

Draft Meeting Notes  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
October 21, 2013 – 7 p.m.  
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair  
David Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair  
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District  
Sandy Ashworth, Boundary County Library, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests  
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, USFS  
Ed Atkins, Corporate Agriculture/Landowner  
Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Fish & Game Commission  
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry  
Robyn Miller, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

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

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Wayne Wakkinen, Idaho Fish & Game  
Stan Galloway, Idaho Dept. of Lands  
Laura Roady, Bonners Ferry Herald  
Ree Brannon, NRCS/USDA  
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group  
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Ben Conard, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), North Idaho Field Office  
Aaron Calkins, U.S. Congressmen R. Labrador  
Sid Smith, U.S. Senator Risch  
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) The Nature Conservancy  
Dave Gray, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests

**Opening:**

Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; introductions followed. Kevin Knauth was welcomed as the alternate for the Bonners Ferry Ranger District - USFS, and Patty announced that Gary Aitken, Jr., who was not able to attend this evening, is the newly elected Tribal Council Chair for the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho & will be a KVRI Co-chair.

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the September 16, 2013 meeting, by consensus.

**Committee Updates:**

**Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Sub-committee – Robyn Miller**

Robyn reviewed the committee's work plan and advised the grant has received a one year extension for the completion of their planned projects. They continue to seek a cash match for the grant funds, will proceed with variable message signs, working with Sloan Security, and will plan for landowner outreach. The group appreciates how involved the Idaho Transportation Department has been with this committee.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is partnering with AT&T across the country on a "Skip the Bag" promotion. This program runs from August through January and AT&T will donate 10 cents to TNC for each check out bag its customers choose to forego. In Idaho, the proceeds to TNC will be put towards the WAC project.

#### **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Sub-committee – Patty Perry**

The next TMDL subcommittee will meet November 6, at 8:30 a.m., Kootenai Tribal Office. The committee will be reviewing the "Draft" of Section 2.3.

Bob Steed will be here October 29 to check a sampling of data recorders to ensure they are working properly. Anyone who has time to go with Bob on Tuesday is more than welcome.

#### **Forestry Sub-Committee – Kevin Knauth**

The members attending the Hellroaring field trip on September 26 had the opportunity to look at prior harvested areas, unharvested areas, and resilient tree species such as larch and white pine. Fish passage and visual architectural design was also discussed.

CFLR updates include:

A final decision for the Hellroaring project is expected in mid-August with a fiscal year (FY) 2015 sale date.

Specialists are expected to have reports in at the end of November 2013 for Kreist with a decision notice in May 2014. The Placer Nugget sale will be sold in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY14 of 3.2 mmbf is expected with the remaining 8.5 mmbf of Kreist Creek selling in FY15.

The Twenty Mile sale for FY14 and the Idaho Buckhorn Burn projects are waiting additional information from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Placer Nugget Sale in FY14 (3.2 mmbf)

The East Port Heli FY14 1.2 mmbf project will complete the East Port Timber Sale.

Data was collected on Boulder and Deer Creek this past summer, and data will be collected for the Trout/Ball project next summer.

A future forestry sub-committee meeting will focus on follow up from the Hellroaring and Kreist field trips, updates on the Twentymile and Eastport Heli projects, and then we will take a look at potential for projects on Boulder and Deer Creeks. (This meeting has been set for November 7, 2013, 1:30 p.m. at the Tribal office.)

#### **New Business:**

Patty advised the new Tribal Chairman is Gary Aitken, Jr. and the Vice-Chair is Jennifer Porter. They will serve on KVRI as Tribal Representatives & Co-chair. Ron Abraham wishes to remain active on the forestry sub-committee.

Aaron Calkins from U.S. Representative Labrador's office updated the status of H.R. 1526, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act (HR 1526 included Congressman Labrador's Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act). The bill was passed out of the House and they are hopeful the Senate will pass it too.

Kurt Pavlat, BLM, informed the Board that two active timber sales in the Coeur d'Alene Field Office were suspended during the partial government shutdown as a result of guidance from the Washington Office. These timber sales (IFG is the purchaser) resumed operations on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> after the shutdown was lifted.

Ben Conard, USFWS, reminded the KVRI board of several items being worked on by USFWS. 1) Lynx: in response to litigation, a proposal to revise designated critical habitat for Canada lynx was open for comment (Idaho would see a net reduction of several thousand acres in northeast Idaho panhandle); 2) Wolverine: the comment period on the proposal to list the wolverine was recently extended. 3) Caribou: the USFWS is simultaneously working on a) a status review of the woodland caribou as a result of a petition to delist the species; and b) a lawsuit challenging the 2012 decision to designate roughly 30,000 acres of critical habitat in northern Idaho and northeast Washington (alleging flawed decision, not enough critical habitat).

Ree Brannon, NRCS, announced the Farm Bill expired on Sept 30 but some funding has been provided for NRCS to continue working on existing contracts in the Conservation Security and Stewardship Programs and on our cost-share programs such as EQIP. They have the authority to work on new contracts for EQIP (and the CCPI program for Boundary County is in that program) but have not received guidance on how much funding will be available for new contracts. New applications are being accepted for FY2014 until December 20th. The easement programs, such as the Wetland Reserve Program, are not currently authorized and they cannot accept any applications until further notice. We are also authorized to work with Farm Services Agency on their Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

**Correspondence:**

Patty shared a public invitation to the Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Project Overview & Tour scheduled for November 1, 2013, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho will host a public meeting at the Kootenai River Inn (KRI) for community members to learn about the on-going habitat restoration work, followed with a short tour to one of the 2013 project sites. We will meet for about an hour at the KRI to understand the program and project goals & objectives, then provide transportation for a project tour lasting approximately 1 hour.

Patty advised the Twin River Hatchery site is coming along and Tribe hopes to open the campground in 2014. Burbot and additional sturgeon will be reared at this hatchery. BF Builders Inc. and other local vendors are working at the site.

**Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:**

The next meeting will be held November 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office. Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Janet Satchwell  
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant