

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
March 19, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

David Sims, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Angela Cooper, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Vice-Chairman & KVRI Alt. Co-Chair
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Ed Atkins Jr., Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation/Landowner
Doug Nishek, (Alt) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)
Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Jim Cadnum, Industrial/Forest
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservationist/Environmentalist
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
Dave Gray, (Alt.) Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Wally Cossairt, Boundary County Commissioner Candidate
Greg Becker, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Boundary/Bonner County
Evan DeHamer, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG)
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch's office
Jim Woodward, State Senate Candidate, District 1
Marty Martinez, Citizen
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Scott Lawrence, US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)
Greg Hoffman, US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)
Logan Osgood-Zimmerman, US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), Water Management
Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
Mike Boeck, Idaho Forest Products Commission, Idaho State Representative Candidate, District 1A

Opening:

Co-Chair, Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed.

The February 26, 2018 KVRI Board Meeting Draft Notes were approved by consensus.

2018 Libby Dam Operations Presentation, Logan Osgood-Zimmerman, US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

Logan informed the Board that Joel Fenolio has moved on to the Bureau of Reclamation Boise Office as Head of Reservoir and River Operations. Logan will be filling in for the Libby Operations until his position is filled.

In review of precipitation, temperatures and snowpack in the Basin, the results are as follows:

- Snowpack is above average particularly mid and low elevation snow
 - At this time there is a 50/50 chance of early runoff
- Above average precipitation
- Soil saturation is normal
- Flood risk is moderate
 - Above average snowpack
 - Average precipitation anticipated for the spring

Current Operations at Libby Dam

- March 1st WSF for Libby Dam 122% of average
- Libby Dam currently at 2367.6 ft. (full pool in 2459)
 - Flood Risk Target of 2358.3 ft. by March 31
- Continuing to draft to the end of March and then plan decreases releases in April

The complete slide presentation is available on the KVRI Website at www.kootenai.org

Forestry Committee Update- Doug Nishek, USFS

Deer Creek EA is done and sold to Foust, starting after spring break

Deer Creek-EA

- FY18-Deer Stew-Stewardship Sale- 11.5mmbf in 2nd Qtr.
- FY18-Deer Placer- Timber Sale-5mmbf in 4th Qtr.
- FY18-Double Bar D Timber Sale-4mmbf in 4rd Qtr.

Camp Robin-EA (Decision in 1st Qtr. FY19)

- FY19-Robin Hood TS-8mmbf in 3rd Qtr.
- FY19-Camp Dawson Stew-Stewardship Sale-12mmbf in 4th Qtr.

Boulder-EA (Decision in 3rd Qtr. FY18)

- FY19-Black Boulder-Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)-6mmbf in 2nd Qtr.
- FY20-Green Gables-Timber Sale-10mmbf in 1st Qtr.
- FY20- North Star Stew-Stewardship Sale-15mmbf in 3rd Qtr.

West Side Fuels- CE

- FY21-5mmbf in 3rd Qtr.

Grouse BMU (Bear Management Unit)

- FY18 Decision

Bluegrass BMU (Bear Management Unit)

- Working with Border Patrol on the analysis
- Draft EIS out to the public late spring/early summer

Other Notes of Interest:

- **New Forest Supervisor**-Jeanne Higgins has been selected as the New Forest Supervisor on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest starting mid-May 2018.
- **Deputy Forest Supervisor**- the selection process for the new deputy forest supervisor on the Panhandle is ongoing and they should hear who was selected within the next week
- **Soft Roadbed Closures**-Roads are getting soft; we will be seeing closures in effect to protect roads from damage.
- **NEPA**-Continuing analysis on the Boulder Creek Project (June decision date) and the Camp Robin Project (October decision date)
- **Over-Snow Vehicle Travel Planning**-The analysis for this travel plan is continuing. The Team is working with representatives of user groups, local government, and interested public to help shape this project. This will effectively lead to a winter travel plan for the Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint, and Priest Lake Ranger Districts.

New Business

Intern from the Society of American Foresters-Sandy Ashworth

Patty reported on an intern from the Society of American Foresters is working on a paper about Collaboratives and has been visiting with Dan, David, Sandy, Patty and Brad Smith.

Idaho Forest Restoration Partners Meeting- Patty Perry

Patty reported that the Idaho Forest Restoration Partners meeting will be in Coeur d'Alene March 20 and 21, 2018. The Board will have good representation as Dan, Dave W., Bob B., David S. and Patty will all be attending.

Fish & Game Commission Update- Chip Corsi

The 2017 Big Game Season ended with the highest elk harvest in the Panhandle in the last 37 years; Unit 1 also had the highest harvest ever. Deer harvest was also quite good; 3rd highest in the last 10 years with a nice percentage of large older bucks being harvested.

The Idaho Fish & Game Department and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho fish crews are talking and moving closer to having the Fish & Game Commission consider a Burbot Season for January 2019. There could be a decision in November 2018. There are 3 public input opportunities; scoping, public input on rule proposals, then the public has the opportunity to comment to the Commission before the November decision making process. There is still opportunity for input and online input opportunity as well. This is a real tribute to the Tribe and their efforts on the aquaculture and the Burbot conservation strategy.

Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) - Jonathan Luhnnow

- Moving ahead with sales
- Road Co-op meeting last week with the Forest Service
- Industry Co-op meeting is this week
- Re- doing Forest Asset Plan this week; guiding our 10-15 year cycle forest management

Libby Dam Update - Greg Hoffman, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Greg reported that the Annual Libby Operations Meeting will be May 3, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Boundary County Extension Office, in Bonners Ferry.

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Update- Greg Becker

- Bonner and Boundary Counties have 60 eligible applications for contracts for 2018.
- They are also working with the Bonners Ferry School District and are putting a proposal together with the Conservation District for a Community orchard /Greenhouse /Community garden project for an EPA Education Grant. Currently one of their challenges is working on partnership with 5 or more required non-profit sub-grantees.
- County Resource guide- in draft form now which will be a one stop guide geared toward landowners and the questions they have for agencies in the area including the county departments

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge-Dianna Ellis

Dianna reported that the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour Route opened today. And last week 400 Tundra Swans stopped by on their way to Boundary Creek and they have 13 Eagles in the area too.

They are still waiting to hear about the budget for funding on a YCC crew this year.

Senator Risch's Office Update-Sid Risch

- Monitoring the omnibus spending bill hoping for a draft release soon
- Also watching the advisory vote to the Bonner County Commissioners concerning the Scotchman's Peak Wilderness Designation

Next KVRI Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt,

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant

