

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2014
Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co. Conference Room

Next board meeting: July 17 – board and bi-monthly meetings with USFS

Attending Board Members & Contractors: Russ Vaagen, Timothy Coleman, Bart George, Matt Scott, Gloria Flora, Maurice Williamson, Mike Petersen, David Heflick, Dick Dunton - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: Steve West, Lloyd McGee

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review May Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Project Updates
- 4) Strategic Updates
- 5) Action Updates
- 6) Action Items and future Agenda Topics

B. Discussion

1. Review Minutes

Review May minutes. Ron moved and Dick seconded to approve May minutes as amended. Approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Gloria gave a financial report. The current balance is \$4796.11 in the account. There is a National Forest Foundation grant opportunity that could support NEWFC activities.

3. Project Updates

-- Deer Jasper

Russ handed out a letter he drafted to Rodney responding to the Colville National Forest's Deer-Jasper project decision making -- group discussion followed. NEWFC's default position is based on prior agreement and until such time as those are modified they should be followed. What we are not getting from Churchill are what size skips, gaps and their locations, so when FS says they will apply those prescriptions there is still uncertainty re patch size and whether HRV is being applied. Russ said the coalition needs to determine how to apply Churchill restoration guideline prescriptions – restoration treatments were meant to be applied as a “gradient” (from AMZ to WMZ). Dave suggested he look into the issue of NEWFC guidance and revise Russ' letter.

Action: Dave will modify Russ' letter to Rodney re Deer Jasper and send it out for review and approval to the board.

Action: David will set up a Taskforce meeting to revisit NEWFC's Restoration Management Area prescriptions and convey those to the Colville National Forest.

-- Renshaw

There are some controversial issues in the FS-led collaboration. Mike noted 1.5 miles of road and large clearcuts are issues of concern. There are some similarities between Renshaw and Deer-Jasper.

Concerns were expressed about treatments in restoration areas and treatments in Active Management Zones have been reduced because of applied (skips & gaps) conservation measures. Mike noted a study recently completed in the Kootenai NF found volume produced through broadscale application of Churchill prescriptions did not result in a volume reduction.

-- Kettle Face

Do we build a buffer between PWA / IRA and AMZ? How also do we want to address fire issue?

-- A to Z Scoping

Mark Teply's crew has completed soil and working on other social / environmental surveys. Laura Jo has informed Mark there are three criteria re roads: 1) use existing roads where possible, 2) new road construction must be compelling and 3) there can be no net increase in system roads. He is looking at skips and gaps (variable harvest / density) and would like a field review with NEWFC in July if possible. His crew is moving ahead with designation by prescription with samples marked. Maurice noted that NEWFC does not have consensus on use of skips and gaps in the AMZ.

Action: need to discuss application of skips and gaps in Active Management Zone.

4. Strategic Updates

Washington Cattleman Association held a meeting and series of field tour and Matt got an invite. LJW was there with district rangers. Rep. Short, Krtez and Mike Poulson, et al were there. Chance Gowan has been hired by Stevens County Cattlemen. Nielson expressed concerns about Le Clerc and A to Z – environmentalists are trying to shut down ranching on the Forest.

- Handicapped Hunter Program

NEWFC was intricately involve in this program years back but has not been actively involved for several years. Russ expressed support for NEWFC re-engaging in this program. Gloria will look into the issue.

Action: Gloria will review and coordinate with Dick and Sandi Mosconi re NEWFC reengaging in the Disabled Hunter Program.

-- Strategic Action Plan

The Ex Com recommended the board schedule a retreat within the next 45 days to discuss strategic planning. There is also a need to hold a separate retreat regarding restoration prescriptions – this will be tackled by the Taskforce Committee.

-- Wild & Scenic

British Columbia is conducting a water quality study of the Kettle River. NEWFC forestry projects do impact water quality and yield. Is there an opportunity to take a cue from BC in regards to outreach and apply them locally? Tim suggested NEWFC meet with Kettle River Advisory Board.

-- Farm Bill

There is an issue regarding "salvage." Conservation feels strongly that application of Farm Bill should be restoration focused and on green trees.

Russ Vaagen, President

Timothy Coleman, Secretary