

Pinchot Partners Monthly Meeting

8/19/2020
9:00-11:30 AM
Location: Via Conference Call/Zoom

In attendance: Janene Ritchie, Tiffini Alexander, Fred Norman, David Owen, Lucy Brookham, Amy Ramsey-DNR, Taylor Aalvik, Elizabeth Robinson-FS, John O’Brian, Sharon Hannah, Amy Boyd, Anjolene Price, Gina Owen, Nikia Hernandez-FS. Pete Krabbe, John Squires. Matt Comisky, Eric Veach-FS.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on 8/19/2020 by Taylor Aalvik

**MOTION: John O’Brian moved to approve the agenda presented today seconded by Sharon Hannah- MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION: Lucy Brookham made a motion to approve the annual meeting minutes as well as the July monthly meeting seconded by Anjolene Price-MOTION CARRIED**

Treasurers Report/David Owen: We currently have a balance of $20,100. We have routine revenues but not routine expenses.

**MOTION: Fred Norman moved to approve the treasurers report seconded by Pete Krabbe-MOTION CARRIED**

Grants & Reporting Status/Janene Ritchie: We will be receiving $6,840 from a technology grant. This will provide funding for Wi-Fi hotspots, training as well as funding to increase our skills. There are pending amendments for the DNR grants. The building forest partnerships was approved. We will be purchasing a zoom membership. The DNR foundry grant will hopefully be approved soon. We have shifted that funding to a virtual public meeting instead of a field trip. Janene has been talking to Gala Miller regarding some Title 2 funding. Janene has been participating in monthly calls with the Washington Forest Collaboratives Network. It is important to share our success stories and collaborations

DNR is requesting some money to do some work in priority areas. This may be an opportunity to do some work and we can highlight these things as being in the priority areas. September meeting: This goes well with the timeline we are on at DNR - Tell your stories (Wake Timber sale). By October 1st Amy Ramsey would like to collect stories to summarize or highlight in the legislative report that comes out in December. Some of the deliverables in the grants include reaching out to your legislature.

Amy Ramsey would like some feedback on what is working and what is not. Forest health is a big thing. We are going into a pretty big economic recession. DNR’s number one priority is to protect employees and the second is to facilitate on the ground Great American Outdoors Act-Primarily funding for deferred maintenance. All the forest will be competing for dollars out of that pot. The funding is 5 years’ worth. It would be next year before they brought any projects online.

DNR has two grants for collaboratives – They are wanting to know where our priorities are. Taylor Aalvik states compacity building and implementation dollars are imperative (These responses are super important to get to DNR by end of month).

Forest Service Update: Great American Outdoors Act-Primarily funding for deferred maintenance. It would be next year before any projects were brought online. Pinchot Partners have received funding for the coordinator role. The Coordinator roll is funded through the cross boundary and building forestry grant. The NFF Grant ended in June and was primarily for the coordinator roll. The USFS compacity building grant will not be ran through the NFF anymore.

Sharon Hannah would like to know what kind of labor are required for the funds you are seeking. Do we have a labor pool we can advertise to help secure the funds? Nikia Hernandez states that a lot of the work is what they would traditionally be contracting for work, like the Huffaker Bridge deferred bridge maintenance. Recreation and roads are important. We do not allow electric bikes on the FS roads and could be an opportunity. People are going out voluntarily spending their own money & gas to clean the forest. David Owen asks if the FS can make ATV use for this purpose happen? Possibly consider ATV use on level 1 or level 2 roads? Issue licenses in return for bringing out 100lbs of junk? Permit for invasive species, maintenance? Permit program around ATV use. The Forest Service did not have any Re-bids /Re-sales etc. The bid opening for the Wake timber sale should be announced today. The Krause Ridge EA was signed on Monday. The entire project took a couple years. Nikia Hernandez stated 7 acres was dropped out of unit 89. One trail head (one parking area) was dropped. Would not have gained much more parking space to take out those trees.

The Link Timber sale will be awarded today. The Forest Service will have 5 bough sales. James Donahey is moving on as a silviculturist in Vermont. Nikia has been in contact with a temp detailer that should be here in September. The trash force has been officially signed up as volunteers.

Huckleberry Gathering-There is a nice set up to make it COVID friendly and safe. The FS is selling special forest products (200 permits have been issued). The huckleberries are ripe and have had a steady stream of people. The special forest products set up is very good per Pete Krabbe. A lot of people collect these berries for income. The office will remain closed but the special forest products is up and running.

Stress Test -The Huffaker Bridge has undergone a stress test by the FS. The FS will continue to obligate funds for the bridge replacement. Hopefully, the bridge will have increased compacity.

Yellow Jacket Timber Sale-The FS had a team meeting yesterday, they talked about candidate prescription ideas for the stands. They need to refine these before they have their initial proposal.

Restoration Opportunities- Elizabeth extends the invite to anyone who would like to attend the first pitch of restoration opportunities on Tuesday September 15th. We had some communication issues occur during the government shutdown. Each project they find things they have done wrong and try to improve on this. If the Forest Service is willing the Pinchot Partners are willing to look at the NEPA.

Coordinator Update: We implemented the small group meetings (2). Janene got some good feedback as far as rolls go. This helped her clarify what is expected of her, Janene asks that when she sends a request for response if you could be sure to respond promptly. The small group meetings could be hosted to clarify our feedback on the legislative priorities. When we have a virtual public meeting in September, Janene has some good info to go on. Sharon Hannah appreciated the small meetings. Janene will send out the schedule for this meeting tomorrow. Janene should be able to send calendar invites soon. The Pinchot Partners laptop has arrived.

Gifford Pinchot Trash Force on 9/19 they are hosting a cleanup event at 10 AM. Janene will be working as a Forest Bathing Guide and will be working in conjunction with the Packwood outdoors women’s club.

Coordinator Evaluation- Pete Krabbe asks that we update the contract. All discussed a board meeting at 9:00 AM and Janene joins at 9:30 AM to conduct the evaluation.

Position Statement Committee Update: Roads Section- It is time that we put this to a vote, Matt Comisky states that if this is brought to a vote today, he will be voting against it. Temporary roads are different from system roads. Striking this paragraph or moving it above makes more sense. Grading is not road reconstruction. Lucy Brookham asks that before we strike this, we find a better way to reword this. Maybe we go back and rewrite this? Maybe we do two separate analysis for each of these? What is the timeline for removing a temp road? Janene hopes to revisit this in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM Minutes prepared by Fred Norman & Tiffini Alexander