

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2013
Stevens County Conservation District

Next Meeting: February 21, VBL Conference Room

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

Absent Board Members: Steve West, Mike Petersen, John Smith, Lloyd McGee

Attending Technical Advisors: Tricia Woods, John Stensgar

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review December Minutes
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Meeting Effectiveness
- 4) Marking Guidelines
- 5) Taskforce/Projects Committee Report
- 6) Education & Public Relations Committee Report
- 7) Joint Meeting Agenda

B. Discussion

1. Minutes: Review December 2013 minutes. David moved and Maurice seconded to approve minutes. Approved.

2. Treasurer's Report: current checkbook and bank balance of \$26,678.85, including the NFF grant. Dick moved and Tim seconded to approve the report. Approved

3. Meeting Effectiveness

Ron asked the board how best to make our board meetings more effective. Suggestions included setting objectives and time limits. Russ noted that our board is different in the sense that it is a collaboration of groups and suggested a "purpose check" if members are getting off topic. Much of our tasks / objectives are done at the committee level, primarily the Taskforce Committee(projects) and the Education & Public Education Committee (outreach). Extending meeting duration from two to three hours would be consistent with typical board meetings.

- Setting Meeting Agendas

The standard process board members should follow is to send meeting agenda items to Ron. Agenda items will be reviewed and completed by the Executive Committee.

4. Taskforce/Projects Committee Report

On the TF plate is the temporary roads issue. Renshaw and Deer Jasper are new Forest Service-led collaborations. East Wedge continues to define restoration forestry objectives. Churchill came out with his recommendations in the spirit of finding common ground – skips/gaps/heterogeneity at a landscape scale. Ranger Sears said the FS ID Team would be reviewing his recommendations. We have reached a point to further discuss various restoration forestry strategies.

5. Marking Guidelines

Contracts the Colville National Forest is putting out are creating problems for marking crews that are contracted with by timber purchasers. Some have quit in frustration over

uncertainties in contract marking guidelines. The Coalition will put together a letter regarding expectation re contract language, etc.

6. Collaboration

Deer-Jasper and now Renshaw are pilot projects for a new collaboration process being tested by the CNF. David explained that process is basically “instead of” typical NEWFC / CNF collaboration. CNF will not go into forestry prescriptions in this new process and have the Proposed Action by March at which time collaboration will end. The Forest Service is concerned about FACA violations (in this case, undo influence by any one group) – apparently someone has threatened to sue. The question is when does the CNF want to know what our concerns are, early on or after the FS has spent a lot of time developing a project that might be objectionable? The Executive Committee recommended that the EC meet with the CNF in advance of board meetings in order to go over issues in a small group setting. A recommendation is to put together a letter to Forester Connaughton identifying issues and objectives and remedies sought. John suggested the EC put together a letter to the federal regional solicitor for clarification.

- MOU

Apparently the MOU with the CNF has not been agreed to by FS hierarchy – though Laura Jo has committed to its underlying purposes. In the 2005 MOU, CNF committed to collaborating with NEWFC regarding project prescriptions. The board considers this MOU to be in effect.

- Annual Cutting Budget

Churchill’s analysis done several years ago concluded that the annual cutting budget (how much could be achieved to “catch up” on fuel reduction needs to be followed by sustainable (what can be achieved long term) management) from the Active Management Zone could achieve 60 mmbf. Former supervisor Rick Brazell’s team did a bunch of analysis but nothing ever came of it. Russ suggested we investigate this further.

6. Education & Public Relations Committee Report

- Colville Forum

The event is February 13, beginning @ 5 PM. It is cosponsored by the Colville Chamber of Commerce. Food and drink provided. We are trying to get as diverse cross section of the community as possible to participate. **Please plan to attend.**

7. National Christmas Tree

The CNF has been chosen to provide the 2013 National Christmas Tree. CNW has offered to work with Choose Outdoors (organizing logistics) and Pyramid Communication (organizing media coverage) to look for opportunities to increase public awareness of NEWFC’s collaboration. There are opportunities for NEWFC businesses to be corporate sponsors to raise awareness of their businesses.

8. National Wildland Fire Policy

Dick briefly covered objectives of the NWF Policy. There may be opportunities for NEWFC to engage with the CNF in implementation of this policy. Smoke management and prescribed fire in the national forest are key issues.

Russ Vaagen, President

Timothy Coleman, Secretary