ANNUAL MEETING 2023: FEBRUARY 8
Location: Packwood Fire Hall, Packwood, WA and via Zoom*

FEB 8 MORNING SESSION: 9:00 AM-NOON
In attendance
Board Members: Pete Krabbe, John O’Brien, Anjolene Ngari, John Squires, Ashley Short, David Owen, Bill Little, Matt Comisky, Fred Norman. Staff: Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.
Guests and Visitors: Andrew Spaeth, Environmental Planner in the Forest Resilience Division at the WA Department of Natural Resources; Anna Baklund, Lewis Trails; Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force, Friends of Skate Creek, and Packwood Trail Project.

Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

Today’s agenda. MOTION to approve: John O’Brien. 2nd: Anjolene Ngari. CARRIED.

January meeting Minutes. MOTION to approve: Ashley Short. 2nd: David Owen. CARRIED.

Treasurer’s report. David Owen: Current checking balance is $16,003.86. There has been limited checking account activity. MOTION to approve: John O’Brien. 2nd: Bill Little. CARRIED.

Action items / Key Tasks

Janene will send links to Cheyenne’s slideshow and the article on migration-assisted planting to the Board. ✔ Due: March 8, 2023. Status: Completed.

Board will revisit the Secretary role and amend By-Laws to reflect current needs. ● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

Board will discuss a Communications strategy and set priorities for messaging. ● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

Cheyenne Adamonis will email the list of topic ideas for future meetings. ● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

Andrew Spaeth will inquire about getting a report of how the GNA Wake Sale money has been spent. ● Due: As soon as possible. Status: In progress.

Constance will present another round of logos based on feedback from the board. ● Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.
**Gina Owen** will email the contact information for a Lewis County study on 600 Air B&Bs in the area.  
🟢 Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.

**Bob Guenther** will invite the new Commissioner to join our Board and report back. Matt suggests asking all Lewis Co. commissioners and let them decide who will represent.  
🟢 Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.

**Bob Guenther** will send information to Janene about having Rick Gustafson, Ph.D., present at a Pinchot Partners board meeting. [pulp@uw.edu](mailto:pulp@uw.edu), 206) 543-2790.  
🟢 Due: March 15, 2023. Status: In progress.

**Budget and Funding: Janene Ritchie**  
We are now using Quickbooks. Janene supplied a budget worksheet (attached) for potential funding sources for the 23-24 fiscal years.  
Discussion ensued with suggestions:  
- Request an extra 10% as “unrestricted” funds for flexible expenses, overhead, and cash reserves.  
- Focus two board meetings per year on funding issues, or as needed.  
- Diversify our funding sources as much as possible.

**Board Elections**  
Three Board members were up for renewal: Anjolene Ngari, Fred Norman, and Sharon Hanna.  
MOTION to retain all three: John O’Brien. 2nd: John Squires. **CARRIED**

**2023 Officer Elections**  
Chair: Anjolene nominated Pete Krabbe, who was accepted by acclamation.  
Vice-Chair: Bill Little nominated John O’Brien, who was accepted by acclamation.  
Treasurer: John O’Brien nominated David Owen, who was accepted by acclamation. Ashley will consider stepping in later this year, but needs to check with Molly Whitney.  
Secretary: Anjolene nominated Sharon Hanna, who accepted by proxy (David Owen) and was voted in by acclamation. Suggestions were made to redefine the roles in the by-laws to reflect current duties.  
At Large: Anjolene Ngari and Matt Comisky. Discussion ensued about the purpose and duties of At Large positions.

**Constance Mears Contract Renewal: Janene Ritchie**  
Constance has been in the Communications Coordinator position for 6 months.  
MOTION by Anjolene to renew her contract for 1 year with a review of her rate June 2023 (when new grants are secured) with the possibility of a (retroactive) raise to $22 per hour. 2nd: John O’Brien. **CARRIED**

**Committees**  
Discussion tabled until project and focus priorities are established.

**BREAK**  
Awesome lunch by Squires family.

**PROGRAM MEETING: 1-4 PM**
In attendance

**Board Members:** Pete Krabbe, David Owen, Ashley Short, Anjolene Ngari, John O’Brien, Bill Little, John Squires, Matt Comisky, Fred Norman, Sharon Hanna. **Staff:** Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.

**USFS:** Josh Chapman, Natural Resource Staff Officer; Cheyenne Adamonis, District Silviculturist; J.D. Jones, Fisheries Program Manager; Jennifer Harris, CVRD Zone Fire Management Officer.

**Guests and Visitors:** Sean Tran,* DNR; Kevin Carlson,* DNR; Elliot Johnson, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Biologist; Sheryl Hall, GP Trash Force, Friends of Skate Creek and Packwood Trail Project; Andrew Spaeth, WA Department of Natural Resources; Anna Baklund, Lewis Trails; Peter Sandifer, aide to Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez; Gina Owen, Randle resident.

**Introductions**

**Forest Service Presentation of 2022 Accomplishments: Cheyenne Adamonis**

[Slideshow link.]

**Timber Sales**
- Soldier and Watch timber sales
- 2022 harvest total of 39MBF is down from 2021 total of 42MBF. Anjolene would like follow-up on why that happened.
- 2023 target: 45MBF.

**Recreation Update**
- Trail bridge on Blue Lake #271 Trail funded by Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA).
- Received $153,000 of grant funding for motorized trails through the Recreation Conservation Office.
- Received Title II grants for two Wilderness Rangers.
- Supported the Discovery Team from White Pass High School to work in the Woods Creek area.
- Enlisted Northwest Youth Corps for three weeks of wilderness trail maintenance.
- New or increased fees proposed for recreation sites after amenities are established or improved. Potential fee sites include: Big Creek and La WisWis Guard Stations and Burley Mountain Lookout. FS will use fee revenue to maintain sites.
- 132 of 550 miles of trails maintained, even with no trail crew last year. This shows how important volunteer trail crew work is to recreation. Volunteer groups included: GP Trash Force, Washington Conservation Corps, Discovery Team, NW Youth Corps, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Backcountry Horsemen, Washington Trails Association, Volunteers of Lewis Trails, Northwest Motorcycle Association, Southwest Off-Road Riders Association.

**Great American Outdoor Act Funding**
- FS Road 90 contract for $100,000.
- Road repairs on FS Road 25.
- La WisWis water system improvements.
- Improved Aquatic Organism Passages (AOP) on Camp, Lammy, Cobble, Dry, and Yellowjacket Creeks.

**Other projects**
- Decommissioned roads 4400026, 4400032, and 460025, with the Pinchot Partner EA.
- Removed 1500 danger trees on FS Roads 55, 77, 28, 81, 83, 57 and 58.
- Completed brushing over all of FS road 52, partnering with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.
- Graded FS Roads 21, 23, and 56, with 75 percent completed. Work will resume this spring.
- Installed windows in the bunkhouse and an office gate in Randle.
Vegetation Management
- Thinned 98 acres of Western White Pine, Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, funded from Bromo timber sale. 46 of those acres were an Assisted-Migration planting using stock from varying elevation bands.
- Surveyed 144 acres for natural regeneration on active timber sales for volunteer seedlings after sales.
- Surveyed 21 recently-planted acres to check on seedling health.
- Collected 3 bushels of Western Red Cedar cones to use for replanting.
- Partnered with Lewis County and Washington Conservation Corps to complete 270 acres of invasive species treatments.
- Updated species list on the GPNF to 2700 species, which includes mosses, liverwort, lichens, mushrooms and other vascular plants. Inventory done through volunteer effort.

Special products permits
- Types: Bear grass, salal, mushrooms, berries, transplants and cones, firewood and posts, rails and poles.
- Generated $334,640 in revenue from 2,827 permits for CVRD.
- Gifford Pinchot is the largest supplier of special forest products in the U.S.
- Question: How many citations are being issued to folks who are poaching.
- Discussion: Consider seeking grant money to pay for an economic analysis of the influence that special products have on the community. Josh Chapman is interested in partnering with us to seek a grant.

Fire
- FS responded to 23 fires on the north zone in 2022.
- Performed prescribed fire for fuels management on 704+ acres in 2022.
- Goat Rocks fire is still active, with 66% contained. Presently, 6,196 acres have burned. Jennifer anticipates an October-December announcement of full containment.
- Fire-related road/trail closures based on FS #1 value: protecting the community. Soil instability, snags, etc. present danger to hikers. Suppression repair is ongoing. FS plans to host a public meeting in April or May in Packwood to talk about road closure orders. Jennifer said there will be a small change to the road closure order soon.

Micro-Education Topics
Theresa would like to schedule micro-education topics for future meetings and welcomes input/prioritization of topics such as:
- Fire overview in Western Washington
- Overview of the prescribed fire for forest management and fuel reduction
- Firewise Communities
- Goat Rocks’ Fire
- October/November - status update once it is considered out
- Updates to NEPA: Changes in policy and categorical exclusion
- Implementation: How the work gets done and funding mechanisms.
- Highlight on our many trail partner volunteer organizations
- Socio-economics in timber sales
- Climate change and drought
- Migration-assisted planting strategies
- Root rot (field trip suggestion)
● Identify gaps or needs of Forest Service. How can we help get work done?
● Monitoring on timber sales (TSA/TMA)
● Overview of data sets that the FS is collecting
● Specialist presentations

DNR Update: Sean Tran, District Manager Southwest District, WA Department of Natural Resources
Part of the Forest Resilience Division, focused on restoration projects on Federal lands, funded by the Good Neighbor Authority.

Slideshow link.

DNR Purpose
● Sean’s team implements restoration work focused on Federal lands specifically through post-NEPA-approved timber sale management.
● Revenue from these DNR sales is used for restoration work on the forest from which it came. Some funding is provided by the Good Neighbor Authority.
● **Kevin Carlson** is Lead Restoration Specialist on the GP, and started in mid-November.
● Sean shared new funding mechanisms. Breaking work into smaller contracts will allow small, local businesses to bid on and perform some of the work.

Progress
● 2020: 1 staff member, 1 contract type, 1 restoration project that completed 10 miles of road treatment, and yielded 3MBF to generate $800,000.
● Today: 4+ staff members, 7 contract types, 12 restoration projects, more than 100 miles of road work contracted, 6 AOPs installed, and harvested 31MBF, which will generate approximately $9 million.

BREAK

Watershed Overview: J.D. Jones, FS
Slideshow link.

Backlog of Needs
● Forest-wide, there are 200 known barriers on roads that need hydro-stabilizing: closing roads, pulling culverts, and removing anything that adds sediment to streams.
● In the Cowlitz District, Yellowjacket and Camp are priority locations for work based on watershed indicators such as: terrestrial and aquatic biological metrics, water temperature, road density, wood complexity, and fish barriers. Yellowjacket is considered operating “at risk.”

In-progress and planned creek restorations
● Yellowjacket work plan (once EA is signed): Restore 6 miles of stream, 5 miles of which we want to add wood, 8 miles of road closures and hydro-stabilizing, and two main barriers to replace with open-bottom arch Aquatic Organism Passages (AOPs).
● Camp Creek: Continue instream restoration work (adding wood) in Cispus River, working with CFC.
• Woods Creek watchable wildlife area: Remove bulk of canary grass before we introduce beavers or install analog dams. The area was treated by mowing and applying herbicide.
• Work funded in part by: Cowlitz Recovery Fund ($14 million), given to the Cowlitz Tribe as compensation for the Mossyrock dam; and Legacy Roads Bill ($250 million-nationwide) for AOPs, trails, roads, and watershed restoration.

Vegetation Management
• JD submitted a separate forest-wide vegetation management EA, so work doesn’t need to wait for the site-specific timber-sale focused EAs. He is focused on acquiring more funding now.

Partnerships
• FS is working with partners such as Cascade Forest Conservancy, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and DNR.
• Pinchot Partners members offered backstories on various work areas.

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.
Minutes prepared by Constance Mears and Sharon Hanna.
Notes taken by Constance Mears.