

NEWFC Board Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2014
Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co. Conference Room

Next board meeting: August 21

Attending Board Members & Contractors: Timothy Coleman, Gloria Flora, Maurice Williamson, Mike Petersen, David Heflick, Ron Gray, Russ Vaagen (by phone) - a quorum was not present

Absent Board Members: Steve West, Lloyd McGee, Bart George, Matt Scott, Dick Dunton

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review June Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Farm Bill
- 4) A to Z Update
- 5) Strategic Updates
- 6) Biomass Funding

B. Discussion

1. Review Minutes

Review June minutes. There was not a quorum to approve minutes.

2. Financial Report

Gloria gave a financial report. The current balance is \$3596.11 in the account. The National Forest Foundation grant application was submitted on time. Record keeping has been transferred to George Bruce. Annual report to Secretary of State needs to be filed.

Action: Tim volunteered to take care of filing renewal with Secretary of State.

3. Farm Bill

The board reviewed DNR disease maps. Russ recommended that we prioritize NEWFC AMZ zones and identify other areas to be included, such as a HUC 6 that is mostly in AMZ might include some RMZ in the same HUC. Conservation Caucus is opposed "salvage" being included and supportive of a restoration focus. Mike noted W-ONF collaborative group recommended 5 project areas. Maurice noted there are reserved and non-reserved areas in W-O NF which is not the case in the CNF. The other thing is our adaptive management process and management zones (ie AMZ) is more refined. Rodney suggested areas outside of CFLRP. Tim expressed concern about shotgun approach – i.e. half or all of the Forest -- because we are in competition with other states and a refined proposal is more likely to get funded and avoids any appearance of double-dipping. David contacted Gloria and Kathleen (CNF) and asked for 4 projects that are in the pipeline. So there are clearly two approaches that can be taken: 1) zones from which projects can be selected (eg. NEWFC AMZ) and, 2) existing projects in the ten year CNF planning cycle. There was no stated opposition to either. Russ suggested that Maurice and someone from Conservation Caucus work on a proposal. Gloria noted the Bill language does allow for inclusion of CFLRA projects.

Action: Tim, Mike and Maurice will work out a proposal.

4. A to Z Project

Mark Teply updated the board: most survey data has been collected east of Aladdin Road. The project team has adapted the project at the direction of Laura Jo regarding no net increase in system roads and as a result refinement of Alternative B and C has occurred. Both alternatives would lead to a net decrease in system roads and net decrease in temporary roads. Mark has discussed the roads issue with Mike. Maurice asked that he be included in those discussions as well. Mark agreed to do that. Mark described Strauss Creek issue re existing road located in the flood plain. Maurice noted that dust has been identified in watershed studies as a problem re sediment transmission. Due to topography, armoring the existing roadbed appears to be the best

option at this point while not crossing upper Strauss Creek. There is a field trip proposed for early August. (Update: field trip is set for August 21)

Lynx and pine marten management are other issues. There are no insect problems presently in the marten management areas. There are no dense lodgepole pine stands in this area, but they are also located elsewhere in the project area. There is 15% that could be “spent” within the LAU and there are better places to spend that in the Middle and South Fork units. There are about 700 acres of LPP in the north.

5. Strategic Updates

- Kettle River Advisory Board – Ron has taken on the task of contacting KRAB about meeting with there board.
- Kettle Face fire buffer (Smith) issue – this issue has been resolved. However, the issue of RMZ management does relate to this issue and that remains an action item for Conservation Caucus.
- Strategic Planning and Annual meeting – Action: Gloria will send out a Doodle poll
- David will be taking indefinite medical leave.
- Skips and gaps parameters need to be worked out. Maurice is concerned about upland, steeper slope and riparian areas. LMS model was done on AMZ – but didn’t include riparian areas. David noted skips and gaps would not apply to riparian areas.
- Restoration Zone – Deer/Jasper generated a discussion about RMZ. Maurice asked that we reopen discussion about RMZ. David noted the Conservation Caucus has not agreed to revisit prior agreements.
- Temp roads issue – It was agreed that this issue will not be addressed until September.
- Board Attendance Issue – proposal is to keep meetings open and use Executive Session to discuss confidential issues. Maurice noted that doing otherwise could create conspiracy theories. Mike recommended that the board schedule executive sessions as a standard agenda item at every meeting. Gloria will add this to meeting agendas.
- South End Project objection discussion – Mike has been lead on this. There was a series of productive discussions held with commissioners and motorized recreation. Unfortunately, agreement couldn’t be reached re quantifiable thresholds for closing areas where repeated violations occur. The Resource Advisory Committee voted to support funding of community policing and restoration components of the Project.

Action: Include this in our request to CNF for agenda items at bi-monthly meetings with CNF.

- Renshaw – created openings and temporary roads are issues and that would affect the area that could be reached by harvest equipment. Mike proposed and Maurice agreed to put “skips” where these areas exist and that this would also protect riparian areas.
- Deer Jasper – The NEWFC letter to CNF has not been sent.

Action: Gloria will send the letter to CNF.

6. Biomass Funding

Sustainable Northwest is proposing to fund biomass projects from their endowment. Russ and Ron will be following up on this.