

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2012
VBL Conference Room

Next board meeting: November 15, 10 AM, SCCD and 1 PM with CNF

Attending Board Members: Russ Vaagen (president), Ron Gray (vice president), , Maurice Williamson, Derrick Knowles, Steve West, John Smith, David Heflick (phone), Mike Petersen (phone), Dick Dunton (phone), Lloyd McGee (phone), Timothy Coleman (phone) —a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: Jeff Juel, Bart George
Attending Technical Advisors: None

Invited guests: Mark Beck (Stevens County Commissioner candidate), John Stensgar (Colville Confederated Tribe representative), Matt Scott (Backcountry Hunters and Anglers)

A. Agenda:

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Review August Minutes
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Malo Project
- 5) Power Lake
- 6) EPRC report
- 7) CCT Issues
- 8) CFLRP Monitoring
- 9) Kettle Face / Deer Jasper

B. Discussion

1. Introductions
2. Minutes: Review September minutes. Steve moved and Ron seconded to approve minutes. Approved.
3. Treasurer's Report: current checkbook balance is \$3,109.39. Russ moved and Steve seconded to approve the report. Approved
4. Malo Project
Heflick updated on FOIA results to try to get to the bottom of how wildlife trees in LOS stand in this project that NEWFC collaborated on and supported (with conservation community making some tough compromises) were later cut down both during a FS sawyer training and apparently later by firewood cutters when gates were left open that were supposed to be closed as part of project agreements. Evidently 3 Rivers RD staff were aware of the situation and a bio noted the violations. Heflick is preparing a report of the situation and will recommend actions to the board/Ex-Com.

5. Power Lake

Power Lake is a FS project in Pend Oreille County off of Flowery Trail Rd. that has created some challenges for the Coalition's conservation caucus because of LOS issues in mesic (wet) forest types in NEWFC's restoration zone. There is also a significant amount of new temp road construction included in the CNF's proposal, some over a mile in length, which isn't consistent with NEWFC's half mile temp road agreement, causing more challenges for some units. NEWFC has been involved with FS in collaboration to attempt to work through these challenges, but before reaching a satisfactory agreement the CNF issued a decision before issues were resolved,

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies, a Montana environmental group, has filed an appeal of the project. Mike P hopes to engage in the appeal resolution process with AWR and/or the CNF to try to negotiate some agreement.

The Coalition continues to strive to resolve the situation and sent Supervisor West a letter asking her to consider the NEWFC's proposal. The Conservation caucus agreed to drop some concerns if key units of concern (excessive temp road issues) were dropped. The ball is now in the Forest Service's court. Laura Jo responded that the FS is willing to drop some units without re-issuing a new decision.

LOS stand in mesic restoration needs ½ mile temp road restrictions to be addressed perhaps by breaking up restoration into two sub-zones: active and passive and using Churchill's prescriptions. Maurice noted Eastside Screens what can be done. Russ will put out a proposal and map he's described using proximity and accessibility as guides. Russ also noted that Churchill needs to address what might be able to be done in mesic LOS in restoration. Russ noted there was an urgent need to address CNF timber outputs.

6. EPRC Report

Derrick has drafted a press release for the NEWFC/SAF field tour. Press advisory went out to local press this week. Final release will have FS quote and will go out by Oct 30.

Outreach proposed includes one or more issue panels with multi-stakeholders represented, with the first one to be held mid-January, possibly a second with a recreation focus in February or March. The Colville Chamber and CNF would both like to sponsor the event(s). Tim reported on a wilderness outreach event he hosted in Republic a week ago helped inspire a good discussion.

Maurice reported that McMorris Rodgers' pollster Bob Moore said the poll we did back in 2011 wasn't biased although CMR's local staff believe it was. Maurice noted that we need to keep investing in efforts to get our message about "balance."

7. CCT Issues

John Stensgar reported that the Tribe would like to work together on a buffer along the CNF/CCT boundary. The Business Council has not yet endorsed wilderness. Also he questioned what passive restoration would mean and noted that the CCT would need a definition of different types of restoration to be able to collaborate. And, there are

concerns about the loss of motorized access on the north half caused by CNF management changes.

All areas considered for wilderness by the FS in the Kettle Range are currently not open to motorized use, but CCT members and others might be more concerned about old roads that they use to ride ATVs or drive vehicles on that are no longer open. Concerns were expressed regarding treaty rights.

Colville Chamber members have expressed concerns that there be buffer areas between private ground and any wilderness areas to deal with bugs, fire and disease.

8. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Proposal Monitoring

There are 4 or 5 indicators by which all CFLRP projects are supposed to be measured. The Forest Service may not be following the Vision 20/20 proposal. A meeting has been organized with them to address to make sure we're eligible for future CFLRP funding. CNF is now ahead of Topash in meeting criteria and demonstrating progress.

9. Kettle Face / Deer Jasper

In Kettle Face Project there are a couple units that require access via private lands and the Forest Service needs to get permission from land owners to access those units. Proposal is to send a letter to CNF as long as there are no other controversial issues involved.

Deer Jasper (CFLRP project):

The project area is larger than we had thought including both sides of Boulder Pass. The area has significant beetle kill area that has road access and there is some restoration zone land that we've agreed to manage more actively. Collaboration is in progress. Parts of the project area could be done w/ CEs.

Maurice asked that the Colville Tribe regularly engage in project work with NEWFC, and Forest Service re CFLRP projects. To do restoration work on CCT grounds funds need to be requested from Sec of Interior via Tribal Forest Protection Act to partner on CFLRP projects in the CNF.

Russ Vaagen, President

Timothy Coleman, Secretary