

## NEWFC Board – Minutes

April 20, 2010

NRCS Conference Room

### Next Meeting: May 12, Board and CNF meeting

Attending board: Lloyd McGee (president), David Heflick, Tim Coleman (secretary), Ron Gray (treasurer) Maurice Williamson, Mike Petersen, Steve West (**a quorum was present**)

Absent Board Members: Bob Playfair, Derrick Knowles, Dick Dunton, Phil Carew, Jeff Juel, Russ Vaagen

Board Advisors: Scott Ketchum, Claudia Michalke, John Eminger

### Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. East Wedge
4. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project
5. Executive Director Position
6. NEWFC Land Allocations – WUI Boundaries
7. Roundtable

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1. Approval of prior meeting minutes for February 24 and March 17 meetings.

Ron motioned to approve the minutes, Mike seconded. Passed.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

Current checkbook balance is \$1783.71.

#### 3. East Wedge Project

Claudia and Tom McKern from Stevens County Conservation District (SCCD), and CNF staff Bill Shields, met with Stevens County commissioners to brief them about East Wedge. Claudia met with the Stevens County Public Lands Advisory Committee and briefed them about this project as well. PLAC expressed support for NEWFC prescriptions. "Roads" and "transparency" were two issues that concerned PLAC. Stand exams are about 60% complete – road access has been complicated by snow – completion is expected by mid-late May. Lynn Kaney will develop the proposed action following completion of stand exams. After the Forest Service approves proposed action SCCD will hire additional staff including a botanist and archeologist by the first of June. Claudia is hoping to have a final draft environmental assessment out by September 1.

Claudia spoke with Christie Miller (Gifford-Pinchot NF) about a collaborative group she has been working with. After 5 years there is still no decision. Complications were numerous: cost, lack of financial resources and staff turn over.

#### 4. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act

The Colville National Forest is one of the top tier proposals within Region 6 US Forest Service. The Forest Service has drafted their part of the proposal and now NEWFC will add its portion.

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#### 5. Executive Director position

Claudia was NEWFC's executive director (ED), but since she accepted the SCCD (East Wedge) position the coalition has been without an ED. Does the board want to hire an executive director? There are a lot of duties that might go by the wayside if this key staff position is not filled. National Forest Foundation has a mid-capacity grant but NEWFC might not qualify for funding without this position filled. There is potential for RAC funding of which a portion could cover administrative costs.

**Motion: Steve moved to form a hiring committee to hire an executive director and to seek funding for their salary, second by Tim. Passed.** Mike, Steve and Ron volunteered to sit on the committee

#### 6. WUI – NEWFC Land Allocations

CNF has used non-agency WUI analysis that included a detailed assessment of 1/2 mile WUI buffer around structures, adding 1 mile to it for a total 1.5 mile WUI buffer. County fire plans have their own WUI definition which is a mix of good, bad and ugly. Fact is in Deadman Creek / Jackknife area the county WUI is pretty much correct. Since our AMZ policy includes WUI (except where there's an IRA) and our blueprint includes a balance of AMZ, RMZ and WMZ, how do we address what appears to effect the balance of AMZ and RMZ from an increased WUI leading to an increase in AMZ acreage? How do we deal with it? Lloyd said let the facts dictate. Claudia: track occurrences and acreages. Dave: what do we do with that information? The CNF will treat those acres. Dave suggested that since this is bound to occur again (and it has in Hanlon), we could say take county fire plans, determine where reasonable overlap exists and then determine where changes to the blueprint is necessary.

The board agreed the issue needs to be addressed by the Taskforce who will report back to the board for our review and approval.

**Motion: Tim moved the Taskforce review WUI overlap with NEWFC Active Management and Restoration Management zones using county fire plan data and compile a report to help advise the board regarding possible management zone boundary adjustments – Mike seconded. Passed.**

#### 7. Roundtable

The Roundtable ground to a halt at the March 26 meeting. Senator Cantwell and Rep. Maria Cantwell staff pulled together a subset of recreation, ranching and conservation interests to meet April 14 which ended without agreement to the dissatisfaction of all.

The board agreed there is an interest in continuing discussions with various stakeholders and that will need to continue for as long as is necessary. There is a unique opportunity to move a bill this year and that is influencing circumstances. Still there is an on-going need to collaborate at multiple levels outside of NEWFC, however both opportunity and need are mutually exclusive – one is short term and one is long term. Some collaborative group participants appear to want a "badge of honor" recognition for having stood their ground and just said no! Lloyd suggested that congressional leadership move forward with a bill while members of NEWFC continue to engage in substantive collaboration with key stakeholders.  
end