

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2012
Stevens County Conservation District

Next board meeting: January 24, SCCD Conference Room.

Attending Board Members: Russ Vaagen (president), Ron Gray (vice president), Timothy Coleman (secretary), Maurice Williamson, Dick Dunton, John Smith, David Heflick (by phone), Lloyd McGee (by phone) - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members:, Steve West, Bart George, Jeff Juel, Mike Petersen, Derrick Knowles

Attending Technical Advisors: Tricia Woods

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review November Minutes
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Taskforce/Projects Committee Report
- 4) Deer-Jasper Collaboration
- 5) Education & Public Relations Committee Report
- 6) CNF Staff Changes
- 7) 201 Board Meeting Schedule
- 8) Board Meeting Effectiveness

B. Discussion

1. Minutes: Review November 2012 minutes. Maurice moved and Dick seconded to approve the minutes. Approved.
2. Treasurer's Report: current checkbook balance as of \$3,109.31 and account balance of \$26,678.85. Dick moved and Maurice seconded to approve the report. Approved

3. Taskforce/Projects Committee Report

- Power Lake

AWR's appeal was denied by Region 6 but R6 did say that the Colville National Forest (CNF) should take another look to see if there is LOS structural stage 7 stands proposed for treatment and if not, the CNF should formally document that fact. If there *are* SS7 stands proposed for harvest, R6 recommends they be dropped since the CNF did not proposed an amendment to the forest plan, nor were the effects of such harvest discussed in the EA. FS has said this project will be broken into three separate sale contracts.

- Hanlon

Changes were made to the project that included access across private forest land. Changes proposed also included change of location where temporary roads (less miles but in some different locations) were to be built. David, Jeff and Maurice met with FS staff to discuss proposed changes. NEWFC's position is that we are neutral about proposed changes. Given proposed changes the project is likely to generate additional revenue. The coalition has talked with the CNF about retained receipts and Ed Maffey said those funds wouldn't be available for other project planning. Russ felt NEWFC should identify projects where retained receipts would likely be generated. Discussion

followed that we would like to use RR for planning bottle neck. Ed Maffei had said we could not. Ed has historically used all retained receipts for stewardship activities within each project. Says W.O. wants that. We will ask Laura Jo what is permissible, \$100 K was used to supplement East Wedge EA. Cal Joiner gave OK while interim R Forester (verbally confirmed by Rodney Smolden).

- A to Z

Russ, et al, met with Laura Jo about this pilot project. LJ said the CNF has a lot invested in the project. FS staff seem to be somewhat challenged by it.

- CFLRA Monitoring

There is some confusion regarding the on-the-ground implications of the prohibition on spending CFLRP monitoring dollars for doing Forest Plan monitoring. Maurice, Dick and Dave are on the CNF's CFLRP monitoring team and are tracking this issue.

- Renshaw

CNF is moving from the planning stage into the collaborative phase of this project which overlaps a newly “found” inventoried roadless area (IRA), Lost Creek. For forest planning purposes the CNF is calling Lost Creek a Potential Wilderness Area (PWA). Renshaw project overlaps Lost Creek and NEWFC has a consensus agreement regarding preserving roadless areas. After the Forest Plan wilderness recommendations are completed, recently added IRAs / PWAs if they are not selected to be managed as wilderness will essentially lose limited protection provided by the forest planning process. And the CNF says recently found IRAs don't get protections provided by the Roadless Rule. Their reasoning seems duplicitous. Whereas in their early Forest Planning assessment the CNF simply dropped IRA areas that for decades had been officially defined as part of an IRA -- without public debate and for which today the Roadless Rule provides a moderate level of protection – because the CNF felt the existence of stumps in these areas disqualified them as roadless – even though there were no actual roads in them. The CNF's rationale diminishes any effort to thin or do any sort of restoration work that would create stumps in roadless areas.

4. Deer-Jasper collaboration

A proposal has been made that Lloyd (representing The Nature Conservancy) facilitate a public discussion re Deer-Jasper Project in hopes of broadening the number of groups involved in community collaboration. TNC would in-effect be the collaboration convener. The first meeting will likely be in January. Lloyd asked if CNF would possibly hire a collaborative coordinator but the CNF wasn't ready to do that.

5. Education & Public Relations Committee Report

- Colville Forum

Tim asked the board to select a date for this forum. This forum is intended to broaden the discussion about Colville Forest management and community collaboration. The draft event agenda includes a diverse panel of individuals representing local groups.

Action: A date for holding the event was discussed and February 13 was suggested – need to determine if this is best date and begin process of securing a venue and sending out invitations.

Action: Please review the final draft of NEWFC's outreach handout.

6. Staff Changes at the CNF

Bill Shields, Elizabeth Brann and Tom Pawley will be retiring at the first of the year. Karen Honeycutt will be detailed temporarily to Deputy Supervisor and Mary Rourke will be detailed to replacing Pawley.

7. Board meeting schedule

Board meetings in 2013 will be the second to last Thursday of the month. Every odd numbered month (Jan, Mar, etc) will be meetings with the CNF.

8. Meeting effectiveness

Ron offered to set up a taskforce to help improve meeting effectiveness, establish goals for 2013 and define accomplishments in 2012. Russ suggested that we develop a standard meeting format.

Russ Vaagen, President

Timothy Coleman, Secretary