

**Meeting Minutes**  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
February 23, 2015 – 7 p.m.  
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
Ron Abraham, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & (Alt.) 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)  
Jim Cadnum, Landowner/Industrial  
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservation  
Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Department of Fish & Game  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Shandee Alexander, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Dianna Ellis, USFWS, Kootenai NWR  
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group  
Ed Robinson, Idaho Department of Lands  
Ben Conard, USFWS  
Greg Hoffman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Opening:**

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

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the January 26, 2015 meeting, by consensus.

**Committee Updates:**

**Forestry Committee:**

The committee met in early February to go over the Annual CFLR Report, and the 5 year Ecological Indicator Report. The Forestry Committee gave recommendations, for changes, on the ecological report to Kevin.

**Annual CFLR Report:**

Patty summarized the 2014 Target Accomplishments as listed in the Annual Report. “Prescribed burning (1000 ac), invasive plant management (400 ac), fish passage/culvert replacement (6), road decommissioning (7.5 miles), road maintenance (35 miles), timber harvest (521 acres), and reforestation/tsi (400 ac). The project also set aside approximately \$450,000 of CFLR funds to help support helicopter restoration work in 200 acres of dry site ecosystem, but no interest was received from the timber industry.” (CFLRP Annual Report: 2014 p. 9). The planned FY 2016 accomplishment narrative is described on page 14 of the CFLRP Annual Report.

Patty brought a sample of a table that has been available in the past with project accomplishment information. This table can show where the CFLR monies are being spent, and it would be valuable to groups that work with KVRI.

**Ecological Indicator Report:**

The 5 year report contains ecological outcomes that are measured. They include Fire Regime, Fish and wildlife habitat, watershed conditions, & invasive species severity. For each indicator, there is an outcome.

Kevin explained the difference between both reports. The Annual report is based on improvements that can easily be counted. The Ecological indicators show what the ecosystem looks like now, the desired state, and the collaboration's progress. According to our ecological indicators, our progress is "Fair."

The Committee recommends KVRI support both reports. The Board approved both. The next Forestry meeting will be held March 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. located at the Kootenai Tribal Office. The committee will discuss the Deer Creek Project, including the scoping letter and specifics on the roads portion of the project.

Dan, Ron and Patty attended the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership meeting, in Boise. They provided an overview of the KVRI accomplishments. Patty mentioned that it was nice to be able to go down and communicate that the collaborative had met targets, and had a timber sale. The collaborative is making strides and the Forestry committee has been working hard.

Kevin Knauth mentioned that the Brushy Mission will sell FY15. A thank you went out to Kevin for working to move the sale to FY15.

**WAC committee:**

The animal detection station is now operating; Brice Sloan will come up March 9<sup>th</sup>. The system will be moved to the other side of the highway, where it can be plugged in. Brice will install a new piece of equipment and realign the system. Brice has agreed to provide training to ITD and Tribal staff on the new equipment. The ITD has a \$73,000 grant with the Western Transportation Institute. They will be implementing the 3<sup>rd</sup> party validation to see if the system is doing what it should be doing. It's moving further towards credibility.

**Old business:**

Norm gave an update on the Woodland Caribou Recovery Plan. The Fish and Wildlife Services decided to set up a technical committee, which will focus on the technical aspects of recovery. The first technical meeting was held on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to move forward in updating the recovery plan. The recovery plan will take 2 parts. The scientific basis portion, which would be updated on a 10 year basis, and an action plan portion, that would be updated annually.

The first part of the planning is summarizing the current data and research. The committee talked about updates and the need for action. Providing a forum for who's doing what, and what's going on to keep everyone informed.

BC- wolf control

Ktunaxa Nation Council- initiated a maternal penning feasibility study. The study will look at the potential for building a pen that will provide protection to calving females. The Ktunaxa Nation Council is working with the federal government in Canada to start working on a feasibility study to see if this will work in the south Selkirks. As the group progresses, the committee will check in with the larger group, KVRI and then the public. As of now, the group is trying to update the science and provide a basis for the action plan. The next meeting will be April 24<sup>th</sup>, to go over the first draft of the scientific basis portion of the plan.

There will be a census flight in mid-March to count the Caribou.

Dianna Ellis gave an update on the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). The group is thinking, rather than asking for money towards the feasibility study, request funding for capital improvements. The group may ask KVRI for a letter of support, for Riverside Road improvements and for the Myrtle Creek bridge replacement project.

#### **New Business:**

Patty brought a letter of support, to be approved by the Board, for an EPA grant opportunity that will go to the Boundary Soil Conservation District. Patty read the letter to the group; the letter was approved.

Chip Corsi: The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is floating the idea of increasing the number of either gender controlled hunt tag for Elk in unit 1. A proposal for an increase in doe tags is also in process.

Gregg Hoffman: Report on the Libby Dam. The Columbia River Basin is dry and the snowpack is down. Joel Fenolio will give a presentation at the March 16<sup>th</sup> KVRI meeting.

It's time to reappoint board members. Re-appointment letters were passed out to the active board members for signature.

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

The next meeting date will be March 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boundary County Extension Office meeting room. Joel Fenolio will be present to give a presentation, and there will be a forestry update on the Deer Creek project.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.  
Shandee Alexander  
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant