for this update process:

- a. Institutional permit, where the consultant footnoted the following:
 - Element 4.2 (new numbering) "This analysis suggests that the County consider either invoking new Institutional Group management methods, as identified by the RMAC (Proposal Draft Institutional Permit Update to the River Management Plan, El Dorado County River Management Advisory Committee, March 2013), or transition Institutional Groups into the Commercial Outfitter management protocols (see RMP Section 6.2)."

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The consultant failed to deliver a proposed institutional permit element, even though the RMAC had already completed a proposed draft, and the River Supervisor had submitted a proposal to transition institutional users to commercial permits.

- b. User Day Transfer, where the consultant commented as follows:
- Element 6.2.1.3.6: “The County should either modify the RMP to create a marketplace for the temporary transfer of user days between outfitters or enforce current prohibition on these practices. The practice of the River Manager allowing this clear violation of the existing RMP management framework undermines its implementation.”

The consultant failed to comprehend the difference between outfitter subcontracting and user day transfers, but more importantly, failed to deliver a proposed element for user day transfers. In the RMAC meeting on August 14, 2014, time 2:14, Parks Manager Vicki Sanders promised RMAC that the RMP update would include an analysis of user day transfer options for commercial outfitters, which was not fulfilled.

- c. Pirate boaters, where the consultant commented as follows:
- Element 8.1: “Revision of the existing Pirate Boater Ordinance should be coordinated by County Counsel, the District Attorney’s office and the Sheriff’s Department should be encouraged to identify a more effective strategy for addressing this issue.”

The consultant failed to deliver a proposed element to address currently unenforceable pirate boater violations (which were noted in a 2011 Sheriff’s report).

Spending more trust funds on this consultant cannot be justified given the drain on trust balances and the known RMP update requirements that remain unaddressed.

Instead of asking the BOS to approve more consultant spending, I would instead suggest that the RMAC recommend to the BOS that it proceed with an RMP update by tapping volunteer resources in an ad-hoc committee. I would be willing to volunteer on the ad hoc committee provided meetings can be held in the Lotus Coloma valley.

Karen Mulvany