



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

MAY 17, 2023 | 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Location: St Mary's Mission, Toledo, WA and via Zoom*

In attendance

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

USFS: Theresa Tanner, CVRD Ranger; Josh Chapman; JD Jones.

Guests and Visitors: Sheryl Hall*, GP Trash Force; Dalton Fry, CIT Natural Resources Department; Brooke Squires, Packwood resident; Kevin Carlson, DNR; Peter Sandifer*, aide to Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez; Gina Owen, Randle resident*; Christina Donehower*, CIT Tribe Natural Resources Department; Anna Baklund*, Lewis Trails; Elliott Johnson, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

Today's agenda. MOTION to approve: John O'Brien. Second: David Owen. **CARRIED.**

April meeting minutes. Janene noted that presenters' names need to be added to April minutes. MOTION to approve amended minutes: Anjolene Ngari. Second: Ashley Short. **CARRIED.**

Treasurer's report. David Owen: Current balance is **\$10,461.26**. MasterCard has a charge for the Office 365 subscription. Taxes are due through June 30. Mt.View CPA will submit.

Ashley Short has approval from Molly Whitney (CFC) to accept the Treasurer position on July 1.

MOTION to approve May Treasurer's report: John O'Brien. Second: Fred Norman. **CARRIED.**

MOTION to approve Ashley Short to replace David Owen as Treasurer, July 1, 2023: Anjolene. Second: John Squires. **CARRIED.**

Action items / Key Tasks

Janene, Josh Petit, and Peter Sandifer have set a date for a joint collaborative meeting with Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez on **Tuesday, August 22, 2023 from 10am - 2pm**. Location is TBD, but will be in/around Vancouver. Lunch will be provided.

Constance will add presenters names from the April meeting to the attendance list of April Minutes.

✓ Due: May 19, 2023. Status: Completed.

Janene will complete the DNR Building Forest Partnerships application, due June 21st.

✓ Due: June 21, 2023. Status: Will be complete by meeting.

Janene will send a Calendar invite to the Board for the meeting with Cispus Learning Center, for Tuesday, October 3 from 10am to 12pm.

✓ Due: June 14, 2023. Status: Completed.

PROGRAMMING MEETING

ARVO Aquatic Restoration: JD Jones, Fisheries Program Manager, GPNF

[Link to slideshow.](#)

Highlight: A regional Environmental Analysis specifically for aquatic restoration projects has been developed. Signed by the Regional Forester, this streamlines the process by pre-establishing NEPA compliance and separating aquatic restoration components from larger, complex projects.

It focuses on: Aquatic Organism Passages (AOPs), fish passage restoration, small dam removal, riparian vegetation management, non-system road decommissioning, floodplain projects, and in-stream projects.

The program is subject to yearly analysis and must adhere to protocols (IDT review, public notice, et al.) Funds to complete the work come from Timber Recovery Funds, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, hydropower companies, Trout Unlimited, and other NGO partners.

Theresa: Response time is reduced by having the EA approved region-wide. The Forest Service is working on a similar program for vegetation management for stands under 80 years.

Forest Service Update: Theresa Tanner, CVRD Ranger

May 3 Community Meeting on fire issues had a lot of support from the community.

New hires.

A Forest Hydrologist and an Assistant Support position for the Randle office have been filled. A Park Service employee also will be stationed out of the CVRD office. All permanent seasonal employees are on board. New seasonal employees start on Monday, May 22. New Forest Leadership Team is complete. New Deputy Forest Supervisor Dan Scaife will be in Randle at the end of next week. Cowlitz Valley Ranger District still does not have a planner, as four potential detailers fell through.

Yellowjacket Environmental Analysis.

Soil study is in progress. The Forest Service is waiting for environmental conditions, mainly moisture levels, to complete the mollusk survey.

Anjolene: If that doesn't happen this spring, could you possibly split the decision?

Theresa: Will split if we can't get the mollusk survey done.

Public News releases.

La Wis Wis Campground is closed this season for water and electrical systems upgrade.

Operations Update: Janene Ritchie

Revisiting our Mission and Vision.

John O'Brien wants to revisit the phrase: "Encourage sustainable recreation."

Discussion ensued regarding removing the line entirely or changing either *encourage* or *sustainable*.

Sharon moved to change the word encourage to support. David Owen seconded to alter one word in the original statement.

Bob moved to table the motion until further meetings. Second: Ashley Short.

Board voted aye to table the discussion, with John Squires and Fred Norman abstaining. **CARRIED.**

WA Collaborative Meeting Update.

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC) presented two items they would like to see in the Farm Bill:

- Consider less restrictive matching requirements. 1:1 matching requirements can be difficult for smaller collaboratives with fewer/smaller funding opportunities.
- Provide money upfront rather than reimbursements, which helps small nonprofits with cash flow issues.

Grants.

The current DNR Building Forest Partnerships will end June 30. Next round application is due June 21.

Janene is planning to ask for the full \$50k and will send the completed application to the Board.

Janene plans to apply for the Cowlitz Foundation fund, possibly for more Huckleberry management and monitoring.

National Forest Foundation is a matching grant and requirements have changed. Janene will wait until the focus is on Collaborative work.

Discussion ensued to find ways to fund the revival of the Discovery Team.

Janene reached out to Chase Buffington of the Cispus Learning Center and set up an opportunity to tour the center and discuss partnership opportunities. The meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 3 from 10am to 12pm.

Legislative Update: Peter Sandifer

Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez met with the Forest Service Chief Randy Moore.

She is working to expand the Good Neighbor Authority to counties and tribes. She has voiced concerns about FS hiring challenges and suggested giving locals preference when hiring. Peter is working with Janene and Josh Petit of Southern Gifford Pinchot Collaborative to organize a joint session in August.

Other business:

Educational Rounds: Bob Guenther

Seven pieces of plywood have been donated for the project.

Need seven more pieces of 1/2 inch to 5/8 inch plywood.

Will need 72 locking wheels @ \$10 a piece.

Bob has contacted Esco Pacific Signs for the design and production of the educational display. Not sure what the price will be.

Operations Manual: Fred Norman

Fred suggested creating a sub-committee to revisit the operations manual. Janene is working on the by-laws and will provide some suggestions for the Board to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34

Minutes prepared by Sharon Hanna

Notes taken by Constance Mears