

NEWFC Board – Minutes
October 14, 2010
NRCS Conference Room
www.NEWForestryCoalition.org

Next Meeting is November 16, 11 PM, Stevens County Conservation District – to be followed by bi-monthly meeting with the Forest Service @ 1 PM.

Attending board: Phil Carew, Lloyd McGee (president), Russ Vaagen (vice president), Tim Coleman (secretary), Serena Carlson (executive director), Steve West, Derrick Knowles, Maurice Williamson (a quorum was present)

Absent Board Members: Bob Playfair, Dick Dunton, David Heflick, Mike Petersen, Ron Gray, Jeff Juel

Technical Advisory members: Scott Ketchum, Claudia Michalke

Agenda

1. Review September Minutes
2. Approve Treasurer's report
3. Executive Committee Update
4. Landscape Restoration Strategy Committee
5. East Wedge Collaboration Discussion
6. Funding search update
7. Project Committee Report
8. Roads Policy discussion
9. Adjourn

Minutes

1. Review September minutes. Maurice motioned and Russ seconded. Passed.

2. Approve Treasurer's report

Check book balance September 30, 2010, \$3,238.71. Dick motioned and Jeff seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Passed

3. Executive Committee Update

A) Roads issues

Russ invited Eric Weatherman – ATV access proponent - to our board meeting to discuss potential formation of recreation coalition. Unfortunately, Eric was unable to attend.

B) Columbia Highlands Initiative

CHI is the "lands protection" part of the NEWFC blueprint and as such is being promoted by Conservation Northwest and The Lands Council. Tim explained it was their product much the same as wood products are industry's product of NEWFC collaboration and people seem to easily grasp that connection. Tim explained that proposed wilderness, a National Conservation Area and (3) National Recreation Areas are per our NEWFC agreements except for about 30,000 acres of active management zone within the NCA that would fall into restoration treatments and would need to be "traded" into RMZ elsewhere and that he and Dave had worked up a proposal acres that had to be vetted through committee.

4. Landscape Restoration Strategy Committee

A) Landscape Restoration Strategy Committee

Three people from the Coalition and 3 from the Forest Service were chosen to form a committee to address forestry, fire and equipment use in mesic forest stands and put together a report by January. We expect to use this to inform our forthcoming forest landscape restoration application.

5. East Wedge Collaboration Discussion

Lynn Kaney has been busy with Don Strand to assess forest stands proposed for treatment. The Forest Service is requiring soil assessments include “shovel” tests of all stands previously logged – which is just about everything. Mark Vandermere is now working in the field with 4 assistants doing soil analysis and is expected to complete that task by Thanksgiving. Lynx analysis is currently underway. Claudia hopes to have a draft to the Forest Service by January for their review/approval.

6. Funding search update

Lloyd and Mike will be attending a meeting with National Forest Foundation next week. They will explore potential opportunities for grant dollars that support forestry project monitoring.

7. Project Committee Report

A) Kettle Face

In total 399 units have been agreed to with about 18 units in mesic restoration where agreement between Forest Service and NEWFC has not been reached. The draft EA is out even though those issues remain unresolved including temporary roads that could potentially lead to illegal ATV use which is an increasing problem in the project area. Russ suggested that if we can't reach agreement on the 18 units before the contract is timed out then those units should be dropped. Tim asked what sort of guarantee there was that would happen? Lloyd said his draft letter says that if FS can't stay within guidelines and show clear and compelling reasons (i.e. Davis Lake fuels reduction) then NEWFC won't go along with it. Scientist panel including Churchill, Terri Jane and Russ Graham will be asked to advise our decision making.

B) Power Lake

There was a recent field trip. The Forest Service wants the coalition to engage in discussions about a new ATV trail. There were concerns raised about NEWFC capacity to engage in such a process given the spate of projects in which we are currently involved.

8. Roads Policy discussion

ATV trespass is a real concern relative to temporary and system roads. Big challenges are lack of enforcement, closed roads illegally used by ATVs and FS project “effects” analysis supporting original road construction based on a constructed road being closed following completion of forestry prescriptions. Forest Service attempts at collaboration with recreation groups has created more problems than it has solved. Perhaps what the Forest Service should do is help start up a collaborative group similar to NEWFC with an objective of stepping back from that process once a group is functioning? Russ suggested that NEWFC's active management zone be opened to ATV use whereas access in restoration zone would only be open on designated routes. He suggested that we come out with a statement that says we want to focus on these issues (forestry, etc.) and the other issues would be handled by this new collaborative group. Lloyd felt a simple statement that NEWFC is against illegal activities on national forests is important. The Forest Service wants the coalition to engage in recreation issues in the Power Lake Project. However, it was pointed out this is not the Coalition's mission. EPRC will draft a NEWFC statement in this regard.

Lloyd McGee, President

Tim Coleman, Secretary