



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: April 19, 2022

Agenda Item: Selection of Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan Advisory Committee (R4)

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: The Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan guides fisheries management for Canyon Ferry, Hauser, and Holter reservoirs, and two associated Missouri River sections. A priority identified through public scoping was adaptability and responsiveness of the management plan in relation to dynamic fish populations. The management plan includes development of a Citizen Advisory Committee that will meet with the department annually to review fish trends and goals to advise management actions. Based on Appendix C in the management plan, the commission will appoint a five-member CAC to function in an advisory capacity to FWP for fisheries management decisions in the plan area. The committee will consist of no more than one advocate from five of the following stakeholder groups: unaffiliated warmwater anglers, unaffiliated coldwater anglers, organized warmwater angler groups, organized coldwater angler groups, ice-fishing anglers, conservation groups, kids' fishing, fishing tournament organizer, landowner, outfitter, local government, local business, and other interests.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The reservoir management plan was developed with substantial public input and the final plan was approved at the December 2019 commission meeting. In April 2021, the commission appointed five members to serve a one-year term on the CAC: Pete Cardinal, Wolf Creek; Bart Bratlien, Helena; Mike Agee, Helena; Dale Gilbert, Ulm; and Jim Gillespie, Helena. At a Dec. 8, 2021 CAC meeting, four members agreed to serve another one-year term. One member, Jim Gillespie who represented Walleyes Unlimited, chose not to serve another term. Commissioner Byorth also participated in the December CAC. The department accepted applications to fill the vacant CAC position from Feb. 7 through Mar. 3. Four applications were submitted to the department.

Alternatives and Analysis: Based on their applications, all four applicants could adequately serve on the CAC and represent various stakeholder groups listed above. One applicant, Lance Kresge, is an active member of Walleyes Unlimited, as was the previous CAC member who vacated the seat. The commission could re-appoint the four current members to the CAC and appoint one person from the pool of four applicants to fill the open seat. Additionally, the commission could choose to not re-appoint all or a portion of the current CAC and choose new members from the current pool of four applicants, or the commission can direct the department to solicit additional applications to fill the CAC. All current (and previous) members of the CAC effectively filled their roles in the group and are expected to continue to adequately fill the roles of the CAC in the future. Commissioner participation has also been beneficial to the function of the CAC, and the department requests continued participation by a sitting commissioner.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission re-appoint four existing members to the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan Citizen Advisory Committee and appoint _____ to fill the vacant seat.