

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2014  
Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co. Conference Room

Next scheduled board meeting: March 20

Attending Board Members & Contractors : Russ Vaagen, Timothy Coleman, Dick Dunton, Gloria Flora, Maurice Williamson, David Heflick, Ron Gray Matt Scott, Mike Petersen, Skyler Johnson (by phone) - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: Bart George, Chris Childers, Steve West, Lloyd McGee  
Invited Guests: Mark Teply, Cramer Fish Sciences (by phone)

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review January Minutes
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Strategic Updates
- 4) Project Updates
- 5) Action Updates
- 6) Board Meeting Participation

B. Discussion

1. Review Minutes

Review January minutes. Mike moved and Dick seconded to approve January minutes as amended. Approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Gloria reported the current bank balance is \$696. Dick moved and Mike seconded to approve the report. Approved.

3. Strategic Updates

-- RAC: is it worth our time as NEWFC or as individuals in being involved in the RAC, the time that is required and its structure? Gloria will talk to Kathleen to get FS perspective and report back to the board.

-- Strategic Plan:

The EC brainstormed a draft strategic plan in January and then revisited those initial ideas at the February EC meeting. There was agreement that getting internal systems functioning is necessary to support our organizational structure. The Forest Service has a policy that collaboration is the way they are going to do business, so it's important/necessary for NEWFC to be engaged for that reason alone. Dick noted NEWFC went from project by project analysis to Churchill's prescriptions which has changed the way we do business.

**Action: Russ asked the board to review the latest NEWFC Strategic Plan and convey their comments to Gloria.**

Gloria will put together an 18 month action plan and send to the board. A final plan will be reviewed / approved by board at the annual meeting next summer.

-- Anchor Forest Initiative: This is an all-lands initiative is being proposed by an eclectic group of Washington Tribes. Maurice thinks the concept is to avoid conversion of working forests to condos, etc. The concept might use NC Forestry Coalition and NEWFC as anchor points. David, Tim, Russ and Gloria attended the seminal meeting at the Nespelem Longhouse about the initiative held last month. This meeting was more of a fact finding session. At this point it is unclear what the initiative is going to propose.

#### 4. Project Updates

-- Mark Teply: A to Z scoping letters have gone out. Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS) is willing to meet with NEWFC to discuss the project. CFS will facilitate a public meeting next week in Colville. Their specialists will be there to answer questions and take input at one of several "breakout" stations.

Q. NEWFC knows a lot about A to Z issues, but many people won't. How are you going to talk to the public about law and policy who are there just for free cookies?

A. Mark has received advice from Stevens County Commissioners. Commissioner Parker will be at the public meeting. CFS focus will be taking public comments.

Mark has been asked by Tri County Motorized Recreation Association and Stevens County Cattlemen to talk to their groups. He thinks it is important that NEWFC also have some connection to the process. He is making the same offer to any other group wanting to talk to CFS about the project. Mark will be in Colville, Wednesday, March 12. He has a commitment that evening but is otherwise available. Gloria suggested we do an Ex Com meeting over lunch with Mark. There was a discussion about groups submitting comments on behalf of themselves or their group.

**Action: Gloria asked the board to send their concerns to her regarding A to Z for the discussion with Mark.**

**Action: Send Gloria the most updated guidelines, and AMZ and RMZ data layers and she will send those to Teply.**

-- Deer Jasper

The expectation is a draft decision and EA will be out by the end of February. Russ noted we should have a meeting as soon as those documents are released. There are cedar stands in the project and like Summit-Pierre there may be some issues related to treatments in those stands.

-- Summit Pierre

Review of the project when it was completed caused concern by conservation caucus related to cedar prescriptions, especially altering trends toward stand LSOG.

-- Renshaw

The project has been on hold. There is Doodle poll out re a meeting proposed in the near future.

-- South End Project

This is a motorized recreation project. First DN was withdrawn. A second Decision was recently issued. A group met (including NEWFC Board members) in hopes of coming to a collaborative resolution to concerns being raised. The first meeting was productive and a second is planned.

-- CFLRP

This process is moving forward for NEPA ready projects. There will be a meeting at that the supervisors office March 4, from 8 AM to 4:30 PM to discuss projects, fire monitoring, etc.

## 5. Action Update

- Wilderness Anniversary

Gayne Sears is organizing CNF events for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Wilderness Act. Several outreach strategies are being planned. NEWFC could talk about this as part of its balanced approach.

- Prescribed Fire Management

Washington Humanities got a hold of Ron and offered to give a showing of a photo documentary regarding fire exclusion. SAF and FFA are supporting outreach presentations of the documentary. Apparently, there will be presentations given in NE Washington.

- Fire Management

The CNF suggested doing a field tour of their prescribed fire strategies. Dates have been proposed but no confirmation has yet been received as to when the tour will be held. April 30 is preferred.

- DC Update

Russ visited DC, he lobbied for small business set asides and permanently reauthorizing Stewardship Authority (which was in the Farm Bill), and supporting national forest landscape-scale forestry treatments.

## 6. Board meeting participation

Who should be invited to board meetings? Should legislative staff be invited? There is some concern about wearing them out and bi-monthly meetings would be more appropriate and interesting to legislative staff. At the broader level, such as commissioners, how do plug them into the process that fits with their interests?

Action: The Executive Committee should address this issue at their next meeting.

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Russ Vaagen, President

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Timothy Coleman, Secretary

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