

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2014
Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co. Conference Room

Next board meeting: January 15

Attending Board Members: Timothy Coleman, Russ Vaagen, Maurice Williamson, David Heflick, Dick Dunton, Ron Gray, Matt Scott, Gloria Flora (ex officio) - a quorum was present

Technical Advisors: Josh Anderson

Absent Board Members: Lloyd McGee, Bart George, Chris Childers, Mike Petersen

A. Agenda:

- 1) Updates
- 2) Review October and November Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financial Report
- 4) Strategic Updates
- 5) Project Updates

B. Discussion

1. Updates

There is a possible visit by R6 Forester Jim Pena January 14, 15, 16 he will be in Colville.

-- Workshops:

Forest Restoration Needs Assessment: Thursday February 5, 9:30 AM, Ambulance Center, Colville. Speaker is Tom DeMeo, USFS Region 6 Regional Ecologist.

Meeting schedule – November is always a challenge because of Thanksgiving and FS personnel are often gone in December. Tim and Ron recommended holding meetings less often in the winter months. Gloria will work on a schedule.

All who attended the meeting with the Colville National Forest staff, November 12, was very productive.

2. Minutes Review

-- Review October board meeting minutes.

Motion: Maurice moved and Dave seconded to approve minutes as presented. Motion Carried

Review November minutes – **Motion: Ron moved and Dick seconded to approve minutes as amended. Approved.** Amended change under Item #1 “for inclusion in the NEWFC/CNF updated MOU (follow Gayne/Dave statement).

3. Financial Report

Gloria gave a brief update. All expenses have been covered. There will be a revised expense form coming out that VBL’s accountant is working on.

Motion: Maurice moved and Matt seconded to approve the Treasurers Report. Approved

4. Strategic Updates

-- Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee change

New minority chair of the E &NR Committee will be Sen. Cantwell. Russ noted there is an opportunity in working with her and Sen. Murray to improve NEPA and support other NEWFC's objectives.

-- HR1526 – There has been some internal discussion about the newer versions of the Hasting's bill. There are problems with the rewrite but is worth further discussion. Russ noted things that could be included are: stewardship funding for collaborative groups, recreation, arbitration v judicial problem solving, allowing project advisement to USFS, NEPA efficiencies, etc. Tim: Daines approach is too big and too broad. A CNF-centric approach is more likely to succeed. Maurice: trying to fix everything in one fell swoop is problematic. Russ: specified time requirements are needed and guided by legislation.

-- Education & Public Relations Committee – The website has been updated but the need to have a recent press releases is still an outstanding need. Tim asked the board to look at the website and email him any changes / additions that should be made.

-- Ex Com summaries at board meetings will focus on key issues.

-- Economic Study – Economic monitoring dovetails into CFLRP. Maurice and Dick are working on this, looking at two economic analysis organizations who can do the research. The study would be comprehensive and go beyond CFLRP data. Tim asked that the EC discuss the NFF grant expenditures. There is an OSU study out recently that refines national assessment used by Better Business Bureau. McKetta takes a slightly different approach. Both are being considered. Another aspect needed assessment is the impact of Stewardship Contracting has on county payments.

5. Project Updates

A to Z, Mark Teply conferenced by phone giving an update of current circumstances of this project.

Since October, Cramer Fish Sciences has finalized project footprint/alternatives; completed chapters 1 & 2 (P&L, public participation, #2 alternatives); specialists reports (forthcoming: silviculture and agriculture) – nearly completed Chapter 3 (environmental consequences); staff losses have complicated outcomes. Prescriptions are in the works and are currently under review. Wildlife report will be done tomorrow and then LEI next week. Full draft EA to CNF in mid-January.

-- A to Z Key Issues and Alternatives

Key issues are roads and water quality (sediment); lynx HCAs and pine marten habitat. Alternative B would reduce sediment by 8.4%.

Russ Vaagen, President

Timothy Coleman, Secretary