

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2013
Stevens County Conservation District

Next board meeting: April 25, VBL Conference Room

Attending Board Members: Russ Vaagen (president), Ron Gray (vice president), Timothy Coleman (secretary), Maurice Williamson, David Heflick Dick Dunton, Jeff Juel - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: John Smith, Skyler Johnson, Mike Petersen, Derrick Knowles, Bart George, Lloyd McGee

Attending Technical Advisors: Tricia Woods, Carl Wright, Josh Anderson, Gloria Flora, Matthew Scott

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review February Minutes
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Outreach / Expanding Collaboration
- 4) Project Management
- 5) Deer/Jasper, Renshaw
- 6) Conservation

B. Discussion

1. Minutes: Review February minutes. Dick moved and Ron seconded to approve minutes. Approved.

2. Treasurer's Report: current checkbook and bank balance of \$24,842.37 including \$1,109 in general fund and ED has \$2,000 and \$21,000 remaining in NFF grant. Tim noted direct financial expenditure component required by National Forest Foundation grant, a 50:50 match. Dick moved and Tim seconded to approve the report. Approved

3. Outreach / Expanding Collaboration

Tim handed out a proposal to hold a second forum somewhere in the Tri-County area and hosted by NEWFC that was crafted from input from the Public Education & Outreach Committee. Ron noted the committee wasn't necessarily convinced about the benefits of a second forum. Gloria noted that in order to get people involved in collaboration it was important to engage them in a project. The "balance" part of collaboration creates challenges. Tricia noted that she is paid staff for Colville Chamber which permits her to advocate full time for its mission but since NEWFC is volunteer-driven it lacks such capacity. Tricia offered to look at list of candidates for T.E.D. executive director position to see if any match up with NEWFC's ED needs. She will follow up.

Improving outreach opportunities were identified including setting up a Facebook page, continual refreshing NEWFC's website and more frequent media updates (press release, advisory). **Tricia offered to write up a description of what she thinks is needed and**

circulate that to the board. The Executive Committee will address this issue more fully (including community outreach) and report back to the board.

Meeting Notice: The EC plus Derrick, et al, will meet in the next week - possibly Thursday, March 28 -- to further discuss NEWFC outreach capacity issues.

Meeting Notice: Executive Committee, April 10, 1 PM @ Vaagen Bros. offices.

4. Project Management

LJW is concerned about outside interests challenging projects that NEWFC has collaborated on. Maurice asked if NEWFC could send a letter to the regional forester defining its understanding of the issue and its interests in furthering cooperation with the Colville National Forest. Russ recommended that we talk to Laura Jo about it at the afternoon meeting with Colville National Forest staff.

5. Deer Jasper / Renshaw

NEWFC has its own internal collaborative process and the question is how that process meshes with the Deer/Jasper and Renshaw collaborative projects? Mesic restoration has been a quandary and the Churchill approach has tried to resolve that with the Forest Service but apparently some confusion remains. It seems we need to have a frank discussion with this regarding volume versus collaboratively derived prescriptions.

If our collaboration with the FS, et al, on a “unit by unit” basis is not productive, what does NEWFC need to do to help improve project development processes? A challenge seems to develop early on by proposed harvest prescriptions that don’t fit with what exists on the ground.

Russ Vaagen, President

Timothy Coleman, Secretary