

**Joint NEWFC/CNF Bi-monthly Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2010**

Forest Service attending: Steve Rawlings, Linda Fee, Franklin Pembertim, Bill Shields, Joe Gates, Tom Pawley, Craig Newman, Jean Lavell

NEWFC Board attending: Lloyd McGee, Russ Vaagen, David Heflick, Ron Gray, Tim Coleman; Maurice Williamson, Phil Carew

Others attending: Phil Aune, Commissioner Malcolm Friedman, Josh Anderson, Sheila Stalp, Claudia Michalke

Agenda:

1. Greetings/introductions
2. Lloyd's time
3. Supervisor's time (Joe Gates)
4. Forest Supervisor Transition (Joe Gates)
5. Recovery Funding (ARRA) (Joe Gates)
6. CFLRA Proposal (Steve Rawlings/Lloyd)
7. East Wedge Update (Claudia)
8. Recreation/Tourism Update (Craig Newman)
9. Projects Update
10. Round Table Update
11. Schedule Next Meeting Time

Discussion

1. Lloyd's time

The Coalition has been working on various projects, most notably the Collaborative Forest Landscape Project Proposal; and also state funding for Summit-Pierre and fuel reduction work on 6,000 acres of state land.

2. Supervisor update (Acting Supervisor, Joe Gates)

My primary focus now is getting the CFLRPP out on schedule.

3. Supervisor transition

Laura Jo West (new forest supervisor) will be joining the Forest, March 29. A new staff officer will be hired soon. Forest staff prepared a "hand-over" memo and gave it to Laura Jo describing Proof of Concept, where we are now and where we are headed in the future to help her prepare to take over leadership of the Forest.

Q. Isn't Proof of Concept (POC) and old term and the new terminology is we are a Model Forest?

A. Yes, memo content in this regard is to give Laura Jo a better understanding of where we've been and where we are headed.

Lloyd: POC is lofty – the Roundtable is something that has been going on much longer and I hope Laura Jo understands there is a real and expansive collaboration going on in

this area. One issue we'd like her to address is renewal of the MOU that NEWFC has had with the Colville National Forest (since July 2005).

Linda: I can assure you information about the Roundtable is being communicated to Laura Jo and that collaboration is very important to her. Rodney will brief Laura Jo about the coalition including the MOU. There is no need for the Coalition to be worried about the transition.

Russ: NEWFC is hoping for a smooth transition. We'd like to send Laura Jo a letter introducing the coalition, acquaint her with NEWFC's history and raise some issues we'd like her to be aware of.

4. Stimulus Recovery Funding (ARRA) (Joe Gates)

\$350K in engineering contracts are out, one of which has been awarded. The remainder of ARRA funding is for restoration.

5. CFLRA Proposal (Steve Rawlings/Lloyd)

Steve handed out a project proposal assignment list & responsibilities. For the time being Steve is helping facilitate this proposal development. The final proposal will be collaboratively prepared with 12 sections written by the Forest Service and NEWFC. He said the coalition's blueprint will be considered in development of the Landscape restoration strategy, and that given the context of collaboration, he believes that gets us about halfway there.

Lloyd: NEWFC's concern is the number of acres treated. The Colville Tribe has expressed an interest to include incorporating areas of the Okanogan National Forest in the CFLRPP. The Coalition will contact Vice Chair John Stensgar to clarify the situation.

Steve: we can add other areas to this project in the future but for now we need to address the projects we have listed – although we can incorporate adjacent forest lands, that will complicate the task of getting out the CFLRPP. There really is nothing in the Act that holds our project proposal to watershed boundaries, but we can't address everything in one fell swoop within such a short timeframe. We should focus our energies on what we can accomplish and given time constraints and unknowns we need to be careful about making sure we get this done on time.

Russ suggested that the Coalition address ONF challenges and including contacting the ONF and CCT about the CFLRPP proposal.

Linda – if the project area is in a portion of a watershed that we share with the ONF then we (CNF) would want to engage in the process.

Q. Could areas in the CNF ONF with previous decisions be used?

A. Yes, existing decisions can be used.

Joe -- The boundaries will define where the work will be done. We're doing the best we can to estimate the extent of the project within a limited timeframe to get this proposal out the door. Once we have funding we will develop a business plan at which time we could add in additional lands.

Russ – so your concern is that if we get the TRD involved that could put the whole project at risk? Yes, we don't want to complicate the process – we're trying to address multiple concerns raised by interest groups.

Jean – we've got roads issue analysis, fire, etc. to complete. If you go to TRD tell them we could bring them on in the future – even if it were just weeds issues that are addressed.

Steve -- we have information about Stevens and Ferry County – if we add ONF then we need to know their strategy. That adds a level of complexity.

Maurice – we've been given limited amount of space to answers questions. Yet it seems what is being said is we need to delve into the bowels of every project. In my opinion this a different deal – the review panel is eclectic and does not follow a traditional FS decision making process.

Linda – what the Coalition needs to refine is its proposal – talk to TRD about this and get them on board.

Joe – what we need to discuss next week is: 1)where actual CFLRPP boundaries are, 2) see what is go and no-go + review products NEWFC has agreed to provide.

6. East Wedge Update (Claudia)

Claudia handed out a Progress Report (3-17-10). Field plots are being carried out at this time by contract foresters. Lynn Kaney will be doing silvicultural work. The project is moving ahead. NEWFC will be brought into the process ASAP and contingent on field plots being completed. She appreciates all the in-kind donations from the Coalition.

7. Recreation/Tourism Update (Craig Newman)

Craig gave a brief update of NEWSTART. The Forest Service has been facilitating business/stakeholder outreach meetings across the region. The purpose of the exercise is to gather information to assist in recreation tourism. After initial targeted outreach a more expansive public process will be held. Overall the objective is a more sustainable tourism and interconnected tourism infrastructure model for NE Washington embodied in a vision document designed to help guide future recreation planning.

8. Projects Update

- Hanlon Project: the appeal date ends on March 29. There has been one appeal and possibly a second one as well. It appears the first appellant is unwilling to attempt to work out differences. If a second appeal is filed it appears that individual is willing to work out differences

Q. Lloyd, how many days will have been lost if the appeal is upheld?

A. About 105 days from decision date, or latest date, May 13th.

- Summit-Pierre Project: 1,500 acres will be marked this year for sale (as Sand Creek Project). If funding comes in from the State the remainder of the sale could be prepared. Maurice: the industry needs this sale offered this year if it can be prepared – Lloyd, it would be helpful to have it out in time to do sale review before winter snows arrive.

-Power Project – expect announcement to be out in May with collaboration to begin this summer.

-Walker Project – the notification letter will be out in a few weeks.

- Kettle Face – CNF is collaborating with Tri-County Motorized Recreation Association as per settlement of their Summit-Pierre appeal. Lloyd: it would be nice if TCMRA would work with the Coalition as well. Linda: TCMRA is chiefly concerned about road decommissioning – they want closed roads designated as Level 1.

9. Round Table Update

The next meeting is 3-26. Ranching Committee, Highway 20 Committee, Mining Committee and Recreation Committee have been meeting to attempt to reach agreements. To be determined is will the roundtable continue to meet? Some have expressed concern that it has served its purpose to get people communicating.

10. Gifford-Pinchot partnership

Joe spoke about Gifford-Pinchot project (that is similar to East Wedge). A new group was formed, Pinchot Partnership. No decision document has been signed yet – the project is in its 5th year. For more information talk to Christy Miller at the ranger district. Problems that have occurred include: public involvement created big problems, road decommissioning , NOAA fisheries issue. What worked: stand exams, timber cruising. A writer has been contracted to write NEPA documents.

Next Meeting May 12, 2010

-- Adjourned 3:07 PM