

Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)
May 7, 2021, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
RMRI Governance Subcommittee
Meeting Summary - FINAL

ATTENDANCE

Participants: Samantha Albert, Angela Boag, Jason Lawhon, Emily Olsen, Travis Smith, and Scott Woods

Facilitation: Samuel Wallace

ACTION ITEMS

RMRI Support Team	Ask RMRI partners via email whether anyone is interested in serving on the Leadership Team in a nominated seat before the full Stakeholder Group meeting in August.
Tara Umphries	Provide an update on the Governance Subcommittee's discussions at the next RMRI Stakeholder Group meeting on May 11.

RMRI POLICY ADVOCACY/LETTER OF SUPPORT DISCUSSIONS

Meeting participants discussed whether RMRI should advocate for policy and write letters of support and what a process could look like for doing so. Their comments are summarized below.

- Some federal and state agencies have constraints on when they can support legislation and projects. Similarly, non-profits that receive funding from the federal government have constraints related to supporting legislation and projects. Some partners, like the National Wild Turkey Federation, have more flexibility when advocating for legislation and projects, but they still have to make sure policy aligns with their mission. Each policy and letter of support request should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- There should be a process for partners to request support from RMRI. The process should begin by defining the ask (i.e., what are partners looking for from RMRI).
- The Governance Subcommittee could serve as the body to evaluate requests for RMRI support and then pass it along to the relevant RMRI group (e.g., full Stakeholder Group, subcommittees, landscapes, etc.).
- There are several different scales of requests. There may be requests to support national legislation, state legislation, or specific landscape projects. The Governance Subcommittee should consider the scale of the request when evaluating it.
- There should be a form for people to fill out to request support from RMRI. On the form, there could be questions on the legislation/project and how the legislation/project relates to RMRI's core values, cross-cutting issues, or landscapes. Patt Dorsey or Tara Umphries could act as the point of contact for people who want to submit a request form.
- The Governance Subcommittee should set a reasonable timeline for delivering letters of support. More than likely, it would take at least a month upon request to deliver a letter of support. Patt Dorsey and Tara Umphries could respond to requests in the week.
- One reason for forming RMRI was to collectively bring resources to areas and reduce competition for the same funding sources. A process to request support from RMRI should avoid creating competition for the same resources. RMRI should support and build on the strength of collaboratives and not compete with them.

- If the Governance Subcommittee evaluated requests for support, there would need to be criteria to help evaluate results. The criteria for requesting support from RMRI should be broad. Potential criteria include:
 - The scale of the request (i.e., whether it is for national legislation, state legislation, a specific project, etc.)
 - How does the legislation/project relate to RMRI (i.e., four core values, landscapes, cross-cutting issues)
- There should be different processes for requesting letters of support from the full RMRI partnership versus requesting letters of support from an RMRI landscape or subcommittee. Southwest Colorado partners have received several requests for letters of support over the past year. The Governance Subcommittee should consider when the RMRI Stakeholder Group should review requests for letters of support and when they do not need to. Any request for a letter of support for any legislation should go to the full RMRI Stakeholder Group.
- There should be guidelines around when RMRI can speak as “we” and when RMRI partners can speak individually as “me.” This topic is something the full RMRI Stakeholder Group should discuss.

GOVERNANCE CHARTER DISCUSSION

Meeting participants conducted their annual review of the governance charter. Their comments are summarized below.

- According to the charter, nominated Leadership Team members have the option to serve in their role for two consecutive, two-year terms. Term limits were set up to create opportunities for new people to bring ideas to the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team members are coming up at the end of their first two-year term.
- RMRI partners should be notified that there is an opportunity to join the Leadership Team in a nominated seat. Before the August meeting, the Support Team should ask RMRI partners if anyone is interested in joining the Leadership Team meeting in a nominated seat.
- The governance charter outlines that anyone interested in joining RMRI may do so. The RMRI contact list has grown over the past year, and the RMRI Support Team should consider how to accommodate the larger group once RMRI shifts back to in-person meetings.
- Once a process for requesting letters of support from RMRI is established, the Governance Subcommittee will need to add the process to the governance charter.

NEXT STEPS

Tara Umphries, US Forest Service, will provide an update on the Governance Subcommittee’s discussions at the full RMRI partner meeting on Tuesday, May 11.