

RANCH AT ROARING FORK
Fishing Waterways Advisory Committee
Minutes of June 18, 2011

Present: Stephanie McConaughy, Richard Sierzant, Ed Anderson, Chuck Rudolph.

Absent: JP Pfaust, Steve Coley.

Others Present: Peter Breitenstein on speaker phone

The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m.

The minutes for the 03-18-11 FAC meeting were approved.

Dan Bishop's resignation from the FWAC was accepted by the Ranch Board of Directors at their June 6, 2011 meeting. The FWAC thanks Dan for his long service to the fishing community and to the committee.

The Board of Directors also accepted a change in name of the committee to Fishing Waterways Advisory Committee to reflect the committee's concerns for both waterways and fishing.

Old Business

Recommendation of FlyWater Consultants-Board Action June 6, 2011

Stephanie McConaughy attended the Board meeting on June 6, 2011. The FWAC submitted their recommendation of FlyWater Consultants (Corey Engen, President, Environmental Engineer, PO Box 973, Fort Collins, CO 80522) as fishing and waterways consultants for the Ranch at Roaring Fork (see Report to BOD Regarding Consultant 06-01-11). The Board approved the FWAC recommendation.

Request to FlyWater Consultants for Proposal for Fishing Waterways Master Plan

The Board authorized the FWAC to request a proposal from FlyWater as a sole vendor to develop an interim and long-term Master Plan for maintenance and phased improvements of our waterways and fishery. The Board did not approve the FWAC request to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$20,000 for costs to develop the Master Plan because they wanted to first review the actual proposal. However, the Board assured the FWAC that such an expenditure seemed reasonable within the current budget.

The FWAC reviewed a request for a proposal to be submitted to FlyWater on June 20, 2011. They set a deadline of July 1, 2011 with the intention of submitting FlyWater's proposal to the Board at their July 11, 2011 meeting. In a subsequent telephone conversation with Stephanie McConaughy, Corey Engen, President of FlyWater Consultants, assured the FWAC that they can meet the 07/01/11 deadline.

Board Proposed Owner/Guest Definitions

The FWAC continued their discussion of the Board's proposed Owner/Guest definitions. These discussions were initiated at a March 31, 2011 FWAC meeting and subsequent FWAC meeting on June 4, 2011 (See FWAC Report to BOD Owner Guest Definitions 06-01-11). The FWAC will continue discussion of this issue and welcomes community input. The FWAC is considering how Owner/Guest definitions would relate to fishing badge/permits after repayment of the 2006 loan for development of the new stream.

New Business:

Fishing Badge Fees/Badge Structure Post Repayment of 2006 New Stream Loan

The FWAC began discussion of fishing badge structure and possible fees for fishing Permits after repayment of the 2006 loan for the new stream. Current budget projections call for the last payment on the loan in 2016. The FWAC is initiating discussion on badge structure now to allow ample time for community input and to develop a well thought out approach for the future. The following are general principles that guided the FWAC discussions:

1. Future rules should be clear, easy to understand, and easy to administer.
2. The rules should point the Ranch in the direction most owners prefer going forward, but during a reasonable transition period, the rules should respect what may have become the expectations of some who are owners today.
3. Future fees for fishing should generate income to support our waterways and fishery.
4. We should continue to limit fishing pressure and crowding on our waterways.

To date, the following are points of consensus among committee members:

1. We should continue with the current limit of a maximum of four fishing Permits per Unit. [There are currently 161 Units at the Ranch. This limits use of the fishing amenity to four individuals at any one time. This is consistent with current practice at the golf shop.]
2. We should continue to charge for Guest Permits for fishing at the Ranch. The current practice of a maximum of two Guest Permits per Unit seems to be a good approach.
3. Each Owner should be issued a non-transferable photo ID, as now done in the golf shop for Owner use of the golf course. This is a new practice that would allow easier identification of Owners versus Guests. We have been assured that this could be easily administered as done currently at the golf shop. The Owner photo ID could be separate from the Owner fishing Permit. Both Owner photo ID and Owner Permit must be displayed on the back of the fishing vest.
4. The FWAC generally supports the definitions of Owner and Guest that are currently stated in the Ranch Declarations:
 - a. "Owner" is defined as the person, firm, corporation, partnership association, or other legal entity or combination thereof, who are record title owner or owners.

- b. “Guest” is defined as any customer, agent, employee, tenant, guest, or invitee of an Owner, including family members who not record title owners.
5. Renters or tenants should be considered Guests and thereby have to abide by rules that apply to Guests. Renters or tenants may use only Guest Permits and not Owner Permits. Owners must notify the Ranch manager of the names of renters and tenants and their length of stay.
6. There shall be no commercial uses of the Ranch waters for fishing, including use by fishing guides and their clients. [This is a current fishing rule that the FWAC strongly supports for the future.]
7. There needs to be greater effort needs to enforce current and future fishing rules and regulations, including issuance of warnings for first violations and fines for subsequent violations.
8. Revenue raised from the sale of fishing Permits should be assigned to a specific fishing reserve in the Ranch budget. [This would allow better budgetary planning for maintenance and improvement of Ranch waterways and fishing.]

The FWAC is continuing discussions of how to deal with Owner Permits for Units that are owned by a “firm, corporation, partnership association, or other legal entity,” such as an LLC. By the current definition of Owner, the LLC is the owner of such a Unit, not the individual members of the LLC per se. The FWAC acknowledges that it would be hard for an LLC to hold a rod and catch and release fish. The FWAC is discussing how to identify members of the LLC as Owners in a manner that is fair to them and other members of the community and encourages equitable contribution from LLCs to support the waterways and fishing.

Grass Cutting in Streams and Walkways Alongside Streams

The Ranch staff are continuing their practice of cutting walking paths along certain sections of the streams. The FWAC generally supports this practice to allow better access to the streams in difficult areas. The FWAC also discussed whether Ranch staff should do judicious cutting of willows alongside stream banks to allow better access to certain fishing holes. Peter Breitenstein reported that the Open Space committee had voted “that no more bushes along the stream beds should be removed.” The FWAC noted that this issue is within the jurisdiction of both committees (FWAC and Open Space). Stephanie McConaughy reported that she and Christie Jenkins, Chair of the Open Space Committee, plan to discuss this issue further so that the two committees can collaborate. The FWAC will also seek the recommendations of FlyWater Consultants regarding cutting of willows. The FWAC is not recommending that any willows be *removed* from stream banks in order to maintain root structure of willows for stabilizing stream banks.

In June and August last year, the Ranch staff conducted experimental grass cutting within certain sections of Sopris Creek. This was done to create a column of water above the rooted grass for easier fishing. The FWAC will ask FlyWater Consultants their opinion as to whether this practice should be continued this year.

Stocking in August 2011

The FWAC stocked approximately 600 pounds of 10-12 Kamloop and Black Canyon rainbows in March 2011. Some members of our community have since asked that additional stocking be done in August this year in areas where there is less problem with grass growth within the streams. The FWAC will ask FlyWater Consultants their opinion on this request.

Next Meeting

The FWAC will meet again sometime in July to discuss their report to the Ranch annual meeting on August 8, 2011. The time for the FWAC meeting will be posted in advance on the Ranch website.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie McConaughy
Chair and Secretary