

Draft Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
July 21, 2014 – 7 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Ron Abraham, (Alt.) Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & KVRI Co-chair
David Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Boundary County Library, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District
Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Ed Atkins, Corporate Agriculture
Jim Cadnum, Landowner/Industrial

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

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Brandon Glaza, USFS
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Lynda Fioravanti, Citizen
Sid Smith, U.S. Senator Risch
Judy Morbeck, U.S. Congressmen R. Labrador
Destiny Whitehead, U.S. Senator Crapo
Karen Roetter, U.S. Senator Crapo
Mitch Silvers, U.S. Senator Crapo
Ben Conard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Dave Gray, KVRI and WAC
Ron Smith, Citizen
Mike Faler, USFWS, Idaho Fishery Resource Office

Opening:

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

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the June 16, 2014 meeting, by consensus.

Presentation

Cow Creek Photo Monitoring Presentation - Brandon Glaza, Hydrologist, USFS

Brandon shared the Cow Creek project he has been working on with the use of on the ground photos (1998 and 2013) and USFS aerial photography (1935, 1967, 1968, 1983, and 2009). The project objectives include a qualitative look at the changes in the landscape and creek based on land management and natural disturbances.

Significant events in the project area include: being a glaciated valley with decomposed granite, having a historical fire regime, the 1967 Trapper Peak fire and road building, salvage logging in 1968 and road building, the start of grazing around 1935, and roads being stored in the 1990's.

Comparison photos from over the years show sand bars and meadows, fire access trails and excavated parking areas, roads and skid trails from salvage logged timber, and growth of trees and re-vegetation of grass and plants. This method of comparison may provide another tool for monitoring the forests.

Brandon's presentation will be made available on the Kootenai Tribe website www.kootenai.org at KVRI – Documents. Brandon and Jeremy Kleinsmith, Range Administrator, USFS, participated in this project. Patty mentioned this project is also pertinent to the work and discussions of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) committee.

Committee Updates:

Forestry Committee – Patty Perry

Forestry field trips were taken to Boulder Creek and Deer Creek and were very educational. Discussion was held on the roads & bridges, timber, and fish passage & populations in those project areas. A note was received from a field trip attendee who appreciated the information gained from the tours.

Other correspondence was received from Faye Krueger, USFS, Regional Forester, regarding the Twenty Mile Project and the projected 15+ mmbf projected to come from the project along with comments about the Kreist Project which is expected to produce 6.1 mmbf this field season, and next year 3 mmbf for next year of economic benefit. This is in conjunction with restoration work & other project objectives as well. The decisions have been signed for both Twenty Mile and Kreist. The Kreist sale will be re-structured to address a 15 acre unit that includes an active goshawk nest, and then put out for bid again.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Patty Perry

Committee members have been actively downloading data from the logger units that had been placed in various streams. Bob Steed, Idaho Department of Environment Quality (IDEQ), is working on the Quality Assurance plan so the data gathered can be considered tier one data for IDEQ – which will allow the committee information to be utilized in assessing streams. The data gathered will allow for reference streams to be identified and their history to be recorded. Discussion was held on submitting a letter with the IDEQ tri-annual review concerning site specific conditions. The board gave Patty the concurrence to develop a letter for the signatures of the KVRI co-chairs.

WAC Forestry Committee Update – Patty Perry

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been instrumental in leading the pilot project for the wildlife detection system and at this time funding is not available to go forward. Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has applied for two grants to help move the project forward. ITD found the pilot project to be sound and will be piloting and testing a unit to be placed in the Silverwood area on Hwy. 95. Brice Sloan, Sloan Security Group, continues to stay in touch although the contract has ended.

Old Business:

Fair Booth – planning for the fair booth continues with the board members putting together the booth on August 11. Dinner will be provided at the event. The Boundary Soil Conservation District (BSCD) will be invited to share in the meal. We will meet at the slab at the BC Fairgrounds at 5:00 p.m.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

Various agency representatives' comments were shared.

Further information will be provided by the FS when they receive a letter of direction from D.C. on the Forest Plan update.

The Kootenai Tribe's Burbot Hatchery is scheduled for opening this autumn.

Mineral County, MT commissioners requested information on the collaboration process. Dan and Patty traveled to Superior to meet with them and shared the KVRI PowerPoint that was presented to KVRI at a recent meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Janet Satchwell
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant