

Draft Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
May 20, 2013 – 7 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

David Anderson, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-Chair
Lee Pinkerton, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-Chair
Robyn Miller, Conservation
Bob Blanford, Business & Industry
Tony McDermott, Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Ed Atkins, Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical
Linda McFaddan, (Alt.), U.S. Forest Service – IPNF
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary Co. Soil Conservation District

Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Janet Satchwell, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Doug Nishek, U.S. Forest Service – IPNF
Laura Roady, Bonners Ferry Herald
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group/Timber Supply
Mac Lefebvre, Idaho Forest Group/Timber Supply
Aaron Calkins, U.S. Congressman R. Labrador
Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo
Kennon McClintock, The Nature Conservancy
Justin Petty, The Nature Conservancy
Toni Hardesty, The Nature Conservancy
Lou Lunte, The Nature Conservancy
Kurt Pavlat, USDOJ - Bureau of Land Management
Verlyn Bailly, TransCanada/GTN
Chip Corsi, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Ree Brannon, USDA – NRCS, Idaho

Opening:

Dave Anderson opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed.

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the April 15 meeting, by consensus.

The group took a break to wish Mac Lefebvre best wishes on his career move to Grangeville, Idaho, and thanked him for participating in KVRI and KVRI sub-committees. He will be missed and Patty mentioned the collaborative appreciated his expertise while developing CFLRA projects. A carrot cake wishing Mac “Happy Trails” was shared by all, and a signed card was presented to him on behalf of KVRI.

Committee Updates:

Forestry Committee Update – Linda McFaddan and Doug Nishek

The forestry sub-committee has been meeting to develop the Hellroaring CFLRA project and a group of folks from the Hellroaring community watershed were involved. During the last meeting Brandon Glaza, Forest Service (FS) Hydrologist, informed the committee on the hydrology science/modeling that was used to determine how many acres could be treated and remain below the threshold that effects would be seen from the projects. Patty expressed how nice it was to have the Hellroaring citizens take part in the discussions.

Linda introduced Doug Nishek, forester and project leader of Hellroaring. Doug discussed the development of this project through a PowerPoint presentation with pictures, maps and charts. The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website www.kootenai.org at KVRI – Documents. This restoration project is designed to restore Western Larch and Western White Pine to the landscape. Maps and charts show areas considered for different vegetation prescriptions with a graphic simulation of the look on the landscape. Other resource objectives include weed treatment, opportunity to develop more big game forage, improve fish habitat, economic harvest benefits, and trailhead improvements. Public use activities in this area includes: human powered activities, various motorized vehicle use trails and roads, and trail riding.

The board concurred with the project and the FS will proceed with a scoping letter to solicit public comment on the project.

Regional Forester Meeting Update – Patty Perry

Last month KVRI board members, partners, congressional staff representatives, and Patty traveled to Missoula to meet with Faye Krueger, USFS, Region 1, Regional Forester, to give her an overview of KVRI CFLRA projects achievements in 2012 and to discuss the targets for this year and 2014. It was a very good meeting with Faye and the KVRI group was also able to meet with different staff members on where the region is going and what to expect in the future.

Ms. Krueger was impressed with what a good investment KVRI is and that the group is doing a lot with not nearly the budget of some CFLR project proponents. To carry this message further KVRI representatives Jennifer Porter – Kootenai Tribe Chair, Dan Dinning – Boundary County Commissioner, Brad Smith – Idaho Conservation League, Mary Farnsworth – USFS Supervisor are in Washington DC. D.C. delegation staffers arranged meetings with congressional staff, FS staff, the chief's assistant, and others. The KVRI handouts that were taken were shared with the group.

Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Committee – Patty Perry

The committee has been meeting to consider options for dealing with hot spot issues identified in the Western Transportation Institute report and on May 29 will meet for a demonstration of detection systems, and on June 11 will meet to consider the budget for signage and other options. It has been appreciated that Don Davis, Idaho Department of Transportation has moved these considerations up to the district engineer for approval, and State Senator Shawn Keough has contacted Patty with offers to help move things along.

Grizzly Bear Conservation Committee – Patty Perry

A grizzly bear committee meeting will be arranged to receive an update by Wayne Wakkinen on the study efforts and early results from the population study in the Cabinet/Yaak area. A discussion will also be held on the proposal to delist grizzly bears by Idaho Fish & Game Commission. *(The meeting has since been scheduled for June 12, 2013, Kootenai Tribal Office at 8:30 a.m.)*

Correspondence / Information – Patty Perry

Patty shared the Idaho Fish and Game Commission's position statement (discussion draft) supporting the delisting of grizzly bears throughout Idaho. Tomorrow Patty will email out this statement which was received this morning. (Patty may be reached at 208-267-3519 or patty@kootenai.org). Discussion was held and additional insight was given.

A printed report, *Large Landscape Conservation in the Rocky Mountain West: An Inventory and Status Report* from the Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation (University of Montana) was received by KVRI. The group aims to sustain a network of large landscape conservation practitioners in North America. KVRI is listed in the report.

The US Army Corps of Engineers annual Libby Dam public information meeting announcement was shared. The meeting will be held May 30, 6:30 p.m. at the Kootenai River Inn. Columbia River Treaty overview and dam operations will be discussed.

A scoping letter on the FS's Kreist project has been received. Discussion was held concerning if KVRI makes an official comment during the scoping of FS projects.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

The next meeting of KVRI will be held June 17, 7:00 p.m., at the Extension Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Janet Satchwell
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant