

Draft Meeting Notes  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
February 24, 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  
Jim Cadnum, Landowner/Industrial  
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservation

Janet Satchwell, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Stan Galloway, Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL)  
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Dianna Ellis, USFWS, Kootenai NWR  
Aaron Calkins, U.S. Congressmen R. Labrador  
Sid Smith, U.S. Senator Risch  
Judy Morbeck, U.S. Congressmen R. Labrador  
Ben Conard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Dave Gray, KVRI and WAC

**Opening:**

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

The group approved the draft meeting notes from the January 27, 2014 meeting, by consensus.

**Presentation:**

The group celebrated thirteen years of collaboration through the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI). Co-chair Dan Dinning expressed gratitude for the member's years of service and testament to the commitment of many to the process. While other groups experience burnout – this collaborate has not. Again, every person involved throughout the years was thanked for participating. A group picture was taken and cake was enjoyed.

The group wished Aaron Calkins the best with his move to Representative Raul Labrador's Boise office. Aaron was thanked for his support and dedication to the collaborative process and his interest in the community.

***Off-key Limerick to Aaron: by Chip.***

*We've got a guy named Aaron  
Who rode north every month with Sid and Karen,  
Now he's bailed out of KVRI  
And he's headed for that Bronco infested hole south of U. I.  
Without his presence - KVRI it will seem a bit barren.*

We all wish you well Aaron, and welcome to KVRI Judy.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **Forestry Committee Update – Kevin Knauth**

The Twenty Mile and Kreist Creek projects are scheduled for timber sales this fiscal year. Comments were just received from USFWS and the Forest Service will review and resubmit. The draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft decisions have not been issued yet and the FS hopes to have decisions signed in August.

Kevin Knauth discussed the tracking of projects and accomplishments. The spread sheet will be available on the Kootenai Tribe website [www.kootenai.org](http://www.kootenai.org) at KVRI – Documents.

Kevin mentioned that Dan, Patty, Mary Farnsworth - Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, and he shared KVRI information with the participants at the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership (IFRP) conference held in Boise last week. It was a very worthwhile gathering. Dan Dinning expressed appreciation that Senators Crapo and Risch, Representatives Labrador and Simpson, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tidwell, Faye Krueger, Regional Forester of the Northern Region, and Nora Rasure, Regional Forester of the Intermountain Region were in attendance and showed support the nine collaboratives from Idaho.

A brief discussion was held on the “Agricultural Act of 2014” (2014 Farm Bill) which broadens the good neighbor authority (piloted in Utah and Colorado) which allows state foresters to work directly with federal partner agencies to assist them in managing forest lands. Also included is a 3,000-acre categorical exclusion for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program CFLRP proposals that will help address severe forest health problems on a much timelier basis, and provides the U.S. Forest Service with greater flexibility in dealing with large-scale forest health problems.

A number of details are described in the Act and the activities are entered into as an agreement between the Secretary (Agriculture for National Forest System land; and Interior with respect to BLM land) and a State Governor.

Aaron Calkins and Sid Smith discussed the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014, a bipartisan bill supported by Idaho’s delegation. The bill would simulate existing federal funding response to other natural disasters, similar to what the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses and it would significantly minimize the need to transfer funds from forest management activities.

#### **Wildlife-Auto Collision (WAC) Committee – Kennon McClintock**

Three caution wildlife signs have been placed by Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) north of Three Mile and are working well. The test of the wildlife detection system in the Moose Valley Farms area on Highway 95 is on-going, and in March the equipment will be moved north on Highway 95 to a second test location. Sloan Security continues to partner with the ITD and the Bonners Ferry High School Robotics Team. Don Davis (ITD) will contact Northern Lights regarding partnering with the project.

### Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee – Dan Dinning

The next committee meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup>. A notice will be sent with time and location information.

### **New Business:**

**Fish and Wildlife:** Chip Corsi, IF&G, shared that a female lynx has been GPS collared in the Trail Creek area which will help provide information on her travels. Also, a big game rule open house will be held February 27, 2014, in Coeur d'Alene. Liberalizing bear and lion season is being looked at (except on the Priest Lake side of Unit 1), they will enter in to negotiated rulemaking on a proposal to allow baiting for wolf hunting, discuss extra doe tag availability in Unit 1, and use a collaborative effort to look at areas used for trapping and pet use.

Dianne Ellis, USFWS, shared that Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge will be constructing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible deer hunt blind in the northern portion of the refuge and an additional ADA waterfowl blind.

By consensus, the board approved a letter be sent to the Bonneville Power Administration in support of the proposal to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to implement the Kootenai River Restoration at Bonners Ferry Project in Boundary County, Idaho.

### **Correspondence:**

The Idaho Buckhorn Project Decision Memo was received and legal notice was published in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* and a 45 day appeal follows. Documents are available on the IPNF website at [www.fw.usda.gov/goto/ipnf/projects](http://www.fw.usda.gov/goto/ipnf/projects) or by calling Jennifer Anderson, project leader, at 208-267-5561.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to implement the Kootenai River Restoration at Bonners Ferry Project in Boundary County, Idaho. A public meeting will be held February 26, 2014. BPA is accepting comments on the proposal through March 10, 2014.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest is proposing timber stand improvement treatments. Please submit your comments by February 28, 2014, to Kevin Knauth, District Ranger, Bonners Ferry Ranger District.

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

Kate Kendall will present her *Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Project - Using DNA to Monitor Bear Populations* study at the March 17, 2014 KVRI meeting.

The Forestry committee will be meeting March 10, 2014 (Boulder project) and March 17, 2014 (Forest Supervisor, Mary Farnsworth, and FS District staff to discuss the potential for a project in the Ball/Trout area). Contact Patty Perry at 208-267-3519, ext. 551, or [patty@kootenai.org](mailto:patty@kootenai.org) for additional information.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Janet Satchwell  
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant