

Draft Notes

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
May 21, 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
Gary Aitken Jr., Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Chairman & KVRI Co-chair
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Ed Atkins Jr., Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation/Landowner
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) US Forest Service (USFS), Bonners Ferry Ranger District-District Ranger
Jim Cadnum, Industrial/Forest
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Kennon McClintock, (Alt.) Conservationist/Environmentalist
Angela Cooper, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Vice-Chairman & KVRI Alt. Co-Chair
Dave Gray, (Alt.) Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Tim Dougherty, (Alt.) Business/Industry, Idaho Forest Group
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Sherrie Cossairt, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Scott Soult, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Norm Merz, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Wildlife Biologist
Jim Woodward, State Senate Candidate, District 1
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Jonathan Luhn, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
Shawn Young, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group
Sherri Wastweet, Panhandle Area Council
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch's office
Judy Morbeck, Congressman Raul Labrador's office
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office
Mitch Silvers, Senator Mike Crapo's office
Kristin James, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
David Anderson, Citizen
Marty Martinez, Citizen

Opening:

Co-Chair, David Sims opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions followed.

The April 16, 2018 KVRI Board Meeting Draft Notes were approved by consensus.

WAC Committee Update-Patty Perry

The WAC committee met with George Shutes, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on May 1st to discuss the future of the wildlife detection system. The system as it stands needs updating and maintenance to meet the needs of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). Patty & George contacted Brice Sloan to see if he had any use or interest in part of the equipment; he may have a client able to purchase parts of the system. The goal is to purchase another reader board type sign to add to the three that have been given to ITD to use in the County. The WAC committee meets again on May 23.

TMDL Committee Update-Patty Perry

TMDL Committee met May 15 with Bob Steed and discussed the changes in the Shade Rules affecting Deep Creek and Boundary Creek TMDL's. They also reviewed the 2016 Addendum of the Assessment of Water Quality in Kootenai River and Moyie River Subbasins (TMDL). Further review and an opportunity for comments will take place at the next meeting on June 6.

Kevin Greenleaf, Dave Wattenbarger and Jerry Garten, the citizens monitor team, along with Brandon Glaza, Forest Service Hydrologist, will continue to monitor the designated TMDL Streams and chart temperatures and averages. Kevin G. has agreed to continue to do that after retirement.

Brandon also gave his presentation of Aquatic Organism Passage Projects accomplished with CFLRP on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District, earlier viewed at the KVRI meeting in Nov. 2017. It highlighted Forest Service/CFLRP work done from 2012 to the present and future projects in the works.

Forestry Committee Update-Kevin Knauth

- Prescribed burning taking place in the county
- Tree planting occurring in the Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint and Priest River Districts
- North Zone Winter Travel Planning EIS
 - Focus group continues to meet
 - Public meetings will occur as part of the planning process
 - Decision in FY20
- Grouse BMU Project
 - Purpose and Need is to bring BMU into compliance with grizzly bear standards
 - Draft EA out for comment week of 5/21
 - FY18 Decision
- Bog Creek Road EIS
 - Public meeting on June 21, 5:30 p.m. at the Forest Service office hosted by the Border Patrol
- Boulder Creek Project EA
 - Decision in October, 3 sales from that project beginning next spring

- Camp Robin Project
 - Decision in late October or early November, 2 sales coming out of that project
- Blue Grass BMU
 - Purpose and Need is to bring BMU into compliance with grizzly bear standards
 - Working with Border Patrol on the analysis
 - Possible decision in FY2018
- Additional notes to the update from Kevin Knauth
 - New Forest Supervisor is Jeanne Higgins and she started work on May 14
 - New Deputy Forest Supervisor is Kim Pierson and she starts on June 11
- Next Forestry Committee meeting June 12 at 1:00 pm

Patty added that on June 11, 2018, the Kootenai Tribe and the County will be meeting with the Border Patrol and the Forest Service for an update on the Bog Creek Road.

Kevin Knauth sent a CFLR Project Update on 5.22.18, it was sent to the Board and is available on the KVRI website at www.kootenai.org

Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail Update-Patty Perry

Patty reported that the Tribe has spent time with partners in Montana and they have produced a map of the proposed reroute that joins with what the Idaho folks proposed..... Scott S. and Norm M. have created a complete re-route map for KVRI tonight. It became apparent that to be able to make any significant change to the trail route it would take a congressional effort. So the congressional language has been put together and she will mail it out to everyone along with the map. If you have any additional comments or concerns please share them right away.

The reroute has support from the Montana Partners, Idaho Conservation League, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, and the Boundary County Commissioners.

Patty mentioned she had discussed the re-route with Eric Anderson (newly formed 9B Trails) and encouraged him to come and visit with KVRI to discuss their goals & objectives for trails in our area.

The PNWST proposed reroute map and PNWST Legislative Language document is available online on the KVRI Website at www.kootenai.org

Next KVRI Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The group enjoyed cake and coffee and a celebration of Patty's retirement followed.

Sherrie Cossairt,
KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant