

Draft Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
October 19, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Gary Aitken, Jr. Tribal Council Chair & KVRI Co-chair
Dave Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Boundary County Library, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Brad Corkill, Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Ed Atkins Jr., Corp. Ag
Jim Cadnum, Industrial Landowner
Kennon McClintock, Conservation
Doug Nishek, USFS (Alt)
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Denise Winey, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group
Dave Gray, Social/Cultural/Historical (Alt.)
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
Tom Fler, Idaho Department of Lands
Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Raul Labrador
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch
Alice Hanley, USFWS & Wildlife Service
Kate Painter, UI Extension
Sue Ireland, Fish & Wildlife Director KTOI
Chip Corsi, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game

Opening:

Dave Anderson opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; introductions followed. The September 21st 2015 meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Presentations:

Sue Ireland – Kootenai Tribe

Sue Ireland, Fish & Wildlife Director, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho – Provided an update on the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program, Sue gave a very nice presentation on the project which included a brief background on the overall program, the scope of work for this season – which includes improving habitat by forming deep pools, adding river & bank structures and stabilizing the banks using wood /root wads and then planting to establish vegetation. Sue also reminded everyone about the public meeting

this Friday, October 23rd from 2:00-3:30 @ the Kootenai River Inn. Sue also gave an update on the Hatchery. They held a Tribal family day last Friday at the Twin Rivers Hatchery which everyone enjoyed, Those who attended, toured the facility and were able to see the fish and help in the release of the first family of Burbot which was very exciting. Burbot releases in the Kootenai River will continue this week.. She noted that original production goal was to have 125K 6 month old Burbot in October. The hatchery staff had good success and cultured twice that many and, by adding the additional room at the Twin Rivers Hatchery, they reared 18 families of Sturgeon at Twin Rivers and 12 families at the Tribal Sturgeon Hatchery.

Sue reminded everyone of the Open House on Friday October 23rd from 10-12 at the Twin Rivers Hatchery.

Wayne Wakkinen – Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game gave an update on the Blue Tongue disease affecting white tailed deer. He explained how the disease is transmitted by a biting gnat and is also found in domestic livestock but is not transferrable from one animal to another, and humans can't get it. They have had a few calls in CDA, Dalton Gardens & Rose Lake areas but the largest outbreaks are in the Spokane and Grangeville areas and Athol being the farthest north. It typically has a 5-10 day incubation period and causes internal bleeding so they die fairly quick. Only 1 test has been done in Idaho and they do not have the results back yet. He noted there is no known control for it and that we just have to wait for the frost to kill the gnats.

On another note, Wayne reported they have been running Elk check stations in Ennaville and up the St. Joe and are seeing a number of spikes, a huge increase from last year which is good. They have collared 145 Elk adult cows and calves and overall it looks pretty good.

He also mentioned almost 100 wolves have been reported killed in the Panhandle. They are still in the "probationary period" with the Wolf Recovery Plan, until May 2016.

Committee Updates:

Forestry Sub-committee

Doug Nishek, USFS gave an update on the fires and active timber sales.

Twenty Mile, Mission Creek, Brush Lake and Hellroaring are moving along; Doug encouraged everyone to go check out the new road @ Twenty Mile.

Brush Lake Sale #2 was sold this summer and once harvest is complete, they can make improvements to the trail/bikes system and the access road to the campgrounds.

Tower fire is still smoldering and they are looking at salvage opportunities. Once timber is burned, the harvest window is about a year. The fire was approximately 20,000+ acres. They should know what FS can do by the end of October. Patty asked if there were things we could do expedite the Tower fire salvage, and Doug thought they could on certain acres.

Deer Creek will be a year from now, they are hoping to get an EA draft together, and plan for a sale about a year from now. Boulder Creek project is on hold.

WAC Sub-committee

Patty announced that the Field Trip to learn about the radar system at Camp Nine has been changed to October 20th @ 8:30 AM. A question came up about the cameras at the Wildlife Underpass Crossing's and Wayne said he would work on that and Patty offered to get him some assistance.

Pacific Northwest Nation Scenic Trail

Dan Dinning is the State of Idaho Representative for the National Scenic Trail Advisory Council. Patty attended the meeting for Dan, he and Brad Smith volunteered to be on the Idaho sub-committee (with Patty's help). Dan and Brad will work to come up with a proposed travel route that might be good for the portion of the trail in Idaho. Patty estimated this will be a 2 ½ - 3 year project.

Correspondence:

Patty noted that the International Joint Commission met in October.

She also reminded everyone again about the KRHR project and Hatchery Tour and that those tours will be a rare occasion so go now if you can.

A copy of the Economic Impact of the CLFR project was handed out to everyone.

Kurt Pavlat reported that the BLM is piloting a project that would consider combining the Spokane District with the Coeur d' Alene Dist.

Dan Dinning announced November 4, 2015 is the Selkirk Cabinet Yaak Sub Committee Meeting.

Scott Grunder is the new U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Field Office Supervisor for Idaho.

Old/New Business:

Patty mentioned we are working with Dave Anderson to appoint an alternate for his position on KVRI Board; and she also reminded everyone to pick up one of the 2016 meeting schedules.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

The next KVRI meeting will be November 16, 2015

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Denise Winey

KVRI Recording Secretary/KTOI Admin. Assistant