

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
January 14, 2019 – 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 & (Alt.) KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Ed Atkins Jr., Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation/Landowner
Chip Corsi, (Alt.) Idaho Fish & Game Commission
Jim Cadnum, Industrial/Forest
Bob Blanford, Business/ Industry
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservationist/Environmentalist
Rhonda Vogl, KVRI Facilitator & Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch's office
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office
Tim Kastning, Congressman Russ Fulcher's office
Wally Cossairt, Boundary County Commissioner
Marty Martinez, Citizen
Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Carol Kriebs, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Environmental Director
Wayne Nishek, Back Country Horseman
Doug Nishek, (Alt) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, US Forest Service (USFS)
Eric Anderson, 9B Trails, President

Opening:

Co-Chair, David Sims opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed. After introductions KVRI Happy Birthday Huckleberry Crunch was served.

The November 19, 2018 KVRI Board Meeting Draft Notes were approved by consensus.

Idaho Forestry Legacy Program Presentation by Kennon McClintock- The Nature Conservancy

Kennon McClintock, The Nature Conservancy, reviewed the goals of the Forestry Legacy Program and explained how Conservation Easements work:

Goals of the Forestry Legacy Program:

- Protect private working forestlands
- Protect other values that the forest provides
- Provides certainty to timber industry
- Maintain economic stability to rural communities

Conservation Easements:

- Allow all traditional uses on the land
- The landowner continues to own the land
- Easements limit commercial development, subdivision, and most mining
- Buildings are permitted on Conservation easement parcels
- Property taxes & Timber Yield taxes do not change
- Public use is sometimes included, generally on industrial lands.

The reasons that Conservations Easements are so important in Boundary County are:

- Most of the logs (80%) that source our regional mills come from private forestlands.
- In Boundary County, we do not have a lot of private land and we are losing private forestland to rural subdivision and home sites.
- Forestland drops out of the timber base once it becomes 10 acres or less.
- Immigration into Idaho is at an all-time high.

Easements that have closed recently: (All four easements are located north of 3-mile junction)

- Gause & Lindgren 160 acres
- Kerr Lake Section 15 180 acres
- North Bench 17 438 acres
- Kiilsgaards 172 acres

Kennon's full slide presentation is available on the KVRI website at www.kootenai.org

9B Trails Update- Eric Anderson-President of 9B Trails Association

Eric Anderson, President of 9B Trails Association, shared the update on the 4 projects their group is focusing on at the present time.

Eric explained that 9B trails goals are to try to develop and explore new areas for development of generally non-motorized trails but not necessarily their goal all together. They are definitely open to whatever other groups are proposing. They would like to bring together state and local entities to build the trails we would like to see on the ground in Boundary County.

Currently they have 2 grants submitted:

- A start up grant for the organization
- Another for a small excavator of their own

Kootenai River Trail

- Ultimate goal is to build a trail from Bonners Ferry along the Kootenai River to Moyie Springs

- They are working with the City, County and ***Burlington Railroad** to begin the initial piece; it will start from the north side of the Highway 95 Bridge Park area under the bridge to the baseball fields
- Future option will be a shortcut through Blume Hill
- Trail surfaces- paved in town and on the dike will be aggregate that is sturdy and easy to apply

***Amendment received from Bob Blanford at the KVRI Board Meeting Feb. 25, 2019**

(In the 9B Trail presentation it was stated that Burlington Northern Railroad was working with the City and the County, when in fact it should have been Union Pacific Railroad)

Farnsworth Property

- Entered into a 30 year lease with 9B trails with Al Farnsworth to develop non-motorized trails on his property
- Flagship project for the county
- It will be open to all non-motorized recreation, hikers and trail riders. It will have a focused attention on mountain biking.
- Eight mile loop that is half done

State Land

The State's recreation direction has changed so this project is on hold for now.

North Hill Project

- The land is the old North Hill property
- The vision for this piece is an introduction to Mountain Biking
- The only hold up now is getting it plotted on the ground
- Vision is a one way loop --Approximately one mile in length, can be used for walking too

Future dreams

Future Trails -Along both sides of the Kootenai River; first one would be along Riverside Road from town to the National Wildlife Refuge and someday along the river on the opposite side also

9B Monthly Meetings

The 9B Trail Lunch meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month downtown at Mugsy's.

Committee Updates

Forestry Updates- Doug Nishek

Camp Robin

- Objection period is closing Jan 15

- Will address objections as needed
- First Sale- Camp Stew - 15mmbf – Summer 2019
- Second Sale – Robin Hood – 6mmbf – Fall 2019

Boulder Creek

- Decision was signed in late October
- First sale is a GNA sale with the State, Black Boulder GNA – 5 mmbf - out in the spring.

Senator Crapo's Office Update-Karen Roetter

Karen R. shared her update on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) news.

- Increased CFLR funding in the Farm Bill from 40 million to 80 million
- Approved through FY2023
- Provision this time for existing projects to be carried forward (KVRI lost 2 years in previous funding), one time shot though
- Apply to the Secretary himself
- Specific details will be coming soon

Sandy A. shared information on the Provisions from Timber Innovation Acts included in the Farm bill that will allow money towards research and development program that focuses on developing application of mass timber products for building construction. She also shared that they will analyze safety of tall buildings and building code changes to come.

Karen R. added that Mitch will come and report to KVRI on the CFLR details as soon as they are released.

Correspondence

Judy Morbeck Thank you Card – Rhonda Vogl

Judy Morbeck's Thank you Card to KVRI was read by Rhonda expressing her thanks for acknowledging her retirement. She thanked everyone for 8 years of working with KVRI and that she stated that she has such great respect for the work KVRI does.

Bear Spray and Bear Awareness Training- Rhonda Vogl

An Invitation to KVRI was received from Rob Krehbiel, Defenders of Wildlife, to a Bear spray and Bear Awareness training.

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 -7:30 pm
Priest River High School

Wednesday, March 27 10:00 am -12:00 pm
Camas Cultural Center

Fire Refugia in the Pacific Northwest-Refugia Importance and Management Workshop- Rhonda Vogl

Information for the upcoming workshop was received from Evan DeHamer and passed on to the Forestry Committee via email from Rhonda. Sign up if you are interested as soon as possible or contact Rhonda for details.

Fire Refugia in the Pacific Northwest Workshop
Jan. 16 & 17
University of Idaho
College of Natural Resources Building
Moscow, ID

Forestry Sub-committee meeting- Rhonda Vogl

Rhonda reported that the Forestry Sub-committee Meeting is scheduled tentatively for Jan 22, 2019, at 1:30pm at Bonners Ferry Ranger District. Agenda include project updates, the future of CFLR funding and CFLR draft annual report

Senator Risch's Office Update-Sid Smith

Sid S. stated that Senator Risch is one of the co-sponsors for legislation to prevent future shutdowns. He explained that if they reach the end of a funding year without having passed appropriations, an automatic continuing resolution will kick in for 120 days. At the end of those 120 days, funding will ration down about 1 % for another 90 days. In hopes that this legislation will build a little bit of pressure to the appropriators and the House and Senate to get funding legislation passed. Legislation is pending.

Senator Risch is still on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and he has also taken over the Chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee. We will be able to continue to keep an eye on those issues that impact natural resources and public lands.

Karen R. added that Senator Crapo has the same Committee assignments as well and is still Chairman of the Banking Committee.

Congressman Fulcher's Office -Tim Kastning

David Sims welcomed the new Congressional Representative from Congressman Fulcher's office, Tim Kastning.

Tim reported that everything is brand new and he is just waiting for everything to be connected in his office. Congressman Fulcher is in Washington, DC getting his feet on the ground.

Tim shared that his background included 35 years in private business in the tree care industry and a background in forestry. He was Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene Forest Coalition from 2005-08.

He is looking forward to the days ahead and being a part of this collaborative group.

Burbot Fishery Update- Sue Ireland, KTOI

Sue wanted to express her appreciation to KVRI and everyone who worked with the Burbot Restoration effort. She stated that it is such a good example of how amazing collaboration can be along with the commitment of the Tribe, partners, State and British Columbia. It really shows what can happen when everyone stays committed to a really important cause and works together. Kudos to everyone!

Idaho Department of Fish & Game Update - Chip Corsi

Chip C. reported that they have interviewed 80 anglers and checked 24 fish since the opening of the Burbot Fishery on Jan. 1, 2019. The largest fish was reported to be about 6-7 lbs, with most fish in the 16-20 inches range. North 40 in Ponderay has reported an increase in people stopping in to purchase Burbot gear for fishing as has Far North in Bonners Ferry.

In other news, Chip reported that they are in the Biennial Regulation Cycle for Big Game starting this month. There should be a press release out shortly for times, places and dates of the Public meetings. There will be one in Bonners Ferry. They do not see a lot of changes coming for Boundary County.

In answer to Dan's question about harvest reports, they do not have all of the harvest data in yet. The challenge is to find ways to increase the compliance rate of the harvest reports in the future.

Wayne Nishek-Back Country Horseman

Wayne expressed his concern of the increase in vegetation on Robinson Lake and asked the group if they might know of how it could be taken care of. Discussion followed. It was mentioned that Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has the jurisdiction for public lakes and lake beds and if chemicals would be needed for aquatic weed control, DEQ would likely need to be involved.

Next KVRI Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Boundary County Extension Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Sherrie Cossairt,
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant