

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2012
Stevens County Conservation District

Next board meeting: December 20, 10 AM, VBL Conference Room

Attending Board Members: Russ Vaagen (president), Ron Gray (vice president), Timothy Coleman (secretary), Maurice Williamson, Derrick Knowles, David Heflick, Bart George, Jeff Juel, Mike Petersen, Dick Dunton and John Smith - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: Steve West, Lloyd McGee

Attending Technical Advisors: Josh Anderson, Matthew Scott, John Stensgar

Invited guests: Mike Poulson

A. Agenda:

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Review October Minutes
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Taskforce Report
- 5) Malo-Eastlake
- 6) EPRC Update
- 7) Legislation
- 8) CCT / CNF Buffer Issue

B. Discussion

1. Introductions.

2. Minutes: Review October minutes. Ron moved and Dick seconded to approve minutes. Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: September beginning checkbook balance was \$3,109.31 and bank balance as of Sept. 20 was \$26,678.85 which including the National Forest Foundation grant of \$24K. Dick moved and Tim seconded to approve the report. Approved

4. Taskforce Report

- Deer Jasper Collaboration

CNF District Ranger Rodney Smolden proposed Lloyd act in his capacity with The Nature Conservancy to convene Deer Jasper to facilitate public collaboration combined with that from NEWFC. Objectives are to avoid FACA conflicts and expand community collaboration.

- Power Lake

Jeff updated the board re an appeal of the project filed by Alliance for the Wild Rockies. A proposal from AWR to resolve their appeal was rejected by CNF largely over road construction issue. NEWFC asked supervisor West if she would reconsider AWR's offer and Jeff asked AWR if they would consider keeping negotiation open. There was no firm commitment made. Russ noted that NEWFC failed to submit a letter of support on time before a Decision was made. Primarily the concern was late-successional (LOS) forest restoration. Derek Churchill, who was hired to develop a set of collaborative mesic restoration prescriptions, was asked to consider and make recommendations re what changes to the Decision would have the least impact to his (skips and gaps) strategy.

Dick noted a field trip held last week with NEWFC, FS and Churchill reviewing Derek's prescriptions. Maurice said he felt prescriptions were very complicated. Dick said out on the ground marking was in fact much easier to implement because natural conditions matched

prescriptive objectives. Josh noted “designation by prescription” allows modification of a project and is much simpler to do than “designation by description” which is basically counting stumps. The choice between the two is biased at the regional level. “Weight-scale” (used widely in R1) is key to making DbP work but CNF won’t use it because it’s somewhat complicated to do.

Action: Josh will convene a Taskforce Committee meeting and issue a set of findings that describe pluses and minuses of general harvest approaches

Re Power Lake: Lessons learned are that NEWFC failed to do diligence within Forest Service timeframe and keeping open lines of communication with outside groups. As it was with Kettle Face, failure of CNF and NEWFC to develop mesic forest restoration prescriptions significantly exacerbated the situation that led to delays and miscommunication.

5. Malo-Eastlake

NEWFC collaborated with CNF on this project. Changes to Unit 15 were outside of agreements, however, including road construction, number of leave trees, cutting of wildlife trees and tree felling practice workshop facilitated by the Forest Service. Legal requirements are that CNF was obligated to send out a public notice (including to NEWFC) of proposed changes. Russ sent a letter to CNF supervisor Laura Jo West that conveyed concerns NEWFC had about the situation, asking how to remediate and mitigate circumstances and avoid a repeat of mistakes that were made.

6. EPRC

NEWFC’s press advisory about SAF national conference was printed in Ferry County View. Also, Colville Chamber carried news of SAF event in their newsletter.

There is a need to do outreach to new Stevens County commissioners. A NEWFC contingent will set that up.

There is a Forest Forum panel discussion in the works for late January. Proposed program outline includes a multi-stakeholder panel discussion. So far there is a commitment from Colville Chamber to host it and from Farm Bureau and Forest Service to participate. EPRC is putting together a discussion paper about it.

7. Legislation

The board discussed legislation that would generate local job creation such as a pilot project such as A to Z. Payments to counties is important to county government and providing access is important to various user groups (motor rec, ranching, backcountry).

8. CCT / CNF Buffer Issue

There are two vegetation projects (Nine Iron (2016) and Dollar (2020)) along the CNF/CCT Reservation boundary. The CCT is concerned about the potential spread of wildfire and forest health problems moving from the Colville NF onto the Reservation. A Colville Roundtable committee discussed this and proposed non-commercial thinning along the Reservation and CNF boundary. Mr. Stensgar noted the agreement was that any temporary roads used to access treatment areas would be closed post treatment. If CFLR funds were to be used for thinning it can only be project for implementation.