

Meeting minutes of

November 14th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am at 107 Spencer Rd. (St. Mary’s) located in Toledo, WA.

**In attendance:** Taylor Aalvik, Elizabeth Robinson, Nikia Hernandez, Pete Krabbe, Amy Boyd, David Owen, John Squires. Elizabeth Squires, Bill Little, John O’Brien, Amanda Keasbury, Sharon Hannah, Fred Norman, Gina Owen, Molly Whitney, Lucy Brookham, Bob Guenther, Amy Ramsey & James Owen. In attendance via phone: Ray Yurkewycz & Anjolene Price.

**MOTION: Taylor Aalvik moves to approve the agenda presented today seconded by Pete Krabbe-Motion Carried**

A request was made to the meeting recorder to include last names to all attendees to eliminate any confusion.

**MOTION: Bill Little moves to approve the meeting minutes of October 16th, 2019 seconded by John O’Brien- Abstention by John Squires-Motion Carried**

**Treasurers Report/David Owen** We paid an $8,600 invoice to White Pass School District for the Discovery Team. Taxes are due on November 15. We filed an extension giving us an additional 6 months. John Squires and David Owen will be going to Twin Star for records as that is needed for taxes. We have $10,700 in the checking account. A $9,000 check was made out to the White Pass School Board. A check to Alliance Insurance has been cut. Jamie has been submitting invoices on a regular basis. The Washington Secretary of State renewal will be taken care of at the end of the month. We are certain we will have taxes filed within the next couple of weeks. Amy Boyd has provided David Owen with two invoices (CFC & Jamie Tolfree Invoice). David Owen emphasized the need to expand this role with the Executive Director so that two people know what is going on as far as the money goes. This is simply for a bookkeeping purpose.

**MOTION: Bill Little moved to approve the Treasurers Report presented at today’s meeting seconded by John Squires- Motion Carried**

Applications for the Executive Director position are due **November 27th.**

**Beaver Presentation/CFC Amanda Keasberry**- Why Beaver Reintroduction? By the 1900’s beavers were almost completely extirpated due to trapping. By the 1950’s a technique of dropping beaver from planes was part of a beaver relocation. Beaver populations are on the rebound. The Beaver Restoration Guidebook is like our bible. Erik White has been instrumental in this Beaver Relocation effort. The Forest Service has also provided much needed support.

**What can Beaver do to a landscape?**

* They are going to remove a bunch of smaller trees.
* More water in the stream for longer into the season.
* The Dam will create deeper, cooler pools for spawning habitat.
* Capture fine sediment.
* Change in streamflow duration and seasonality.

**What is the Process of this project?**

* Find Suitable Habitat for our beaver.
* Beaver Habitat Site Assessments- Based upon ranking; Is there enough vegetation? Is there enough forage? Are there deep pools?
* We want really flat land and to know if beaver have been there before or if they are currently there. They prefer ½ a mile or a mile between beaver sites.
* Narrow down optimal release locations.
* Collect baseline data on stream & Vegetation.
* Acquire and house beavers at holding facility.
* Release the beaver into their new habitat.
* Monitor beavers and their habitat.

Erik White has been working with the trapper and has done amazing work. We have released 21 beavers to date. These beaver are averaging about 50lbs. A release was done at Wesley Creek in July. Once the releases were concluded the beavers had colored ear tags and then we would set up cameras. We also mark locations where they chew. It is worth it and so many others have had positive effects. Some of the spots it takes a bit for the beaver to stick. If we do not get it right this time we are going to continue learning. We will continue to monitor these sites. We have noticed hazelnut and vine maple are their favorite food. Weston Creek is loaded with wildlife- Otter will eat beaver but they don’t compete for habitat as they are not going for the same food. We need to do more exploration of Woods Creek. We have 125 assessments and need to be doing more. Taylor mentions looking at the west side of the monument may be a good place (Clear Lake area). Mount Adams district has not signed off for us to do releases yet. We are interested in creating beaver dam analogs.

**Forest Service Updates –** Introduction to Nikia Hernandez. Nikia came on detail from the Siuslaw National Forest, Fire Management Division. Nikia arrived in the beginning of October. He has heard wonderful things about this collaborative. Thank you all for playing a key role. The detail is to last four months. Gar is in the regional office. He will return the first or second week of January.

Planning Updates -We have many things going on. We are going to start our 10-year vegetation management strategy and want to know what level of involvement the Pinchot Partners want to have. See Document “GPNF 10-Year integrated Vegetation Management Strategy.” This is a guiding tool for us. Cowlitz Valley will start the effort after the first of the year. Elizabeth Robinson will be our point of contact. If the Pinchot Partners wants to identify a point of contact let the Forest Service know. We are looking towards May for a final draft. Currently planning units have been Silver, Iron Crystal, Krause, Yellow Jacket, Mineral Block, and Skate Creek. At this point we have hade various ideas on mineral block. Maybe a collaborative approach with the state for NEPA? They will be coming up with a plan that is 2020-2030. There are areas that are part of the previous plan that we have not gotten to or will not get to as priorities have changed.

Recent Timber Sales-We just received an offer, on the second bidding. The Iron Crystal sale sold yesterday with some adjustments. The base bid level was $1.08 and it sold for $1.20 per ton. There is an upcoming Sale, Moe. We will have 50% of our volume prepped ready or advertised. If the targets are not reached our timber budget can be affected. Our fiscal year starts October 1st. The big driver that has been impacted is that the road work is very expensive and is getting very complex. Purchasers and loggers are having to at times subcontract that out. There are many variables.

A lot of good work also happens for instream. The GPNF that is one of the few forests that is still doing quite well, including the Mount Hood and the Siuslaw. Some of the Forests are significantly struggling.

Krause Ridge-We are nearing the end of Kraus Ridge. We had the draft EA out in summer. We received 8 comments. We have been taking time working on the comment consideration. We had a couple units that are proposed for regeneration and are in Spotted owl areas. We have had some discussions with USFWS. The trailhead parking lot cannot happen without some sort of agreement. We are working on getting a decision drafted and FONSI to go out the second week of January for the objection filing period. If we have objections it will be another month- month 1/2 to work through those. We expect to have a decision in April 2020. Could we still do the expansion without doing the cutting? They are going to get back to Elizabeth Robinson on the spotted owl sites, we should hear back next week on a decision. This isn’t NEPA, this is being reviewed under ESA.

Tethered Logging/Bob Guenther - Yesterday at a meeting he was asked to invite this group to look at tethered logging. They would like to invite this group to watch a demonstration. Bob asks if anyone would be interested? Bob would set this meeting up in the Elma area. We would go out to this private logging company and take a good look at this. Anjolene was trying to arrange this about a year ago. Bob took this brochure up to Gar a year ago. We don’t have to take logs out at 40ft lengths. Bob will work on setting something up. Bob to work with Amy Boyd and Tiffini Alexander to set this up. It may be springtime before this can happen. The Forest Service would be very interested in setting something up. Anjolene asks if they are doing thinning-? Yes, they are. It is part of our budget and DNR grant for some more engagement with tethered logging.

**Grants and Reporting Status/Amy Boyd:** Amy Boyd provides a list of Grants and the Reporting Status. We had a call with Gala talking about the two grants that are due to close at end of year 50k in one and 10k remaining in the other. We spoke about doing a no cost time extension. Amy Boyd has the modifications here today. This will allow us more flexibility. Gayla said it may not be a slam dunk with the contracting people.

UW now has an innovations grant available. We would need to work with their staff if everyone is interested, she can make some inquiries and bring them back to the next meeting.

PacMTN/Bob Guenther- Amy Boyd hopes to be considered next year. Amy spoke with Jamie and one thing to consider is not taking on any new projects but getting the new hire familiar with the priorities. We may want to lift somethings ourselves if it is important for us. Taylor believes this is a good discussion to have. Bob Guenther states that we are learning from this, if we had known we could have helped saved the PacMTN grant.

Roundtable Updates Gina Owen asks if there is a subgroup that can meet routinely? Tying in what is the objectives of the DNR grants. Amy Boyd believes this is a good idea. Per David Owen we need to spread some of this out. He would like to have a listing of what is coming and going and spread this work out. Amy’s suggestion- Lets talk about this at the next meeting this gives others to think about this further. Having others doing something specifically will have great value. Add this item to next month.

Tentative December Agenda Items:

* Establish a subcommittee for Integrated planning process
* ADD – December meeting calendar to agenda
* Establish committee to review applicants and interview:
* Establish committee to review grants/budgets.

Places to advertise position:

* Washington forest collaboratives mailing list - Amy Ramsey will do this.
* Max list is the lead right now at 60.00 for the add. This will be on for about a month. WSU, OSU, UDUB, LCC, Clark, Centralia.
* Bob Guenther suggests we post to Work Source and PacMTN.

Those who are interested in being on a hiring committee?

* CFC will allocate a staff member to participate
* Elizabeth Robinson, Forest Service
* Anjolene Price would be happy to be on the committee but will be on vacation. She will be interested in being on the panel but unavailable to review applicants earlier than that.
* Pete Krabbe will review applicants
* Taylor Aalvik will assist
* Bob Guenther will assist
* Amy to ask Matt Comisky to be involved.

The previous procedure was to review the applicants each prepare scoring and then debate.

DNR Grant Opportunities/Amy Ramsey provided Comments back to Amy Boyd – Jamie will take a look at this for the 40k for maintaining and or building compacity. We would need to re-start the position statement committee meetings and perhaps add Veg Management.

Pinchot Partners Annual Meeting- It is typically in February. Find out when the leadership meeting is at for the Forest Service so we know not to schedule on those dates. Taylor Aalvik suggests mid-January to mid-February.

**Roundtable:**

Forest Service/Elizabeth Robinson Quick Update: We have a few folks retiring, Robin Rhodes, Joe Gates and Ruth Tracy.

Washington Collaborative Conferences are very informative. Pete mentions the NEPA process has been cut down.

Bob Guenther- We will soon know if we can grow poplar trees. We have been working on education and how do we get out kids involved in industrial technology (Pipeline Project). We have been able to help transition a new vocation center that will be in operations this time next year. Two weeks ago we went to Seattle obtained a 55ft. tractor and trailer for virtual reality. We got a 500k grant to outfit this unit for curriculum for kids. Boeing spent 150k alone to get it plumbed. We are going to buy it for 34k.

Centralia college had their Gala last week We raised 38k for virtual reality. We will get down to 7th grade to show them.

Status on the New Forest Service Supervisor- Someone should be selected shortly before or after Gar has returned. Nikia will see if he can get us some more details.

DNR/Amy Ramsey- Even though you were not able to get cross boundary there was some interest in virtual reality and stem-There is a time scheduled for folks to come from Olympia 2-3 ppl come from Pinchot Partners to represent these ideas and present them to DNR. Amy Ramsey does not have the date but believes it is December 4th. Dr. Lori Thompson ESD? Amy Ramsey will coordinate with anyone who wants to join and asks that anyone – Amy Ramsey asks that you reach out to her and let her know.

**Closing:** Nikia Wants to be very clear that the Pinchot Partner challenges have not negatively affected the relationship. We personally value the relationship and input. There is no bump or hiccup on our end. Taylor sees our level of collaboration has grown over time.

The Pinchot Partners meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM

Minutes prepared by,

Tiffini Alexander