

Draft Meeting Notes  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
November 17, 2014 7 p.m.  
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Robyn Miller, Conservation  
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commission  
David Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & KVRI Co-chair  
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District  
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests  
Kevin Knauth, Alt. U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry  
Jim Cadnum, Industrial Forest Landowners

Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Clara Dunnington, KTOI Tribal Secretary

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI  
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai NWR  
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group  
Chip Corsi, Idaho Fish & Game  
Stan Galloway, Idaho Dept. of Lands  
Aaron Bohachek, Bonners Ferry Herald  
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management  
Judy Morbeck, U.S. Congressmen R. Labrador  
Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo  
Kennon McClintock, The Nature Conservancy  
Dave Gray, KVRI Alternate

**Opening:**

Dan Dinning opened the meeting and welcomed everyone; introductions followed.

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the October 20, 2014 meeting, by consensus.

Patty announced that Janet Satchwell – our recording secretary, has retired. A card for her was circulated for signature & it was acknowledged that she did a good job & will be missed. The position is being advertised by the Kootenai Tribe & will close on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. A new person will be hired & start work on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **U.S. Forest Service Region 1 – Award to KVRI**

Mary Farnsworth, Forest Supervisor nominated KVRI for the Sustaining Forests and Grasslands (Including Partnership and Collaboration) Regional Forest Honor Award....and we were fortunate to be chosen as the recipient. The KVRI Board was invited to a ceremony in Missoula on Oct. 21st to receive the award. Patty shared a photo from the celebration & the plaque that was presented. Each board member will receive certificates signed by the Regional Forester, Faye Krugger. The award recognizes the dedicated efforts of the KVRI group and notes that the IPNF can attribute a great deal of its success in restoration the Kootenai River Valley to the partnership. Sandy, Dan, & Patty mentioned how humbling it was to attend the ceremony & be a part of several groups and individuals recognized for regional awards.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **Forestry Sub-committee Update – Kevin Knauth/Patty Perry**

Kevin provided an overview of the projects the District is focusing on (handout).

FY 2014:

Twenty Mile – sold

Kreist - one project sold

Eastport Heli – was put up for bid – no bidders; District has since had further interest & will re-advertised this project – up to \$400,000 of CFLRA funding will be utilized on the project

Idaho Buckhorn – some spring burning took place; some fall burning as well; very steep ground – used a heli-torch.

Approx. 21 MMBF was sold as timber volume –it was recognized that this is about ½ of the total volume on the Idaho Panhandle N.F.

FY 2015:

Kreist – 2<sup>nd</sup> project sale

Brushy Mission Stewardship – project will include lots of recreational opportunities, trails, campground improvements, etc.

Hellroaring – Team comments will be ready on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>; projected to sell in 2015 (Dan Dinning reminded Kevin of the need to check in & coordinate in with the Forestry Committee – as it proceeds)

Approximately 21 MMBF will be sold...as timber volume

Out-year Projects:

Deer Project is in development – several meetings and a field trip have taken place (FY 16 target).

Boulder – Analysis is taking place (FY 17)

Trout/Ball Project – Road Data is being gathered; stand exams ongoing

Camp Nine – on the radar; no action yet

It was noted that the CFLRA funding will end in 2019.

Patty mentioned that in the past a spread sheet was provided that allowed the group an overview of the CFLRA status – covering targets accomplished; targets carried forward for completion; funds expended for the accomplishments – by fiscal year – so we have a good understanding of how we are progressing.

The group agreed it would be helpful to have this type of reporting again. Robyn Miller suggested a communication piece be developed as we are nearing the 5 year mark (and other CFLRA projects are doing this), in order to share the progress. Patty will work with Jay Kirshner at the Supervisor's office to see if he could help with something like this. Robyn also provided a template from another group.

Kevin expressed that it becomes more difficult as the project progresses to take credit for actions....some are included with projects that are sold for timber harvest & the work won't be accomplished until the purchaser does the work – the contracts are up to 5 years in duration, sometimes extended longer. So, activities such as culvert replacements, road /storage decommissioning, burning, road maintenance.....may take longer to accomplish....and this is not something the Forest or the group can control. It was noted that some years will look great – and others may appear as if we did nothing.

Kevin also explained that the District has approximately 66 MMBF under contract that has not been harvested. Kurt Pavlet with BLM asked if the Forest Service can adjust the length of contracts – and have them written for shorter durations. The BLM timber contracts are normally 18-24 months.

Russ Hegedus also pointed out that 66 MMFB sounds like a large volume – but that it should be presented in perspective...understanding the volume of annual growth on the forest compared to the harvested amounts. The 66 MMBF is a very small percentage.....Kevin agreed.

Kevin encouraged the group in sharing the N. Zone of the IPNF is a big part of the activity on the Forest and there a lots of moving parts.

With regard to CFLR & targets – Dan reminded the group of the typo graphical error in the original document listing proposed road storage/decommissioning at 26 mile/year; when it was supposed to read 2.6 miles/year.

Next Kevin gave a Power Point presentation of the Deer Creek project (on file with minutes); data collection on the project took place over the summer – it is slated for sale in FY 2016. Several meetings have been held with the Forestry Committee. The analysis areas is approximately 30,000 acres – with approximately 5,894 of treatment area determined.....it was also noted that approximately 3,000 acres of the area is in roadless, and the eastern 1/3 of the project areas is in the Keno BMU (Bear Management Unit) and we will need to coordinate with the Troy Ranger District – as the BMU crosses State & National Forest Boundaries (into the Kootenai N.F.).

During the presentation opportunity for Biomass & the viability (or not) was discussed; the various types of proposed treatments & potential locations, along with the wildlife areas (including goshawks, bears, flamulated owls, Lynx, etc.), fish & watersheds concerns, recreational areas for improvement, road maintenance & potential storage/decommissioning were all part of the discussion.

As the last slides were presented, Patty explained that the Forestry Committee has discussed specifically the 2540 road – along Placer Creek – and has not concluded with any agreement as to actions that may be necessary. The TAPS (Forest Service Transportation Analysis) for the project has not been completed – so once information is available – there will need to be much discussion around all of the roads in the project area – including further dialogue around the 2540 road.

Understanding the project potential as presented – the Board concluded that they would like the Forest Service to proceed with scoping. Kevin further explained the Scoping process & the importance to further shape & refine the project as the analysis is considered.

#### **TMDL Committee Update:**

Patty told the group that the Citizen Volunteers have completed downloading data this fall from the loggers that are deployed – and have utilized cable to secure them for the spring runoff – since they remain in place year round. Many thanks goes to those dedicated to helping make this monitoring possible. IDEQ does the data analysis & it is used in the TMDL process.

Correspondence was received from U.S. EPA Region 10 – authorizing approval of the Kootenai River & Moyie river Sub-basin Temperature TMDL Addendum (HUC 17010104 & 17010105) – which the Committee & Board worked in partnership with IDEQ to develop.

Also, correspondence requesting funding from IDEQ for assistance to facilitate the Watershed Advisory Group process (WAG) was shared.

#### **Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Sub-committee Update:**

The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 a.m. at the Tribal office. The committee will discuss how to go forward with the Animal Detection System.

#### **Correspondence:**

An email from Ben Conard, USFWS, was sent to the Board regarding the notice of intent to sue the Service to list the Northern Rockies Fisher.

#### **Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:**

The KVRI Board does not hold a December meeting; the next KVRI board meeting will be held January 26<sup>th</sup> (the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of January - due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday being a holiday) at 7:00 p.m. in the County Extension Office meeting room. At the January meeting, we will plan a group photo & celebrate our KVRI Birthday!! 😊

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Notes by Patty Perry  
Coordinator KVRI /KTOI Admin. Director

Meeting tape recorded by Clara Dunnington, Kootenai Tribe