

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2012
Vaagen Bros. Conference

- Next board meeting: September 20, 10 AM, SCCD
- Next joint meeting with USFS: September 20, 1 PM SCCD
- Annual Board Retreat: Friday, September 21, 9 AM to 4 PM, location TBA

Attending board members: Russ Vaagen (president), Ron Gray (vice president), Steve West (treasurer), Timothy Coleman (secretary), Maurice Williamson, Derrick Knowles (by phone), David Heflick, Jeff Juel, Lloyd McGee (by phone) - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: Mike Petersen, Dick Dunton, Bart George
Attending Technical Advisors: Matt Scott, John Smith

A. Agenda:

1. Review July Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Board Business
4. RAC Grant Opportunity
5. NFF CAP Grant
6. Forest Health Forums
7. Taskforce
8. CCT Communication
9. Outreach

B. Discussion

1. Minutes: Review July minutes. Russ moved and Ron seconded to approve minutes. Approved.

2. Treasurer's Report: current checkbook balance is \$3,109.31. Tim moved and Maurice seconded to approve the report. Approved

3. Board Business

The Board welcomed John Smith to its Technical Advisors group. John has extensive background in business consulting and is also organizes the Colville Farmer's Market. John is interested in serving as a board member representing the Colville Chamber of Commerce. Tricia Woods has been serving as Technical Advisor and if possible the Board would appreciate her continuing in that role. Jason Sappington has replaced Gary Reeves and the Board is hopeful that he or a representative from Ponderay Newsprint will join the board. The Board is investigating adding additional new board members.

- Board Retreat – A proposal was made to hold a board retreat as in past years. A retreat offers the opportunity to meet for a more extended period to discuss organizational goals and objectives, and to invite VIPs to participate in discussions. **The Board agreed**

Friday, September 21 was a good day to hold the retreat. RMZ, roads and recreation are some the agenda items to be discussed at the retreat.

4. RAC Grant opportunities

The Colville RAC is currently receiving funding proposals – deadline for submission is September 12. Possible NEWFC apps could cover general collaboration, monitoring (forestry and water), beaver relocation, and various aspects of A to Z Project. Tim agreed to draft a proposal and circulate it. John noted the Chamber has in the past put their weight behind projects such as this. Chamber also has a non-profit entity that can pursue and dispense grants. There is some confusion regarding RAC guidelines. Tim will research Title II regulations and send those to the Board.

5. NFF Capacity Grant

A discussion was held regarding the recent award of \$24K capacity grant by the National Forest Foundation. The grant provides capacity to the Coalition re administrative and project support. Grant application will be guided by the Executive Committee. A 2011 CAP grant report (that funded collaborative training and MOU revision) is being prepared by Tim.

6. Forestry Forums

Lloyd would like to have a couple of people from the Task force / board, participate in the Forest Health Forum to be held October 4 and will engage forest health professionals in dialogue about insects, disease and utilization on private, state and federal forests. Included in the agenda will be a field tour to Boulder Pass and discussion of lodgepole pine in BC and Alberta that is being milled ten years after it was beetle killed.

In a second forestry forum The Society for American Foresters will hold their national convention October 26th-28th in Spokane, WA. The agenda for October 28 will include a tour of VBL, Avista and active and completed projects field tour (e.g. Bangs, Kettle Face) to demonstrate collaborative successes and products produced by it.

A central WA collaborative group has formed and Lloyd is participating in it. He and an entourage of this collaborative would like to participate in the next NEWFC Board meeting. The Board was agreeable to this and will provide specifics regarding agenda as the date draws near.

7. Taskforce

- Communication with the Forest Service is often on short notice re project work. The Taskforce asked the board designate one or more individuals as point(s) of contact. It was agreed that the Taskforce be fully informed of such needs and Jeff, Dave and/or Maurice can act as points of contact.

- Communication Protocol – Russ will send the final protocol to Laura Jo (and to Tim for records keeping).

-Malo-Eastlake – David discussed and showed slides of a pileated management unit that was part of MEL where the FS failed to close a road and wood cutters got into it cutting leave snags and it decided to extend road construction by .5 mile without consulting the Taskforce. Then the FS held a sawyer certification snag-felling exercise in the same unit. The Coalition collaborated with the FS re MEL reaching an agreement to retain snags in the unit in question and to limit road construction. Russ noted this was a coalition issue to be pursued further with FS staff. Russ will draft a letter and send it around to the board.

- Republic Salvage – Republic RD proposes 480 acres of the salvage mostly along existing roadways. Dave noted a possible rub was how far out from roadways in NEWFC's Restoration Zone salvage is to occur. The District proposed an exception to cutting snags would be where firewood cutters would be going after snags. The Board felt ponderosa snags should not be salvaged because they are not of interest to firewood cutters. The salvage issue is still an unresolved issue for NEWFC and Russ noted it should be on the agenda for the board retreat. Dave will call RRD to notify Robert that we are okay with proposed salvage except re retaining snags 300' distance of roads.

- Current Creek CE – has been turned into a project. The Coalition has expressed concerns re activity in the Restoration Zone. FS has agreed to drop those units but included 30-40 acres of regeneration harvest in the Active Zone that is outside NEWFC agreements. There may be a reason to provide an exception in this case but before that decision is made Dave will investigate further.

- Churchill Approach – There are several questions regarding applying Derek's prescriptions. Apparently FS will do landscape level assessment in E. Deer Creek. East Wedge prescriptions are moving forward. There is no word whether Derek's prescriptions will be applied to Power Lake Project.

- Power Lake – Churchill has recommended project changes but FS has not responded to them. RMZ agreements with FS are lacking and complicating things.

8. CCT

Derrick met with Joe Peone (wildlife bio CCT) who recommended the Board schedule a meeting with the new CCT Business Council and follow up with a meeting Natural Resources Director Joe Somday and his staff.

9. Outreach

EPRC proposes NEWFC engage in outreach events to further collaborative discussion. Republic was proposed as location of the first event to be held sometime in this fall or winter (post-election) and then in each of the other two (Tri) counties and be specific to local projects.

Russ Vaagen, President

Timothy Coleman, Secretary