Pinchot Partners Monthly Meeting

May 18th, 2022

In Person/Via Zoom

**In attendance:** In Person: Janene Ritchie, John Squires, Nika Hernandez, Bill Little, John O’Brien, Pete Krabbe, Sharon Hannah, Tiffini Johnson, Molly Whitney, Ashley Short CFC, Anna Backlund, TRED Lightly, Andrew Spaeth, Collin Swanson. Online: Fred Norman, Sarah Kohout (Cantwell), Elizabeth Robinson, Christina Donehower, Cheyenne Adamonis, Bob Guenther, Eli Asher, Gina Owen. Kacy Cadre, Recreation Staff Officer, FS

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Pete Krabbe

**MOTION: A motion was made to approve today’s agenda 1st: John Obrien 2nd: Bill little-MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION: A motion was made to approve the April 20th, 2022, meeting minutes 1st: Bill Little 2nd: John O’Brien-MOTION CARRIED**

**Treasures Report/Janene Ritchie:** The Key Bank balance is $36,050.01. We have had two transactions and are expecting a third due to the Microsoft subscription.

**MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Treasurers Report 1st: John Obrien 2nd: Sharon Hannah- MOTION CARRIED**

**Programming Meeting:**

Communications Coordinator Update: The Hiring Subcommittee met last week and the week prior. Four applications have been received. John Squires excused himself due to relationship to applicant. The post has been reposted; the subcommittee is working on a date to reconvene on those. We have seen promising candidates in the second round. Janene will be reaching out to share those with the board. Interviews will take place within the next couple of weeks.

Executive Director Update: Janene attending the Northwest Community Forest coalition in Spokane in the first week of May. There were two days of field tours 1st owned and managed by Kalispel Tribe for education, different ways to manage their land. Pine Street Woods, Managed by small trust. Education and Recreation. This was a great opportunity. We are on national forest land. Janene met Josh Petit for the first time in person. It was a great experience. It was great to be in person and represent the Pinchot partners.

Janene will be preparing a 4k invoice. That grant will wrap up in June as well as contracting. Position Statement Committee will meet in the first week of June.

Forest Service Updates:

Yellow Jacket / Elizabeth Robinson: The EA is wrapping up with the exception of a few edits. The Forest Service will have this out for the 30-day notice and comment. Elizabeth stated that this will be sent out to the Pinchot Partners in advance.

John Squires asked how many roads of decommission or stabilization is proposed. Elizabeth Robinson states they are looking at 11 miles of closures and stabilizing 18 different portions of roads. Decommissions: They have proposed 33 miles of existing forest service roads. Elizabeth Robinson will send out some maps via email. Bridgework- Those are road bridges. They have a lot of trail bridges that they have been working on. Andrea Durham, Rec planner- had identified lots of trail work that needed to be completed in the YJ trail area. Allot of this has been tread improvement on the motorized trail.

Skate Creek: There are things that they really improved on in Krause Ridge. Things will continue to improve. Gar Abbas signed the project initiation letter in 2019 then went on detail. This then put us on unsettled ground- then going into the pandemic. Our ability to work together and communication this is the biggest thing to add to our success. Folks need to pull together areas that we need to make some adjustments in Such as the rest area and spotted owl circles. There are several things the Forest Service wants to look at. The next IDT meeting will be June 14th.

Nikia Updates: We are all very aware of the Skate Creek trash, human waste, and abuse from human use. This is going to be a very conflicting thing to manage. How do we manage this corridor whether this stays in the EA or is taken out?

Nikia has asked the team to consider inter-riparian reserves. This is a great source for the logs needed for restoration work. The Forest Service will continue to look for increased OHV opportunities. The process and timing for certain steps has not been ideal for Riparian Reserves with JD Jones.

Acoustic Recording in Monitoring on Skate Creek: Plots will be in this year we will see better data than we have had on spotted owl in some time.

Nikia – Urges us to think seriously about saving life and property and look into making a barrier around places like Packwood. Some sort of way to buffer this/ Janene mentions that the meeting we talked about community wildfire protection programs. This is something the Pinchot Partners may want to consider applying for funding on. HB 1168 house bill provided funding for community resilience program. Work directly with community partners to prevent wildfire event. Community based. Grants will be available for communities that want to implement fire wise principles. We may want to consider checking in with the County and see what their plan is to update the CWPT. Andrew Spaeth may follow up on this. Nikia does not believe the county currently has a CWPT plan at this time. This work is critically important. If our fires get going like they do in the east, we are in big trouble.

Trash Force had a cleanup last Friday. They had tons of trash on the skate creek. Huge turn out for volunteers. Nikia is always surprised at the amount of trash that is pulled out of the forest.

Packwood Trail Proposal: Nikia has agreed to try and move this forward into NEPA. We wrote a letter in support of getting this moving forward. The reality of the Forest Service taking this on right now is not likely. Much more to come on this.

Packwood Lake: John squires encourages the Forest Service to look at the spawning areas as people net the red band lake trout.

Miles Stipek is in place and is super engaged in the community.

Presale Foresters: Allen Sheetsly is the new Forester working for Cheyenne. His official title is culturist. He has more compacity in his background to do more. We added compacity at the forest level due to GAOA. The Forest Service will be adding a forest environmental coordinator. This is the only forest that we do not have a forest level coordinator. This will take off some of the workload that Sean and Elizabeth Robinson have been doing. This will also help increase compacity and will be a big help to our NEPA planners.

Rec Compacity- The Recreation Planner position has been approved. The plans we envision are areas that have had increased us. Nikia is hoping to see local candidates as well. John Squires states that the hiring process with the Forest Service is broken and causes an impact to the community. Why don’t we have a trail crew? Why can’t this decision be made locally? We know it is broken but apparently, we cannot change it.

Bob Guenther asks how do we put a training program at Centralia College east and address some of these hiring issues and train future employees? John Squires states that we need to invest in the FS as we need them to work well. We need to step up and do things. Long term this needs to be policy change. We have the audience here and listening. We need to reach out to Maria Cantwell/ Jamie Hererra-Beutler and work to get going on the east end. Jamie has been talking about this for some time. The rep staff have been invited to our field trip in June. Christina with Sen Murrays office.

Nikia will be leaving Cowlitz Valley. What kept him at the group was the Pinchot partners and the staff. Bob Guenther asks that Nikia emphasize the work that the Pinchot Partners do to the next in line. Nikia will be departing in July. The position with the Ranger district is vitally important. John squires commends Nikia Hernandez and his leadership

**MOTION: A motion was made to create a letter of support/letter of recommendation for Nikia Hernandez 1st: John O’Brien 2nd: John Squires -MOTION CARRIED**

Roundtable Updates:

Bob Guenther: Create Rounds so we could tell history of a tree that was possible 300-400 years old. Bob will share these with Janene. They have all been cut and are drying. They will start sanding and putting these out. They are still displaying the round in KY. Bob thanks everyone for tuning in on education. Policy changes can be made to make these happen. Bob Guenther suggests bringing the rounds in to put on display at St. Mary’s. Bob would also like to open the meetings with an acknowledgement of the tribe and the land that we are on.

Tilton River: Bob Guenther mentions an 85-acre parcel on the Tilton River. We as a partnership should facilitate and interpretive center for the tribe. that property. Bob Recommends forming a committee to create long range plans to do this with next step and get brains working on this. These are the type of projects that we want to do.

The meeting concluded at 11:30 AM

Notes prepared by,

Fred Norman & Tiffini Johnson