

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2013  
Stevens County Conservation District

Next board meeting: June 20, VBL Conference Room

Attending Board Members: Russ Vaagen, Ron Gray, Timothy Coleman, Maurice Williamson, David Heflick, Dick Dunton, Chris Childers (attending for Jason Sappington), Mike Petersen - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members:, John Smith, Bart George, Lloyd McGee, Jeff Juel, Jason Sappington, Derrick Knowles

Attending Technical Advisors: Gloria Flora, Matthew Scott

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review February Minutes
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Administrative Support
- 4) Executive Committee Update
- 5) Expanding Collaboration
- 6) Rensahw / Deer Jasper
- 7) Meeting with CNF
- 8) Other

B. Discussion

1. Minutes: Review April minutes. Maurice moved and Dick seconded to approve minutes. Approved.

2. Treasurer's Report: current checkbook and bank balance of \$24,842.37 including \$1,109.31 in general fund and ED has \$2,000 and \$21,733.06 remaining in NFF grant. Dick moved and Maurice seconded to approve the report. Approved

3. Administrative Support

Tim has requested that he be reimbursed for administrative support. Serving as an administrative support is beyond his volunteer time as board secretary. (Review the grant language to insure billing language matches grant language – check on overhead.)

4. Executive Committee Update

The EC met on Tuesday and discussed creating a new collaborative group, potentially with various subcommittees representing interest groups including recreation, range and NEWFC. Proposal made was to bring the following proposal forward:

a. Reducing NEWFC to a subcommittee and part of the new larger collaborative organization

b. Organize two forums focused on: 1) motorized recreation and 2) ranching issues

#### 5. Expanding Collaboration

The message we may want to send is that 80 mmbf / wilderness is getting misconstrued by some people who either don't understand NEWFC or don't want to. Do we want to "silo" resource areas – and if so – where do you get the glue that binds all the parts together. The key would be to give each interest group and sense of giving every participant. Forums that have been proposed would be narrowly focused on recreation and range. It would likely be best to bring the problem solvers together in a facilitated format or we may invite antagonists in the room who have no interest at all in getting to a functioning collaboration. Is the new CNF collaborative format also changing the face of collaboration? There has been noticeable participant attrition in those processes. Motorized recreation and retirees apparently feel their interests are not being heard.

CNW changed its stance based on what appears to be the stalemate over getting a wilderness bill introduced. Russ suggested a new approach could be something akin to the CNF Forest Summit agreements that is done outside of NEWFC. Industry is asking for "social license" to take wood off the national forests. But if we continue to focus on vegetation management NEWFC will continue to get sniped at from outside interest groups. Maybe one approach would be to take a model with consultants, C of C and other business groups.

The question seems to be is there a better collaborative model than NEWFC? Let's be articulate but not put a number on it such as "supporting collaborative-based decisions with a restorative approach." Capacity and comfort zone feeling are key factors. Lack of political leadership, the Sequester and professional brain-drain out of the CNF all play a significant role,

#### 6. Renshaw

The Coalition will be sending a letter to Gayne, supporting forestry prescriptions outside of the PWA. There has been attrition in the Deer Jasper process.

#### 7. Meeting with CNF

Asking about capacity of Deer Jasper and Renshaw project. The FACA issue seems to be creating problems. Beatty-Bold Trail closure is an issue, how can we help the Forest Service to fix this problem – please be specific. NEWFC has capacity issues, we are working on expanding the collaboration, specifically to address the issues of motorized recreation and range management.

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Russ Vaagen, President

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Timothy Coleman, Secretary