

Town of Encampment  
Workshop  
NFF & Partners SLIB Grant  
For Watershed Project  
December 11, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

The Town of Encampment met in a workshop session with representatives of the National Forest Foundation and other agencies to discuss the proposed SLIB grant application for work to be completed in the Town of Encampment watershed. Those present were Shannon Fagan, Mayor; Stas Banach, Ashley McKinney, Susan Munson and Steve Reichert, Council; Carter Kinead, National Forest Foundation and Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Project Coordinator; Matt Schweich, LaVA Implementation Coordinator, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest; Clint Bassett, Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities Treatment Division Manager; Sevi Shperun, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Dana Davis from the Carbon County Comet.

Attending electronically were Sean King, Office of State Loans and Investments State Revolving Fund Program Project Manager; Natasha Collins, World Resource Institute; Matt Marshall, Wyoming State Forestry Division; Sam Pankratz, National Forest Foundation and Huda Elasaad, National Forest Foundation.

The workshop was opened with introductions. Mr. Kinead noted that about two years ago the IFNF grant was written for funding to explore options for funding for projects in the watershed for Encampment which also benefits Cheyenne as a partner. He, Ms. Collins of the World Resource Institute and other partners began looking at options for funding to complete work in the watersheds and to help reduce impact from wildfire. The Town of Encampment qualifies for a funding option that the City of Cheyenne does not due to its size. He expressed gratitude to the council for considering the SLIB Loan path. Mr. Shperun noted that the Watershed Protection Plan the Town has in place is part of their plan, and that the Forest Service recognized risk in our watershed. He gave a summary of projects already in the works. He noted that in some places the timber has value, but in some places it mainly vegetation, willow fuels and fallen timber, and does not necessarily have value. He noted that pods had been identified for further work as well as some work on the powerline road area. He reviewed several maps with the council and discussed potential projects. He noted that the intent was to provide areas for firefighter access and safety. Some of the plans are also in the Teddy/Vulcan area.

Mr. Bassett noted that some of the areas noted have unique challenges and are quite steep. It will be tough and costly to get the timber out. He noted that there are definitely possibilities of hydrophobic fire which would affect soil saturation increasing the risk of debris flow. It could cause significant damage in the watershed. He referenced a fire near Sheridan which significantly impacted their watershed. He noted work had been done near Rob Roy a few years ago and that there are also wilderness areas that cannot be touched. The pods being discussed would set up 'speed bumps' for fire management.

Discussion ensued about potential project areas, Squirrel GNA, a minor fuels project along the powerline road at about 1,000 acres and some other minor fuels work similar to that at Rob Roy. Mayor Fagan asked about whether they had used this type of funding partnership in the past. Mr. Schweich noted that it had thought it had been used in Denver and Utah, but that he had not

participated in it. Ms. Collins noted that it had also been used in Flagstaff. The IFNF program has been around and partners conservation finance with teams across the states. Each community is different. Other sources such as endowments are also involved as is the National Forest Foundation. They are looking into more creative ways to finance what needs to be done. Banach expressed the concern that the Town of Encampment could be setting themselves up for some type of liability. Mr. Kinkead advised that the National Forest Foundation is putting up \$315,000.00 to be held by Encampment to cover expenses. There will be principal forgiveness on the loan and that there is no risk to the Town. The loan origination fee can be covered from the \$315,000.00. There will be an MOU between the Town of Encampment and the National Forest Foundation.

Mr. Bassett advised that all of the bills would go to the National Forest Foundation and that they will process them with the help of the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities and be given to the Town. The Town will the apply for a loan draw and provide the funds back to the National Forest Foundation. Banach noted that no one could argue against fuel reduction in the watershed.

Other items to be included with the application would be the Facilities Plan, Source Water Protection Plan noting that 70% of the watershed is in bad shape. There will also be a cost-effective analysis. If there were to be a severe fire the Town could be out of water for as long as five years. The intention is to put together the draft of the application and submit it and address any questions.

Mr. Kinkead noted that he was really grateful that the council was considering this funding option. It addresses small town capacity. He noted that if we continue with the process, we can withdraw at any time prior to April. He noted that the partners are dedicated to mitigating this risk any way they can. It is a high priority. We are situated in a unique spot where we can help bring in additional funding to get it completed sooner. The next step in the process will be Public Meeting on the matter which they hope to hold on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

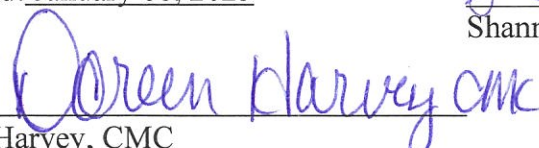
The council thanked everyone for taking the time to update them on the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Doreen Harvey, CMC  
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: January 08, 2025

  
Shannon Fagan, Mayor

Attest:   
Doreen Harvey, CMC  
Clerk/Treasurer