



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

December 13, 2023 | 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Location: St Mary's Mission, Toledo, WA

In attendance

Board Members: John O'Brien, Ashley Short, John Squires, Sharon Hanna, Bob Guenther, David Owen. Matt Comisky*, Anjolene Ngari. *Staff:* Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.

US Forest Service: Theresa Tanner USFS, Josh Chapman* USFS.

Guests and Visitors: Brook Squires, Dalton Fry, Anna Baklund*, Gina Owen,* Andrew Spaeth*, Forest Resiliency Div., Christina Donehower, CIT.

Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

Today's agenda. MOTION to approve: Bob Guenther; second David Owen. **CARRIED.**

November meeting minutes. MOTION to approve: Ashley Short; second Sharon Hanna. **CARRIED.**

Treasurer's report, Ashley Short: Current balance is **\$6,586.67** in the checking account. Credit Card balance is \$0. MOTION to approve: Anjolene Ngari; second David Owen. **CARRIED.**

Funding, Janene Ritchie.

Janene said she will invoice the Forest Service for \$17,788 and DNR for \$5,400. After the new year, our DNR contract will be amended.

Janene had a meeting with Sarah Cooke of the Cowlitz Tribal Foundation Statewide Fund which she said went well. Sarah suggested gifting the money, rather than using a grant process. She requested a strategic plan and budget and imagined we might be approved for \$50K per year for two to three years.

Janene said her heavy focus on managing current grant contracts and agreements has taken away from doing other work. She would like to use some of the funds to develop a long-term funding strategy.

Also, Janene said the Network for Conservation Catalyst Fund is another Collaborative capacity funding source she is interested in pursuing in March or April. There are rumors that the National Forest Foundation's Collaborative Capacity Program may be coming back online.

ACTION ITEMS:

Janene will add a report on the Huckleberry monitoring project to the Annual Meeting agenda.

● In progress.

Constance will send the forest service (Josh) Pinchot Partners current logo. Complete.

Operations Committee Overview: Anjolene Ngari

The committee approved giving both contractors retroactive raises for the pay periods of June, July and August, 2023, pending sufficient funds in the bank account. The amount totaled by Ashley is \$253.00 for Janene and \$527.50 for Constance. These amounts will be added to the contractors' invoices in January 2024.

Anjolene also said the committee talked about the Board setting up our ED for success by being more involved. A new job description will be presented at the January meeting prior to Janene's review.

Forest Service Update: Josh Chapman.

[GP Plantation Thinning and POD Discussion](#)

Programmatic Action

To get more restoration projects done at a larger and more efficient scale, the Forest Service is proposing a Programmatic Action to submit a NEPA to cover all remaining previously regenerated stands on the forest less than 80 years of age, to exclude stands thinned within the last 20 years.

Plantation thinning would occur in the Western Washington Restoration Collaboration Zone, which includes Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and Olympic National Forest. The project includes road, trail, forest management, special uses and administrative facility maintenance and would follow a consistent set of design criteria for all three forests.

See link to pdf document above for more details.

Potential Operational Delineation (POD)

Plan is to create pre-treated areas to manage fire along roadsides. Thinning and pile burning would occur by hand with no tracked equipment.

Question for the group:

The FS could cover this work with one NEPA Environmental Analysis EA, or as a Categorical Exclusion.

Concerns were:

- Likely appeals among the environmental community.
- CE could become a problem if it couldn't be stopped.
- Doesn't factor in plantation use for habitat.
- Environmental community supports if there is an acreage cap.
- BDO – use the fuel source.
- FS doesn't have the resources.
- Needs to factor in Cultural resources.

Forest Service Update, Theresa Tanner

Yellowjacket EA: Wanted to make sure we did our due diligence with the tribes and various partners.

Discussion ensued around the 180 foot no-harvest buffers in the EA.

Theresa will provide Janene with dates for Field trips regarding the Cowlitz Complex Fire (possibly in January) as the basis for another wildfire conversation, and one to talk about root rot.

Tree Round Timeline: Bob Guenther, Constance, Janene

Bob met with the superintendents of public schools for Lewis County and received enthusiastic emails back regarding placement of the rounds in the schools. Other possible sites for distribution: DNR office, Cispus Learning Center, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the County Courthouse. Constance will create a Google doc of a running list of possible sites/recipients.

The bottom bracing bar would include the Pinchot Partners logo, the word “collaboration,” the Forest Service logo, and “manufactured by Denny Larson and Bob Guenther.” On the back would be the date 1720.

Constance showed the design that would appear on the placard that will rest on the bracing bar. Discussion ensued about readability, ways to include more about collaboration and addition of the Pinchot Partners URL.

Constance will submit the final list to Gala at the FS who will get the verbiage approved by both tribes.

Operations Update: Janene Ritchie

Janene voiced appreciation to Theresa Tanner for keeping us informed, increased engagement over the last six months and the opportunity to attend the IDT meetings.

Janene will submit the annual report to the Secretary of State tomorrow.

She said she was proud of our accomplishments in 2023 and looked forward to more in 2024.

New Business

Dalton Fry introduced a project we might be interested in supporting: a potential wildlife crossing over I-5 by the rest stop near Toutle and Toledo.

John O'Brien reported that Elliot Johnson said fish are being released at Stan Music Bridge on the Cispus River.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am
Minutes prepared by Sharon Hanna
Notes taken by Constance Mears