

NEWFC Board – Minutes
August 18, 2010
NRCS Conference Room
www.NEWForestryCoalition.org

Next Meeting is September 14, 11 AM – 1 PM board meeting and 1-3 PM joint meeting of NEWFC and Forest Service. All meetings at SCCD.

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

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

Attending Board Advisors: Claudia Michalke, Josh Anderson

Public present: Ryan Gordon, Carolin Maier

Agenda

1. July Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. OSU Student visit
4. Executive Director position
5. East Wedge Project
6. Executive Committee Report
7. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project
8. Columbia Highlands Initiative
9. Projects Committee Update
10. Bangs Monitoring Projects

1. June 17 meeting minutes.

Russ motioned to approve, Ron seconded. Passed.

2. Treasurer's Report

Current checkbook balance is \$888.71. Tim motioned, Dick seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Passed

3. Executive Director Position

Serena Carlson has been hired as our NEWFC executive director. The Grant Committee will be assisting Serena over the next several months.

4. Ryan Gordon and Carolyn Meyer

Ryan is with Oregon State University Department of Forestry and working with Professor Bruce Schindler. Professor Schindler's group has been following NEWFC for 6-7 years. Ryan worked on a video production about community collaboration and themes of their success.

5. East Wedge Project

Scope of work has been reviewed by the Forest Service and additional tasks were determined necessary. Claudia has pushed hard to advance project timelines. Phase I is complete thanks in part to a great work crew and a mild winter. The Colville Confederated Tribe is helping with cultural resource assessment to begin the end of August, expected to be completed by the end of the year, and at government-to-government arrangement. Don Strand has been hired to do fuels work. George Wooten is nearing completion of botany surveys. Claudia is hoping for an improved model of collaboration to be developed during this process. All inventory work is expected to be completed by close of 2010.

Q. What are the archeological survey objections the Forest Service had?

A. The scope of work was determined re Proposed Action and CCT standard practices. Steve Kramer wanted additional information beyond what CCT proposed.

Q. Is this devolving back to a unit-by-unit rather than grouped units? NEWFC met today and decided we want to get away from unit-by-unit assessment.

A. This is a mix of some efficiencies from NEWFC's collaborative process and what Lynn Kaney is looking for.

Q. What type of concerns were raised by the public.

A. Wildfire risk, concern about adjacent private land getting similar silviculture, prescribed fire treatments, affects to cattle grazing.

6. Executive Committee update

The EC approved a NEWFC grant proposal for \$50K to the Colville Resource Advisory Council for creating forest-wide landscape level strategies. The strategy would be inform future actions and in particular CNF's revised Forest Plan.

7. Collaborative Forest Landscape Project

The Colville National Forest proposal ranked #5 overall and was not funded. Another application cycle may begin as early as November 1. There was a significant failure on the part of the Forest Service in their application for the CFLRP and Region 6 submitting 5 projects to reviewing committee. It now appears our CFLRP failed to meet criteria and was not understood by reviewing committee. In the future we need strategies to understand what proposal requirements & process require, focus on specific project areas rather than the whole landscape at one time.

8. Columbia Highlands Initiative

Conservation Caucus members Tim and Mike with support from board members Russ, Ron and 49 Degrees N owner John Eminger held a press conference in Spokane to introduce the Columbia Highlands Initiative. CHI proposal includes new National Recreation Areas, National Conservation Areas and Wilderness and is the "last leg" of our NEWFC strategy. There was a lot of good press all across the state which captured the essence of our "blueprint" land allocations. All areas fit within NEWFC's three land management allocations for the Colville National Forest. Tim reported that Sierra Club removed its endorsement from a recent outreach piece, apparently over concerns about some elements (yet to be clarified) of NEWFC's management plan.

9. Project Committee Report

a. Kettle Face – This is a 26,000 acres planning area with 398 units. The committee is nearing a point of closure in this project. Eighty pages of comments have been submitted by the Coalition. Collaboration with the Forest Service in mesic forest units is ongoing and one of the last challenges to be worked out. Lloyd has drafted a letter regarding prescribed fire in these stands.

b. Powers Lake – Jeff, Maurice, and Dick attended a meeting yesterday with Ranger John Buehler, several members of his staff, Rodney Smolden, four employees of the Kalispell Tribe, Gary Pruitt, and others. Issues are lynx, roads impact to Calispell Creek. There is a lot of Restoration Management Zone – all of which will make this project a collaborative challenge. There are a lot of lessons learned from Kettle Face could be applied to this project.

10. Bangs Monitoring projects – Dick reported he had been contacted by the Watershed Research and Training Center who has been contracted to monitor benefits of community involvement in stewardship contracting and they are interested reviewing Bangs WUI stewardship project. The Bangs WUI project was randomly selected as a sample for monitoring. Also, Sustainable Northwest is developing a Multiparty Monitoring Guide, for Region 6 of the Forest Service and contacted NEWFC to assist in its development.

Lloyd McGee, President

Tim Coleman, Secretary