

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

Next board meeting: October 23

Attending Board Members: Gloria Flora (ex officio), Mike Petersen, Ron Gray, Russ Vaagen, Steve West, Skyler Johnson, Tim Coleman, Lloyd McGee, (by phone) - a quorum was present

Absent Board Members: Bart George, David Heflick, Maurice Williamson, Dick Dunton, Chris Childers, Matt Scott

A. Agenda:

- 1) Review August Minutes
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Strategic Updates
- 4) Project Updates
- 5) Action Updates
- 6) Executive Session

B. Discussion

1. Minutes Review

-- Review August board meeting minutes.

Review August minutes. **Motion: Mike moved and Ron seconded to approve minutes as presented. Motion Carried**

Action: Ron will check with Chris to ask about his interest in continuing to serve on the board.

2. Treasurer's Report

Gloria presented a financial report.

3. Strategic Updates

-- DNR / Farm Bill - Russ spoke with Chuck Hershey and Aaron Everett regarding NEWFC's letter responding to DNR's inquiry re areas declared as Forest Health Emergency in Ferry County. DNR is moving forward with recommended treatment areas.

The board discussed signing onto a letter drafted at the Washington Collaborative Summit organized by Sustainable NW and held Sep. 8 & 9 in Wenatchee.

Motion: Steve moved and Mike seconded to approve NEWFC's letter to Aaron Everett asking for funding of collaborative groups across Washington and also to match federal funding for forest restoration. Motion Carried

-- NEPA analysis conundrum

NEPA it is not the problem, it's how it's done. Cramer Fish Sciences has shown us there is a better way to go about doing NEPA than our typical experiences re the Colville National Forest.

-- Strategic Planning Results

Gloria summarized the board's strategic planning meeting held in August and highlighting need for committees to reengage. Communication was identified as a key issue.

-- Education & Public Relations Committee

The EPRC will meet by conference call, October 2, 10 AM. Tim will send out details.

-- Standing Committees

EPRC, Projects Taskforce, Executive Committee.

-- Wilderness Issue

Congress has designated just one new wilderness area designated since 2009. Low hanging fruit hasn't been picked, the reality is the issue has been made into a political football. The question that has been asked repeatedly "when is enough, enough?" Mike pointed out the "enough" part re National Forest System is framed by Roadless Rule lands, or about 90 million acres at the most, but definitely not more and likely a lot less.

There is a 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act Film Festival event is scheduled in Colville, September 25, 6:30 PM at the Community College theatre.

Action: Put out a fact sheet for wilderness and timber (Tim).

5. Project Updates

- Renshaw: Mike and Maurice have participated in this collaborative process and were positively impressed with its process and outcomes.

Motion: Mike moved and Ron seconded to send a letter stating a high level of support for Renshaw Project. Motion Carried

- Deer Jasper

Tim summarized problems with Deer Jasper Project – a lot of questions remain unanswered. NEWFC put a lot of time into this collaboration but was unhappy with its recommendations. Renshaw by contrast was highly supported by coalition members. Although NEWFC supports forest restoration treatments in Deer Jasper, the terminology (e.g. salvage) and regeneration cuts proposed do not represent our agreements or discussions NEWFC had with the Forest Service. The only avenue for NEWFC at this point to get our concerns heard is request that Rodney address them in his decision. Getting the CCT involved at this point might help in getting them involved in this process.

Motion: Russ motioned and Ron seconded to support a Deer Jasper objection letter to Rodney conditioned on approval via email of revised objection that Tim will craft and send out. Motion Carried

-- Roadside Restoration

Roadside restoration project is a *new idea* proposed to address roadside restoration treatments along existing roadways and following bid/contract/NEPA process similar to A to Z Project. This would dovetail nicely with DNR's (Farm Bill) approach and Disabled Hunter Program.

-- CNF Road Use

What parameters define old roads? Because there isn't a definition some old prisms that might actually meet thresholds (if they existed) would provide clear guidance what is or is not now considered a road by the CNF. For instance, the nine foot-wide Old Stage Coach Trail – clearly does not qualify as a road. The board recommended discussing this issue with the Forest Service.

-- A to Z Project

Gloria distributed a handout prepared by Cramer Fish Sciences and gave a brief update of activities currently underway by them including NEPA analysis and data collection.

6. Executive Session

The board met briefly in Executive Session.