

Draft Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI)
June 17, 2013 – 7 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

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Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioners & KVRI Co-chair

Ron Abraham, (Alt.), Kootenai Tribe of Idaho & KVRI Co-chair

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 (USFS) – IPNF

Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical

Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary Co. Soil Conservation District

Jim Cadnum, Landowner / Industrial

Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI

Janet Satchwell, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Laura Roady, Bonners Ferry Herald

Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group/Timber Supply

Aaron Calkins, U.S. Congressman R. Labrador

Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Mike Crapo

Kurt Pavlat, USDOT - Bureau of Land Management

Chip Corsi, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game

Ben Conard, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Dianna Ellis, USFWS - Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge

Ed Robinson, Idaho Department of Lands

Doug Evans, Mayor, Moyie Springs

Opening:

Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the outdoor meeting on a beautiful evening; introductions followed.

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

We congratulated Linda McFaddan on her upcoming retirement and offered her a heartfelt thank you for her six years of involvement in KVRI on behalf of the FS and the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. A certificate signed by the KVRI co-chairs was presented to Linda “In recognition and appreciation of your leadership and dedication to developing an outstanding partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative. Thank you!”

Linda discussed what a privilege and honor it has been to work with KVRI and with this forum for the public to participate in Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) projects with the Forest Service.

A carrot cake dessert was shared by all wishing Linda a huge “Congratulations and Thank You”, and a signed card was presented to her on behalf of KVRI. Enjoy your gardening time, Linda!

Committee Updates:

Forestry Committee Update – Linda McFaddan, District Ranger, Bonners Ferry Ranger District (BFRD), USFS

Linda distributed a KVRI CFLRP Opportunities and Treatments FY2013 document (available on the Kootenai Tribe website www.kootenai.org at KVRI – Documents). Discussion was held on each of the targets listed. Changes in the opportunities to meet the targets were discussed: Twentymile project has been delayed from FY13 to FY14; prescribed burns will be accomplished as conditions allow; roadside salvage has been postponed in the BFRD due to lynx habitat issues, and Regional Office marking requirements, which at this time, are cost prohibitive.

A discussion was held on the KVRI project timelines (an updated list received after the meeting is available on the Kootenai Tribe website www.kootenai.org at KVRI – Documents). Six projects are in queue on the timeline with additional notes listed for several of the projects. Information was shared on the ‘215’ and ‘218’ objection process regulations.

Washington D.C. Trip – Dan Dinning

Dan commented on a successful trip to Washington D.C. with Mary Farnsworth, Brad Smith, Sid Smith, and Jennifer Porter. The group representing KVRI meet with congressional delegations and their staffs, and FS staff members of top officials. They were very impressed with the KVRI collaborative, the knowledge base of the resource committees’ partners as they work on addressing resource issues, and the format for interested parties to become engaged and take an active role in managing resources to maintain a healthy ecosystem and rural community. The KVRI representatives were encouraged to stay in contact with the D.C. staff.

Patty shared the contacts made during her trip to Washington D.C. with Kootenai Tribal representatives. While on Tribal business she was also able to visit with Representatives and Senators and their staff along with various agency chiefs and their staff. She mentioned appreciation for the fact that FS Chief Tom Tidwell took time to say hello & have a quick update– even though they had no official appointment. They all appreciated that KVRI is a good investment for the landscape.

WAC Committee – Patty Perry

The committee members met last week and developed a work plan for the current grant funding. Plans include temporary and portable signs, and possibly a wildlife detection system (at a pilot test site) that could be used to warn the driving public of wildlife. The next committee meeting is July 2, 1 p.m. at the Tribal office.

Grizzly Bear Committee – Patty Perry

Last week the grizzly bear committee met for an update from Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game, on the study efforts and early results from the bear population study in the Cabinet-Yaak area.

Wayne Kasworm, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reviewed a tentative timeline of Kate Kendall's bear study in the Cabinet-Yaak area. He provided additional bear information during the committee's discussions.

Tony McDermott, Idaho Fish & Game Commission, brought forth the Commission's position that the grizzly bear should be considered for delisting in the Northern Continental Divide, the Cabinet-Yaak, and the Selkirks.

The committee discussed the importance of the grizzly bear recovery plan update, also management and conservation plan issues.

The TransCanada grant that KVRI received has some money remaining (\$2,100) that could be used to support the Kendall bear population study. The board approved Patty to pursue making a contribution to the DNA Population Study in the Cabinet/Yaak Recovery Area – being undertaken by Kate Kendall, USGS.

TMDR – Patty Perry

The TMDL integrated report is out as of June 11 for comment, and it closes July 10.

New Business:

Linda McFaddan advised she is working on a developing a CFRLA report to submit project changes and their justifications for approval. Because the KVRI CFLRA plan was approved in 2012 it does not require us to report the changes but this is an opportunity to do so.

Kevin Knauth (K is silent) has accepted the Bonners Ferry District Ranger position on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. His current position is in the Idaho BLM State Office in Boise, and he has prior experience in the BIA and Forest Service. His report date is July 29, 2013.

Patty advised that the FS has sent out the project letter for Hellroaring with a closing date in early July.

The Western Competitive Grant Project was finalized and sent in. KVRI is listed as a partner. This is an opportunity to help the private forest owners since private and public grounds are all part of the landscape.

A letter of KVRI support was approved via email & written for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and signed by the KVRI co-chairs, supporting the TNC's application for a matching funds grant for the WAC committee.

Please be thinking of ideas for the KVRI fair booth in August.

Meeting Announcements:

The next meeting of the KVRI Board will be held July 15, 7:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. It was noted that no trains went by during the outdoor meeting!