

KOOTENAI FOREST STAKEHOLDERS COALITION, INC
FLATHEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
General Membership meeting
MARCH 13, 2008
Libby, Montana

President John Konzen called the meeting to order at 6 PM and welcomed all present.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion by Debi, seconded and passed.
- The financial statements from 12/06/07 were reviewed by Paul Rumelhart and approved. Motion by Robyn, seconded and passed.

Nominations for Board members

- Need to replace a board member. (Adam) The executive board would like to put forward Roger Sherman as a replacement on the board. Paul Rumelhart moved that Roger be approved, seconded by Bill Martin and passed by unanimous vote.

Membership applications

- 35 current members on the list
- Clarice Ryan, Randy Beacham, will be added to the list
- Paul R made a motion to accept the membership list, seconded by Tracy and approved.

Kevin Chamberlain served as the facilitator for the remainder of the meeting and proceeded as follows:

Project Teams:

- It was agreed that all teams would include a list of members
- The teams will develop uniform procedures for reviewing projects.
- Robyn looked at the Colville stakeholders group for their decision-making process.
- Will visit with Paul Bradford. Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest, to make sure they are on the same page.
- How do we get team members from outside the area to actively participate in the projects?
- Ensure that the teams get valid information in a timely fashion.
- Address the methods for getting information out for public comment.
- Julie Molzahn, Cabinet District Ranger will stay connected to the KFSC.
- We recognize that teams have changed members therefore each team will get the current list of members to Paul.
- We should list each committee and their members for each meeting.
 1. Randy Beacham, Three Rivers
 2. Ed Levert, Libby
 3. Tracy McIntyre and Noel Williams, Rexford
 4. Mike Peterson and Noel Williams, Fortine

The group discussed the process for getting projects in the hopper. Do they come through the FS or the project teams or a combination? How does this relate to the FS MOU? We are not the only group that the FS works with. There needs to be a clarification of individual roles and responsibility. This process should be viewed as a partnership.

If an individual wants to get involved, they must communicate with the team. When a team feels a potential project is ready, it will be placed on the agenda of KFSC.

John Konzen reviewed a letter the Commissioners received from residents of Troy concerning fire hazards.

- The Troy City Council and local residents are quite concerned with the potential for wild fires, especially in West Troy.
- The original decision for hazardous fuel reduction in the WUI is currently in court.
- Can they bring it to this group to re-evaluate the situation?
- Can KFSC look at it considering the legal issues including old growth?
- Commercial harvest of approximately 700 acres
- Motion to bring the Troy situation back for KFSC evaluation (Robyn) seconded (Debbi) Motion withdrawn

- Motion by Noel W for KFSC to look into the alternatives for Troy. Second by Debbi and passed
- Will it be a waste of time for KFSC to get involved in this project until the 9th circuit court rules?
- Could KFSC serve as a mediator between the two parties? (Wild West Institute and Forest Service).

Recreation, Wilderness & Restoration committee

- Reviewed how other groups are pulling projects together; recreation
- Need to protect existing IRA's
- Need to have a predictable and sustainable supply of saw timber. Sustained yield as evident during the pre-champion days
- Consider community needs
- Multiple uses considering recreational needs
- Would like to make base maps that depict various forms of management and treatments for each zone or use.
- Robyn will send notes from the meeting out to the members.
- The committee didn't have time to address Betty Holder's plans
- This group does not address private land issues
- The capacity needs to be identified for the different uses.
- There needs to be balance. It was pointed out that Colorado no longer has a timber infrastructure to handle woody materials.

Pizza Break

Media/communications/outreach/web page/education (information)

- Paul wants to put the minutes on the WEB page after they are approved. It was mentioned that due to the long interval between meetings, perhaps the meeting summaries could be posted as "draft or proposed" minutes.
- Sarah Canepa pointed out that the education committee is looking at working outside the WUI. The next conference call will be held on April 3rd at 10 am. Sarah encouraged people to submit their ideas for future discussion. The point person is encouraged to put together a presentation
- Some of the terminology may need to be modified for local citizens.

Summary of board retreat

- It was a good retreat and good food.
- One question (how are we doing?) indicated that comments were as diverse as the group.
- Worked on mission statement.
- Add recreational element for motorized use on the forest.
- We have individuals and organizations on the board. If one member can't make it, members from their parent organization can come and they should be able to vote. Alternate members need to thoroughly understand the dynamics of KFSC and how it works.
- Are we talking about proxy voting? There was a feeling that an alternate selected by an organization should be functional.
- We just approved a membership and alternates should be on the list. If the organization is considered a member, the by-laws will have to be changed.
- Maybe we should wait until we have a problem before we address it.
- There seems to be the perception that the FS stays at arms length from KFSC. Both groups need to work closer with each other.
- Do we need to dust off the MOU and review it?
- We need to look beyond rigid positions and move forward. Perhaps we need a retreat with the FS.
- Consider a meeting with FS including the regional forester, special interest groups, local government, congressional offices, and others.
- Need to expose this group to others in the region.
- The committee needs to look at FS time frames; NEPA, public comments, and budget process in relation to quarterly KFSC meeting schedules.
- Talk to Paul Bradford and NEPA coordinator to see how various time frames mesh
- Need for some form of meeting to hash out various agendas. (Large group) Need to pick a time and place. FS is willing to have a meeting to facilitate interaction between various

interests. FS welcomes all the interaction from this group. They are willing to share their future goals. This group is good for providing frank discussion and input.

Project team reports

1. Ed Leveret & Malcolm Edwards
 - Brush Creek salvage and salvage projects in general
 1. They are logging behind Ed's house and it is looking great up Quartz creek road.
 2. Kootenai River North is still in the planning stage.
 3. Brush creek environmental assessment is completed but can't get to the site until snow melts.
 4. Team members are:
 - Ed Leveret
 - Malcolm Edwards
 - Others will be sent to Paul
2. Mike Herrin and Sarah Canepa (action)
 - Three Rivers:
 1. Switched to HFRA. (Healthy Forest Restoration Act)
 2. Lot of work with local groups.
 3. FS specialists finished their reports and hopefully will advertise this fall.
 4. Motion (Sara) to approve this project with consensus without reservation. (Second by Bill Martin) Final approval will be made when the EA is finished.
 5. After the ROD, this group will make the final decision. The team leader will write a formal letter for submission to the executive committee. **Motion passed**
 6. It was pointed out that the material should be included on the website prior to the meetings. Some pointed out that the interaction at our meetings is more important.
 7. Sarah mentioned that all the projects have been posted on the KFSC and FS websites.

Tracy McIntyre and Noel Williams

- Eureka District, Young dodge project.
 1. There is disagreement over how some of the proposed projects are being handled.
 2. They need to continue dialogue.
 3. No recommendations at this time, except that this group should not take it on as a project, but stay in communication.
 4. It is contingent on the interests of the individuals in this group to stay committed.
 5. This project is not one of the low hanging fruit. How long can we survive on low hanging fruit? Some day we are going to have to address bigger issues.
 6. A decision could be made by early May or June. There were several field trips last summer.
 7. They ask that this group not consider this as a project.
 8. FS does not have any low hanging fruit left. This group needs to meet with the FS and identify those projects that have been identified as priorities.
3. Betty Holder (information)
 - Fortine District
 1. Wants to get the team together tonight.
 2. Galton projects as identified by the maps on the wall. FS will be sending out requests for comments. (The Galton Project and Galton Comment Sheet were handed out to all those present)
 3. Proposed action is scheduled for August 2008.
 4. There have been three meetings with a mailing to over 600 individuals. This project does not have a lot of WUI. There is need to reduce fuels. They will be burning some

of the area. Some PP old growth with Doug fir under story. There is also a wilderness study area, IRA's plus other uses.

5. This is a valuable recreation area. Looking at motorized use. It is controversial.
6. A very large area that everybody loves. Should be able to satisfy diverse interests.
7. It has been studied as a potential wilderness.
 8. Snow mobile use is allowed but no other motorized use.
 9. This project is on the U S Forest Service WEB site.
 10. They have considered the possibility for bringing in a facilitator to address interest based issues. This might give them an opportunity to really get involved.
 11. Noel Williams and Mike Herrin will work on the Galton project.

Additional comments

- Almost all of this district could be considered as WUI's. At some point the FS should share their proposed projects for the next several years. They may not be related to the WUI but still relevant to the overall management of the forest.
- Mike Peterson pointed out how they worked on the Colville forest. They focused on the area that supported various uses. He also mentioned that there was general agreement for both the establishment of Wilderness areas as well as sustained harvest of saw timber on the Colville National forest. (Washington State)
- It would be interesting to map the WUI's to determine what treatments have occurred over time. (WUI maps are available on the WEB)
- What is the land management of Young Dodge?
- There are other management objectives outside the WUI. There is some that think we should stay focused on the WUI while others think we should think beyond the WUI
- We need to decide what we are going to work on!!
- The board decided to look at overall landscaping issues beyond the WUI. What is the next step?
- Robyn read the purpose of the MOU and suggested that we all need to review it periodically.
- The landscape level projects are not being addressed although the bylaws and objectives do not prohibit it.
- Maybe this is a good time for the FS to bring the group up to speed concerning the Forest Plan revision process. They are waiting for the new rule from the national office. (Process)
- The 2006 draft did include "Wild lands" but not wilderness per se.
- Robyn reviewed the objectives of KFSC (Constitution and bylaws)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

- **Noel Williams and Mike Herrin will work on the Galton project.**
- **Each project team is to furnish Paul Rumelhart with a list of their members.**
- **Paul will put the minutes on the KFSC WEB site.**
- **The Education committee will hold a conference call on April 3rd at 10 AM.**
- **There is a need for some form of meeting with FS and interested parties to address various landscape agendas and improve the interaction with the Forest Service.**
- **The board will discuss how to address those issues outside the WUI.**
- **Robyn will investigate the decision-making process used on the Colville and furnish the group with a summary of the Recreation, Wilderness and Restoration Committee meeting.**

Next meeting and adjournment

1. Shall we meet every other month?
2. The executive board needs to meet with Paul Bradford to decide on how to proceed
3. **The next meeting is scheduled for the 15th of May.**

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM

Respectively submitted

Jim DeBree

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