

NEWFC Board – Minutes

February 24, 2010

NRCS Conference Room

Next meeting: March 17, bi-monthly meeting with the US Forest Service

Attending board: Lloyd McGee (president), Russ Vaagen (vice president), David Heflick, Ron Gray (treasurer), Tim Coleman (secretary), Dick Dunton, Maurice Williamson, Phil Carew, Jeff Juel (**a quorum was present**)

Absent Board Members: Bob Playfair, Derrick Knowles, Mike Petersen, Steve West

Board Advisors: Scott Ketchum sketchum@forestcap.com (Forest Cap), Steve Harris (DNR), Charlie Kessler, Claudia Michalke (East-Wedge Project Coordinator)

Agenda

1. Minutes review/approval
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Executive Committee Report
4. Education & Outreach Report
5. Task Force Committee
6. Roundtable Update
7. FLRA Update
8. East Wedge
9. DNR fuels treatment update

1. Minutes – Dick motioned and Phil seconded to approve the January 21 minutes. (motion passed)

2. Treasurer's Report
Current checkbook balance is \$1783.71.

3. Executive Committee Report
Tim gave a summary of the Executive Committee meeting (2-12): 1) In January a couple board members traveled to Washington, DC to meet with congressional members and staff. This trip was not paid for by NEWFC; 2) Russ proposed the Coalition hold an annual conference instead of our annual meeting. This has potential to fund a coordinator for the coalition who would organize the conference. The Coalition receives a lot requests for our guidelines and process – a conference could be a useful tool for informing groups about our work. Maurice noted that a successful collaborative process is the “glue” that makes them functional is not a set of guidelines or prescriptions – its not “cookie cutter” approach, it’s an organic process rather than a prescriptive one that requires individuals to engage in collaborative dialogue and develop standards that work for a specific region and local citizens.

Action: The board tabled this issue and sent it to the Executive Committee to develop a policy.

4. Education & Public Relations Committee Report

The NEWFC video is done and being mass produced. Public showings are being put together and board members are asked to get involved in the following scheduled events:

- 1) Newport, March 18, 6:30-8:30; 2) Colville/Kettle Falls, Woodland Theatre, Wednesday, March 24, 6:30-8:30, 3) Republic, K Diamond K, Thursday, March 25, 6:30-8:30, 4) 49 Degrees N / Chewelah, Friday, March 19 4-6 PM
- 2) April wine & cheese event in Spokane

- A Spokane video showing and NEWFC fun event is being organized for mid-late April

5. Task Force Committee

Collaboration on the Hanlon Project is complete and the Coalition gave a high level of support for this project. There is an upcoming meeting with the Forest Service to review water yield monitoring protocols.

Lloyd handed out a letter he drafted to be sent to Acting Forest Supervisor Rodney Smolden. The board will review it and provide feedback.

6. Roundtable Update

The Recreation Committee of the roundtable was put together to collaborate in recreation planning, however, that has not gotten very far. The next committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. The committee will likely put together a map based on the input of those at the table and hand it off to roundtable sponsors Senator Cantwell and Rep. McMorris-Rodgers. Russ said he felt the committee had made significant headway.

The Ranching Committee has yet to meet. Tim and Mike were able to meet with a couple ranchers yesterday. Today, Ted Wishon contacted Lloyd about setting up a that committee meeting sometime next week.

7. FLRA Update

The Coalition needs to form a committee to draft a Forest Landscape Restoration Act (FLRA) proposal.

Motion: Lloyd motioned and Tim seconded that the board approve formation of a FLRA project committee and participate with the Forest Service and other entities to construct a FLRA proposal for a project in Ferry, Stevens and Okanogan counties. (motion passed)

8. East Wedge Project

Lloyd went over the basics of the Memorandum of Agreement that NEWFC signed with Stevens County Conservation District. Key requirements of the MOA are the Coalition “shall supply in-kind services ... review [and] assistance....”

Claudia handed out a progress report to all in attendance and gave a brief summary of her written report. Phase I of East Wedge was approved by the Forest Service, January 13, 2010. Phase II started January 20 with a public event at Bull Hill Resort - 27 attended. Claudia gave presentation at the SCCD annual meeting, February 18, 2010 - 91 attended). Phase II completion date is estimated to be June 2011.

SCCD has sent out job announcements for foresters – 12 applications were received and 6 foresters were hired. Phil Anderson was hired as coordinator. Job announcements have also been posted for other resource specialists (NEPA coordinator, geologist, etc.). Phil Anderson is the technical advisory (check cruise work), reporting to Claudia. A project team leader/NEPA Coordinator will also report to Claudia. The Forest Service (Bill Shields) makes sure legal requirements are followed.

There has been some concern about expending time entering timber cruise data at this time and current thinking is that should wait until further refinement of unit locations. SCCD has requested one NEWFC person be assigned as a point of contact and Lloyd agreed to be that person. The project work contract is between SCCD and the USFS. The implementation phase is not yet funded.

NEWFC requested SCCD come up with a date it expects NEWFC to begin collaborating with them and provide a chain of command for giving input.

Lloyd asked if the Coalition was willing to create a committee to help assist this project move forward? Phil pointed out that because all of the board has full-time jobs the SCCD was proposed as an independent coordinator of this project. Russ suggested a committee would be useful in helping to provide information to Claudia.

Motion: Russ moved that NEWFC create and East-Wedge Project Committee, Ron seconded (motion passed – Maurice abstained)

9. DNR Fuels Treatment Update

Steve Harris, DNR, discussed the landowner assistance program that is part of Community Wildfire Protection Program. A committee has been formed to prioritize fuels treatment projects in NE Washington. Stimulus funds makes up a large part of funding for non-federal ownerships. RFPs were sent out and 16 bids were received. DNR is working on approximately 20 projects they expect will be completed over the next 2 years. Projects in progress are Aspen Meadows, Lake Spokane, Newport and Pierre Lake are active – eastern Cascades and Malo projects are on hold due to current snow cover.

Maurice asked if it was possible to us to obtain funding to treat Colville Tribal lands? Steve explained that finding can only be used to treat non-federal lands. He pointed out that once a priority area is identified landowners in that area are contacted and asked if they will participate.

End

Next meeting – March 17, SCCD

Tim Coleman, Secretary

Lloyd McGee, President