

Meeting Notes
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
November 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Ron Abraham, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) & KVRI Co-chair (Alt.)
Dave Anderson, Mayor, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Jim Cadnum, Landowner (Industrial)
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Kennon McClintock, Conservationist/Environmentalist (alt.)
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation District/Ag Landowner
Ed Atkins Jr., Corporate Agriculture/Landowner
Chip Corsi, Idaho Fish & Game Commission (alt.)
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI
Denise Winey, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Judy Morbeck, Congressman Raul Labrador
Sid Smith, Senator Jim Risch
Mitch Silvers, Senator Mike Crapo
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo
Erik Sjoquist, IDL
Russ Hegedus, IFG
Brian Johnson, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Michael Gondek, Retired NRCS
Scott Grunder, USFWS
Diana Ellis, Kootenai NWR
Kurt Pavlat, BLM
Kevin Greenleaf, KTOI Environmental

Opening:

Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; introductions followed. The October notes were approved by consensus with one clarification.

Dan Dinning & Ron Abraham presented Mayor Dave Anderson with an Appreciation Certificate for a job well done and invited everyone to enjoy a piece of his “thank you” cake. Dave’s term as Mayor & KVRI Co-chair will end in December.

Presentations:

Kevin Greenleaf, Kootenai Tribe (TMDL Citizen Monitoring) was introduced and Patty gave a little background on how TMDL Committee began & what kicked off this whole project back in 2001. Until the last 2 years, we had relied on the IDEQ for data compilation, then Kevin brought new life to it by having the equipment and began tracking and monitoring temperatures and processing the data for the committee – which allowed us to have it in a more timely manner.

Kevin presented some extensive graphs explaining the different temperatures for Trail Creek, Snow Creek, Long Canyon Creek, Boundary Creek, Boulder, Skin Creek, Myrtle Creek, Hellroaring Creek, Copper Creek and Upper Mission Creek. Kevin mentioned there is a TMDL meeting scheduled for some time after the first of the year (January 21st). Copies of the report were supplied to everyone.

Committee Updates:

Selkirk Cabinet Yaak Grizzly Bear Conservation

Dan Dinning reported that the Committee met on November 4th at the Kalispel Tribal Center near Cusick, and he read updates from Wayne Kasworm – they are still collaring bears. There are 4 in the cabinets and 8 in the Yaak, 11 in the BC Selkirk's, 6 in the US Selkirk's and reported of a 2 year old male that moved from the Cabinets to the Coeur d' Alene's and that was subsequently shot during hunting season. The case is under investigation and charges are pending. There will be some continuing discussion between the agencies on when a bear comes in to human population, why not remove it. Brian Johnson reported about the bear that was killed in the lower Moyie and that it was a young male grizzly bear and was shot in self-defense. Brian said that we do have grizzly bears in several areas that we don't typically see them; it was just a terrible year for the bears due to low huckleberry crops.

The 2016 Priority Actions and the Accomplishment Report for 2015 were supplied to everyone. Wayne Kasworm will be invited to the January meeting to provide an update.

Forestry Sub-committee

Forestry Committee meeting is scheduled for December 1st 2015; Kevin Knauth will give an update on status on the restoration/salvage efforts due to fires in our area and explain the impact on our CFLR project.

WAC Sub-committee

Patty reported that monitors up at Camp Nine are up and going. ITDL has a \$75,000 grant and they are doing 3rd party monitoring and validation through a contract with the Western Transportation Institute. The contractor said this is by far the most sophisticated system he has seen. ITD bought another system and installed it near Silverwood.

TMDL

Upcoming meeting for the 5 year review process is on the 21st of January.

Pacific Northwest Trail

Brad Smith and Dan Dinning are heading up the subcommittee for the northern part of Idaho; the first meeting will be on the 27th of January and they will be reviewing the route.

Correspondence:

We received an email/survey from a group in Oregon that is evaluating forest and collaborative group's success and Patty filled out their survey.

Discussed Adam Arthur being a co-chair (alt.) Dave suggested we wait to hear from him on that.

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program 5 year report is out and was e-mailed to everyone.

Mitch Silvers with Senator Mike Crapo's office – reported on projects being undertaken on the Payette and Clearwater National Forests in cooperation the Clearwater Basin Collaborative. He also mentioned that the Wildland fire disaster bill still moving its way through Congress.

Dianna Ellis updated everyone on the Federal Lands Access Programs. One proposal was for the Myrtle Creek Bridge Replacement but that one fell out as they felt it was still in good condition. The second proposal was for the Riverside/Westside road and the proposal request was for \$3.78 million, but was approved for \$3.933 million – all contingent on the Transportation Bill currently in Congress. If all goes well, construction should be in 2018-2019.

Patty reported the Caribou Recovery work is ongoing and the Tribe is working with a Technical Committee; there is a conference call meeting December 11th and a face to face meeting January 13th (technical work group).

Old/New Business:

It was reported that Colleen Trese, IDFG, has transferred to South Idaho and they hope to fill her position by February.

Bob Blanford shared an interesting book "The Recollections and Memoirs of an Early Day Forest Ranger in the Priest Lake Country" – copies will be made and available.

No KVRI Meeting in December.

Closing Comments/Meeting Announcements:

The next KVRI meeting will be January 11th 2016

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Denise Winey

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant