

NEWFC Board – Minutes
November 16, 2010
NRCS Conference Room
www.NEWForestryCoalition.org

Next Meeting is December 21, 1-3 PM, Stevens County Conservation District

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

Absent Board Members: Bob Playfair, David Heflick, Mike Petersen

Technical Advisory Members: Scott Ketchum, Claudia Michalke, Phil Aune

Agenda

1. Review October Minutes
2. Approve Treasurer's report
3. Executive Committee Update
4. East Wedge Project

Minutes

1. October Minutes: Maurice motioned and Ron seconded to approve them. Approved

2. Approve Treasurer's report

Checkbook balance is \$5543.71 as of October 30. Tim motioned and Maurice seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved

3. Executive Committee Update

A) Improving NEPA Efficiency

In early October, Mike Poulson set up a meeting with Undersecretary of Agriculture Harris Sherman that Maurice, Russ, Mike Petersen, Mitch, Aaron Everett and Mike attended. Mr. Sherman was in town to meet with the Forest Service (which made this meeting possible) back in early October. Mr. Sherman asked the group to submit recommendations for improving NEPA efficiency. Responding to that request, the group drafted a letter proposing various programmatic efficiencies. Mary Wagner, former R-6 Forester and now Associate Chief of the FS, has asked Laura Jo to explain her role (or that of her staff) in development of this letter. FS staff had no involvement in the process.

B) Report Card

R-6 has transferred-out Forest Service leadership staff with knowledge and participation in Proof of Concept. There is a need for accountability re POC by the Forest Service, promises made and met. The Ex Com agreed a Report Card approach to assessing Forest Service efficiency would be useful.

Motion: Tim motioned and Maurice seconded to direct the EPRC to develop a framework of annual report card with input from and approval by the Board.
Approved

C) Conservation Caucus Issues

- Air Force Survival School expansion in Ferry County would include Twin Sisters, Jackknife and Hoodoo IRAs. NEPA is currently underway and Conservation Caucus is filing comments.

- Deadman Road Closure: Rick agreed to close 9565-535 during Deadman Timber Sale collaboration, but now FS has dropped it from their Scheduled of Proposed Actions. Rodney was asked by wasn't aware of why this was dropped.

- Barnaby Buttes Communications Tower: Forest Service proposes to install a communication tower on this mountain in Bald-Snow IRA. This action was proposed three years ago and FS decided to drop it. Conservation Caucus is opposed to this and has offered alternative locations on Bangs and Bisbee Mt.

D) Commissioner Outreach

Russ proposed the board author a letter to commissioners asking for representatives from each county to participate in NEWFC meetings. Claudia suggested that we include a regular commissioner agenda item at each bi-monthly meeting with the Forest Service. Tim suggested we ask a TEDD representative as well, and ask each entity to be on the Technical Advisory team to the Board.

Action: EPRC to draft a letter for approval by the Ex Com asking each county commission and a representative from TEDD to participate in an Technical Advisor role.

3. East Wedge

Claudia's team is hoping to have fieldwork completed by the end of the year. Soils fieldwork has been completed – their report will be out by Thanksgiving. Colville Tribe cultural resources report has been filed and accepted by the Forest Service. A meeting with NEWFC was held in October to review potentially objectionable units covering 25% of the project area. Units that are objectionable will be discussed with leadership team to collaborate-out agreements. Claudia is striving to maintain good records in case of an audit, including prescriptive guidelines, maps and action plan. Hope is to get the proposed action out by the end of the year.

Next meeting: December 21, 1 PM

Lloyd McGee, President

Tim Coleman, Secretary