

Kootenai Stakeholders
December 6, 2007
General Membership meeting
Flathead Valley Community College
Libby, Montana

Call to order

- John Konzen called the meeting to order at 6 PM
- Review of previous meeting. Motion to approve, seconded and passed
 - Financial report (see attachment)
 1. Funds were used for web page (\$40/month) and they plan on having a board retreat. Motion to approve financial statement, seconded, and passed
 - Nominations for Board Members (replace Bob Clark and Ron Hvizdak)
 1. Executive committee suggested Adam Rissien, He was duly nominated.
 2. Tracy McIntyre suggested that they wait and canvass the larger membership before they nominate additional candidates. This was put in the form of a motion, seconded and passes.
 - Paul discussed the need to modify the mission statement to include other relevant decision documents. He also reminded the group of the protocol regarding decision-making and the MOU with the Forest Service.
 - Membership was discussed by Robyn and it was decided to provide each member present with an application to help determine what category they might fit. Formal membership will spell out rules of conduct and type of commitment to KFSC
 - Modify Web page to include members plus attendees. There was discussion to suggest that only attendees would be included on the minutes of the Web page.

Project teams

Three Rivers-Sarah Canepa
Libby -Ed Levert
Fortine/Eureka-Tracy

Cabinet-

- Cesar is no longer involved. Adam will step up. Discussion reflected whether the cabinet would be included in KFSC or Mineral/Sanders coalition.

Recreation, Wilderness and Restoration-Robyn

- Developing an out reach piece
- They are utilizing a publication “Restoring Montana’s National Forest Lands” (www.montanarestoration.org) Julie Altemus explained the process that originated in the Bitter Root. Two pilot projects-Lolo and Bitter Root with a \$100,000 grant
 1. An overview of the Colville program-multi faceted thrust.
- Local group developing a proposal and invites public comment.
- Presented a map with multiple overlays to illustrate various uses.

- The Galton project is in need assistance. (Galton)
- Ed mentioned that KFSC could profit from the previous work for they may well address bigger issues.

Media/Communication/Outreach/Webpage/Education

- John K met with Kootenai River Record and radio stations. It is going to take time to develop relations.
- The Kootenai Web Page was presented by Dennis Dickerson and explained the various menus. There was some discussion as to what information should be included; names, project reports, decisions rendered, etc. The executive committee will address this matter and work with Dennis. The site is still in the development stage so ideas are welcomed.

Education-Sarah (see attachment for the members and report)

- Mission statement will be reviewed.
- One of the first projects Fire ecology
- Always taking ideas-Keep it informal.
- They do not want to commit to formal committee meetings.
- Encourage participation. Support from Society of American Foresters.

Pizza break

Education/conference

Paul R mentioned that he, Mike P & Sarah Canepa made a trip to Annapolis MD and enjoyed the program. Paul handed out a resource publication entitled "Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Forestry".

Project team reports

Brush Creek salvage & salvage projects in general. Ed Levert

- Field trip canceled but will make the trip when the opportunity presents itself. Need everyone's participation and need to get past the WUI.
- Proposing treatments on 560 acres. They want public comment. This will be a stewardship contract.
- Timber prices are not favorable to a successful sale. Helicopter logging is not feasible.
- Many variables to consider.
- FS will continue to develop projects.
- Salvage sale considers dead larch, Doug fir, lodge pole. Very little P pine.

Three rivers project, (CE 10)-Mike Herrin and Sarah Canepa.

- This project will be adversely affected by the recent court decision.
- A little over 900 acres including slash, regeneration, hand piling, (near property lines and egress, ingress,

- Total project includes 1500 acres
- No roadless, no grizzly habitat, no old growth.
- Soil surveys show some compaction but are within the guidelines.
- FS starting their analysis
- Will have to rethink the analysis. May be slipped to 2009.
- Team is in full support of the project.
- Some residents concerned over stray bullets when buffer zones are removed.
 1. Motion to approve without reservation, seconded, 17 for, none against, 3 abstained. (Two of the three abstaining were not eligible to vote at this meeting).
- Discussion reflected the need for more information
- It was stated that we need to support the project as it moves toward completion.

Spring cleaning- Doug Spaeth

- Near Bull river highway and #2.
- Shannon flats, further south near Little Joe's cabin
 1. Improve health, reduce crown fires, and reduce fuels, sediments-5-600 acres
 2. A field trip will be scheduled for early summer to review regeneration harvest, under burning, and pre-commercial thinning,
 3. 2-5 MBF being considered and they will follow guidelines for soil disturbance and recognize endangered species.
- Northern portion treated in 2002 but residents and others feel "not enough done"
- Private land developing rapidly.
- Will consider stewardship to get the work done.

Eureka/Young Dodge-Tracy

Young Dodge

- Near completion of analysis (draft EIS) 36,000 acres
- 7000 acres not meeting desired conditions due to excess fuels and lacking in stand structure.
- Would like to move toward desired conditions.
- Will burn, thin, remove some stands, treat lodge pole
- Remove standing dead and down materials.
- Introduce different species, including White Bark pine for grizzly bear and wild life habitat.
- Half of the project is in the WUI. Consider some measures in old growth. (Next to private property)
 1. Project leader has changed. Pat Price is now the team leader. He will take it through the final EIS. There have been field trips but not all project team members attended.
- There has been a road analysis completed. (Open, closed, de-commissioned, and trails,)

Pinkham drainage.

There was additional discussion on the implications concerning Mountain pine and Douglas fir beetles in the Pinkham drainage. This would be a salvage, and fuels reduction project. The question was asked where is this in relation to camp 32? It is east of there

Fortine-Betty Holder

- Draft EA will be out for comment within the next 1-2 weeks (comment period 30 days) ROD will be made ASAP KFSC will follow their protocol in informing the FS of their support.
- Starting to do some staking.
- Project team is invited to take a look

Cabinet District - Bill Martin

- Some discussion concerning the Cabinet working in both KFSC and Sanders/Mineral coalition.
- A decision will have to be made as to which direction the Cabinet goes.
- Kevin Chamberlain mentioned that the Sanders/Mineral coalition is still in the developmental stage so it may take some time before the coalition actually addresses critical and current projects.

Conference in Arizona-Paul R and Ed L

- Paul & Ed discussed the highlights of a recent conference sponsored by the Ford Foundation (Conserving Biodiversity through sustainable forestry.
- They utilized a power point presentation to acquaint the audience with a pellet operation on the national forest in Showlow Arizona. They have a ten year contract with the FS for thinning in P pine and using the woody material for pellets. They are utilizing European technology that is superior to ours.
- Ed mentioned that we need to look at regulations to determine if flexible contracts can be made for various treatments in the forests. He brought back some contracts to review with the Forest Service. What about a ten year stewardship contract?

Next meeting will be held in March, on the second Thursday, 13th, at 6 PM in Libby. Being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Jim DeBree
Recording secretary

Attachments

Three rivers Project team and education report.

Here are the members of the Three Rivers Project team:

1. Sarah Canepa- Team Leader, Yaak Valley Forest Council
2. Ed Levert- CWPP Forester
3. Bill Martin- Cabinet Resource Group
4. Robyn King- Yaak Valley Forest Council
5. Doug Chapel- Chapel Cedar
6. Jeff Juel- Citizen
7. Larry Corryell- Citizen
8. Tim Dougherty- Riley Creek Timber
9. Kari Musgrove- Citizen

Education and Discussion working group conference call, December 3, 2007

- Participants: Roger Sherman, Sarah Canepa, Tracy McIntyre, Jerry Wolcott, Ed Levert, Jeff Juel, Chas Vincent

The Education and Discussion working group will identify areas of disagreement among the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition and work to create a forum to discuss these topics with experts representing a variety of perspectives. The members of this group seek to create an environment where Stakeholders and interested citizens can openly discuss different perspectives on natural resource issues and their effects to the communities of Lincoln County. The group decided that they would like to remain a working group, and maintain an informal level of discussion and to serve in an advisory role to the larger organization.

Fire Ecology and Fuels reduction will be the first focus of the conversations because of the vast interest in this topic and the diversity of perspectives among the Stakeholders. The participants are in agreement that the presentations should occur in conjunction with the general stakeholders meeting such that the greatest number of Stakeholders may attend. We will have a conference call on either Jan. 9th or Jan 11th to discuss the next step in arranging a presentation. The group will generate a list of potential speakers among all participants and prioritize a top 6 list of speakers, hoping that 3 folks will come. We welcome ideas from the general Stakeholders membership on presenters or topics. Facilitator is an absolute must for the round table discussion.

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