

Draft Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
November 19, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
University of Idaho – Boundary County Extension Office, Bonners Ferry, Idaho

Committee Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-Chair
Ron Abraham, (Alt.) Kootenai Tribe of Idaho & KVRI Co-Chair
David Anderson, City of Bonners Ferry Mayor & KVRI Co-Chair
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation Dist/Ag Landowner
Tony McDermott, Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry

Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Janet Satchwell, KVRI Recording Secretary, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Agency/Others in Attendance

Dave Lefebvre, Citizen/Forestry
Kevin Greenleaf, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Ben Conard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Dave Gray, (Alt.) Social/Cultural/Historical
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management/USDOI
Aaron Calkins, Congressman Labrador's Office
Terry Howe, Drainage District 11
Mac Lefebvre, Idaho Forest Group/Timber Supply
Bill Lefebvre, Land Owner
John Lefebvre, Ball Creek Consulting
Laura Roady, Bonners Ferry Herald
Alan Flory, Boundary County Citizen
Ashley Glaza, Boundary County Citizen
Brandon Glaza, Boundary County Citizen
T.J. Ross, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Ryan Hardy, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Shawn Young, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Colete Allen, Boundary County Citizen

Opening:

Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed. The group approved the draft meeting notes from October 15, 2012, by consensus.

Presentations:

Sue Ireland, Fish and Wildlife Program Director, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Sue Ireland presented an update on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program. The PowerPoint presentation may be viewed at www.kootenai.org under the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative “documents” button.

Sue outlined the multiple projects of the eco-based restoration program in a 55 mile reach of the river. The master plan, developed in 2009, focuses on sturgeon, burbot, kokanee, bull trout, westslope cutthroat, and redband rainbow. Phase 1 of the plan was completed in 2011 and the 2012 Phase 2 was completed this fall in the North Side Channels and the Upper Meander. Descriptive pictures showing the restoration work from the ground and from the air are included in the PowerPoint presentation.

The 2012 work had a very sensitive time-line for its completion due to the river’s water levels and damming off the work areas. Local sub-contractors were used in this project, and one sub-contractor advised that thirty land owners were involved in providing the natural resource materials needed for some areas of the project.

Upcoming projects for 2013 (Middle Meander, 1A Extension and Shorty’s Island Pilot Project) and 2014 (Straight Reach & Bonners Ferry Islands) were discussed and information is available at the above mentioned website.

The Phase 1 project held up well during the high waters this past spring, and projects for 2015 and beyond will be developed.

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho thanked their partners who helped with planning, coordination, design, permitting, funding and implementation of this project.

Shawn Young, Fish Biologist, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Shawn Young presented an update on the Kootenai River Burbot Restoration Program discussing the history of burbot in the river and Kootenay Lake, the historical interviews and cultural importance of the burbot to the Tribe and the community, and the coordination with a KVRI Burbot Subcommittee in developing a conservation strategy. His presentation may be viewed at www.kootenai.org under the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative “documents” button.

The restoration goal is to restore a viable and self-sustaining harvestable burbot population in the lower Kootenai River. Information presented included larval and juvenile releases, and the results of recapture, telemetry, and tagging. Current research, plans for habitat restoration, and the monitoring and evaluation plan were reviewed.

The Tribe acknowledged the many partners for their continued support of the program.

An overview of the Kootenai Tribe Hatchery Program Expansion at Twin Rivers Canyon Resort was discussed. The Tribe is committed to maintaining the recreation at the Resort because of its importance to the community and the ability to provide outreach to the visiting public at that location. The Resort and boat launch use will be restricted during the construction phase for safety reasons and then a grand re-opening will be held.

Committee Updates:

Forestry Committee – Patty Perry:

Patty discussed the forestry committee's meeting which was held November 6th. At that meeting, Linda McFaddan, U.S. Forest Service, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, distributed to the KVRI subcommittee a chart of the CFLRP Accomplishments for FY2012. (The chart will be a separate attachment.) She announced that the target goals for 2012 were accomplished with just a few exceptions. She praised the project leaders and staff that worked so hard to meet these targets.

The CFLRP is a collaborative project with the Forest Service and KVRI to develop areas for forest management restoration treatments through 2019, over 10 years.

Discussion was held on local jobs created and/or retained from the work accomplished and how important that information is to the community.

A review was held on the CFLRP opportunities for projects in FY2013. (The chart will be a separate attachment.) The Forest Service is working collaboratively with the Forestry Committee and then the Committee will provide recommendations to the KVRI board. The 2013 projects were discussed; it was noted by the Forest Service that targeted treatment units may be less than actual estimated area and volumes. Road targets will be discussed project by project and consideration of the Bear Management Units (BMU's) requirements for road closures.

The forestry committee recommended moving ahead with the projects for 2013/14; following discussion, the KVRI Board concurred with the recommendation.

The forestry committee will meet with the Forest Service on the following dates to discuss the projects listed:

December 4, 2012 – Buckhorn project	1:30 p.m. at the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho office
January 15, 2013 – Kreist project	1:30 p.m. at the COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
February 12, 2013 – Hellroaring project	1:30 p.m. at the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho office

New Business:

Patty discussed the need to change the January/February meeting dates. A list of scheduled meetings for 2013 was distributed. The KVRI board concurred with the change in dates in order to review and move ahead with the CFLRP projects in a timely manner.

Correspondence:

The KVRI Board gave a verbal response to a CFLRP survey. Patty will submit the results for the Board.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

TMDL Committee – Patty Perry:

Patty advised the next meeting of the TMDL committee will be held with IDEQ on January 9, 2013. The committee will receive the report on last year's monitoring and Bob Steed will discuss the findings with the group.

WAC Committee – Patty Perry:

The next WAC Committee meeting will be Thursday, November 29th – 9 a.m. at the Tribal Office. The agenda will include discussion on hot spots and options presented by Marcel Huijser of the Western Transportation Institute in the study *Highway Mitigation Opportunities of Wildlife along Highway 1, 2, and 95 in Boundary County, Idaho*. The committee members will follow the meeting with a road tour.

Next Meeting:

The next KVRI meeting will be held January 14, 2013, at the Boundary County Extension Office at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.