

Draft Meeting Notes  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
September 21, 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  
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests  
Kevin Knauth, (Alt.) Bonners Ferry Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Dave Wattenbarger, Boundary County Soil Conservation District  
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry  
Don Allenberg, Corporate Agriculture  
Patty Perry, KVRI Facilitator & KTOI  
Shandee Alexander, KVRI Recording Secretary & KTOI

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management  
Russ Hegedus, Idaho Forest Group  
Dave Gray, Social/Cultural/Historical (Alt.)  
Dianna Ellis, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge  
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League  
Stan Galloway, Idaho Department of Lands  
Tom Fler, Idaho Department of Lands

**Opening:**

Dan Dinning opened and welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting; introductions followed. The July 20th meeting notes were approved by consensus.

It was announced that Shandee Alexander will be leaving her position with KVRI and Denise Winey will be filling the position.

**Committee Updates:**

**Forestry Sub-committee**

Monitoring Report- Patty reminded the Board that as a requirement of the CFLR project, KVRI is responsible for reporting on the socio-economic impacts of the project. Dan, Kevin Knauth and Patty pursued contracting to prepare the report. In doing so, it was recognized that the report will be shared broadly and credibility is important. So, the choice was made to contract with Steve Petersen, a professor from the University of Idaho – who has developed similar documents, to assimilate all the information to date and prepared the report. After reviewing the report, the board authorized payment of \$5000 to Steven Petersen.

Brushy Mission 2 (Brush Lake) – Stewardship sale. 4.5 mmbf awarded to Idaho Forest Group. The stewardship part of it will be fixing the road.

Hellroaring- 16mmbf sale. Private bids; will be awarding soon.

Resource Advisory Committee- has enough members to meet and to prioritize projects and make decisions. Expectations of an early February meeting.

Fire suppression costs- had to cancel out certain contracts that were out for bid; some of the primary things... culvert work, bridge work, road repair work. Roughly \$250,000 CFLRP dollars from here on the panhandle will be used in order to help balance the suppression costs.

Fire update-

Dan expressed how impressed he was with how the fire suppression teams were ran, and the communication that was relayed to the community. He did not hear any ill reports against anyone, and that there were no serious injuries.

Kevin Knauth's update- total fire size around 6500 acres including FS, BLM, IDL and private lands. The Peat bog has been a problematic area, and there is still heat up above Long Canyon.

Kurt Pavlat's update- about 560 acres of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). Typically there's no salvage logging in WSA. There were smaller WSA fires in Shoshone County. Cottonwood burned 20k-24k acres; there will be salvage logging. Clearwater Complex also burned many BLM acres.

\$3.8- \$3.9 million was spent on the Parker Ridge fire.

### **WAC Sub-committee**

Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dave Gray and Dan Dinning will be talking to JoJo Baker about the WAC committee and KVRI on KBF1's noon radio show.

Next WAC committee meeting will be September 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Tribal office at 8:30. ITD has contracted with Western Transportation Institute and Bryce Sloan, as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party validator. They will report at the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Correspondence:**

Patty announced that there is a weekly construction update on the Bonners Ferry Islands project, and to let her know if anyone would like to receive the updates electronically.

Update- A letter from the new Regional Forester, Leanne Martin. She may be in Sandpoint in the near future, and Patty will get a chance to go chat with her about KVRI. Billy Barquin has worked with Leanne Martin in Washington DC on Forestry issues; he highly recommends her.

The NEPA information, on the Deer Creek project, will be electronic and available online.

### **Old/New Business:**

The new meeting schedule for 2016 was distributed to the Board & made available to others. It will be posted on the website as well.

Fairbooth- Thank you to Kevin Greenleaf and Shandee for putting up the Fairbooth; nice job!

#### Pacific Northwest Nation Scenic Trail-

Kevin Knauth provided an update -- he handed out the News Release, along with a map of the trail.

The trail was authorized in 2009. A Federally recognized Advisory Council has been appointed to develop a route; the first meeting will be Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> in Sandpoint. The advisory council's job is to see if the trail can be tweaked, if work can be done and how to prioritize. The council will address details and work through the process. Currently, the route has many road miles, so some of it will look at getting the trail off road and making more trails. On the Bonners Ferry District, the Bear Management Units will make this a challenge.

Brad Smith mentioned that this area will be the most challenging segment of the trail. With grizzly bear habitat issues, private ownership and road mileage. There can be multiple uses of the trail but it is supposed to be non-motorized.

There are three local representatives that have been appointed to the committee: Dan Dinning representing the State of Idaho; Brad Smith representing Wildlife Organizations; Kevin Knauth representing U.S. Forest Service-Northern Region.

FLAP- Dianna Ellis updated the group on the Federal Lands Access Program.

- Myrtle Creek Bridge project (requesting \$2.2 million) will not be funded. There could be in-house improvements done before being funded.
- Riverside Road project (requesting \$3.8 million) is now ranked #2 statewide. This will be recommended for full funding to the project decision committee. The final decision should come out by November.

Dianna said that it was a really good team effort. Some members of the committee suggested that the project proposals be used as outstanding examples for future applicants.

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

The next KVRI meeting will be October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Shandee Alexander

KTOI/KVRI Admin. Assistant