

CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL DRAFT CHARTER

PURPOSE: The Purpose of the Clark Fork Basin Council is to develop vision, coordinate common strategy, and support the network of water user interests at the basin scale. The Clark Fork Basin Council will identify and address common basin-wide concerns, challenges, and solutions that are best addressed at the basin-level. The Council will focus on activities that provide added value to community based activities.

FUNCTION: Oversee and promote implementation of the basin water plan and its recommendations. Advise legislature and government agencies on basin wide water resource issues. Coordinate efforts of member groups on identifying areas of common interest.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: The scope of the Clark Fork Basin Council is the Clark Fork Basin and possibly the Kootenai Basin. The Council will serve in an advisory capacity for public and private partners operating within the Clark Fork and Kootenai basins. The Council may explore issues, impacts, and policies relating to drought management, floodplain protection, water storage, and water quality as well as other areas of interest identified by the Council.

INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS: Participation may include interested representation from business, non profit organizations, conservation districts, irrigation districts, private land owners, state, federal, local, or tribal governments, water quality districts, and recreational interest groups, located within the Clark Fork and Kootenai basins. Interested Stakeholders will be determined by participation in Council activities, including the Annual Meeting.

WORK GROUPS: Work groups will be formed ad hoc based on specific areas of interest or activity within the basin and the identified opportunity for basin-wide coordination. Once a need, purpose, scope, and deliverable has been identified by the stakeholders at large, a work group may be created. Work groups may be recruited by the Executive Committee, which will also be responsible for balanced membership.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee will seek input from stakeholders and committee recommendations in reaching final decisions on all matters: positions, committees created, and activities carried out by the Council. Executive Committee members will serve as spokespersons for the Council.

The Executive Committee will meet a minimum of 4 times a year and be responsible for Council administration, including reporting, and oversight of coordination activities. The Executive Committee will consist of a minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 stakeholders that are elected by the stakeholders at large.

Executive Committee members will serve in staggered 2-year terms. Committee composition will be a balanced representation of stakeholder groups.

Option One: Decisions must be reached by consensus of the Executive Committee members.

Option Two: A quorum must be present for the Executive Committee to take action. A quorum is no less two thirds of the Executive Committee. Approval requires a favorably vote of six or more members of the Executive Committee.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE. Upon creation, the Council will elect a Nomination Committee that will manage nominations to the Executive Committee. The Nomination Committee will consist of at least one member of the Executive Committee and have a minimum of three stakeholder participants. Nomination Committee members will serve in two year staggered terms. An individual member may fill no more than three consecutive terms on the Committee.

TECHNICAL ADVISORS: Individuals or organizations with technical expertise may be invited to participate in working groups and provide information to the Council. Technical advisors cannot serve in positions on the Executive Committee.

REPORTING: The Clark Fork Basin Council will develop an annual report and work plan that summarizes previous year activities and identifies one or more areas of common interest and member activities. Report and work plan will be distributed to member groups as well as private and public partners which will include Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Department of Environmental Quality, Fish Wildlife and Parks, and the Water Policy Interim Committee.

ANNUAL MEETING: One Annual Meeting will be held wherein Interested Stakeholders & Technical Advisors may convene for committee reports and discussion regarding the annual work plan.

CREATION: The Council will be created upon the completion of a pledge from interested stakeholders.

AMMENDMENTS: The Council Charter may be amended by full consensus of the Executive Committee after consultation with interested stakeholders at an Annual Meeting.

Clark Fork Basin Council

