



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

February 21, 2024 | 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Location: St Mary's Mission, Toledo, WA

In attendance

Board Members: John O'Brien, Ashley Short, David Owen, Sharon Hanna; John Squires, Anjolene Ngari*, Bob Guenther, Bill Little, Matt Comisky, Andrew Spaeth, DNR Forest Resiliency Div.; *Staff:* Janene Ritchie, Constance Mears.

US Forest Service: Theresa Tanner USFS

Guests and Visitors: Dalton Fry, CIT; Brooke Squires; Peter Sandifer; Brian Dennis & Jake Daley, US Rakeforce; Ben Hagedorn, DNR, Justin Tamez, DNR; Christina Donehower, CIT*; Anna Baklund*, Sheryl Hall, GPTF; Elliot Johnson, WA F&W; Deidre Hayward, WDFW.

Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

Today's agenda. MOTION to approve: Bill Little; second David Owen. **CARRIED.**

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

Treasurer's report, Ashley Short: Current balance is **\$17,919.73** in the checking account. Credit Card balance is \$0. \$475 payment for annual meeting. MOTION to approve: Dave Owen; second John Squires. **CARRIED.**

ACTION ITEMS:

Janene will provide the annual meeting agenda prior to the meeting in March.

● In progress.

Operations Update, Janene Ritchie

Janene and the Board relayed their appreciation to Constance, who is leaving in mid-March.

SAM (System for Award Management) registration is complete and ensures that we can continue to receive funds from the Forest Service.

Janene is researching more funding opportunities: a capacity grant and a Weyerhaeuser grant that specifically focuses on housing and labor development.

Peter Sandifer said Marie's office also has a database of grants.

Janene connected with new Darrington coordinator Maia Innes. They have a Housing Strategy Committee and are looking at hiring a project manager.

She also touched base with Josh Petit about logistics for a joint project on the horizon. Janene said there will be quite a few subcommittees formed next month at the Annual meeting.

Janine is going on vacation to Italy from Feb 28 to March 8.

Tree Round update, Constance

Constance said the FS has routed the text for the placards to both the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Yakama Nation. Dalton Fry described the Cowlitz Tribe's internal process and said approval may happen by early March.

Forest Service Update, Theresa Tanner

Hiring

Overall, the CVRD has been operating with a 40% vacancy rate on personnel.

Timber-related staff are the hardest to recruit and hire, mainly because of housing challenges. The FS has reserved the Wis Wis guard station for personnel housing rather than recreation.

Recent hires include a temporary seasonal timber sales prep person; techs in archeology, botany, and fisheries; and five for fire.

Closures

Work is still needed to repair damages to roads and trails from both the Goat Rocks and the Cowlitz Complex fires. Safety issues prohibit the use of interns for work such as trail maintenance. The loop heaviest hit at Iron Creek is closed for 2024, however, WisWis will be open this year.

Skate Creek

The DNR has been sitting in on the IDT meetings focused on Skate Creek. The FS is working with the Tribes next. The FS will prioritize climate resiliency and community safety, and will work for more consistency with the Skate Creek area as compared with Yellowjacket, which was affected by both the pandemic and turnover in leadership.

Programmatic and CE work

The FS is trying to be more efficient with project turnaround time due to the lengthy NEPA process.

The Forestwide EA — programmatic, Olympic and Mt Baker Snoqualmie, and thinning POD EA is complete, but not posted to the SOPA list yet. The FS has talked with both the north and south zones, and consulted with Fish and Wildlife and Nmps. The Forest leadership team meets next week.

Roads

Deep-patch repair on Skate Creek will require delays in traffic this year, including a 3-week closure. When the road opens in May, expect up to 30-minute delays (patch repairs).

25 Road requires deep patch repairs, including a 3-week closure for a timber sale.

Fire

ISAP fire program continues with ongoing analysis, assessment and planning on what we need going forward regarding staffing and additional needs.

Root Rot field trip

Two pathologists from the regional office will present an overview powerpoint at the CVRD office. The field component will be at the Cispus Center root rot site.

Yellowjacket EA Draft Decision, Ashley.

Cascade Forest Conservancy is considering objecting to the draft decision. A few days before the deadline, we discovered that water quality and quantity decisions may have been made from data at wider levels and might miss site-specific analysis.

Theresa: Objections are a good thing as far as I'm concerned. Litigation is part of the checks and balances process. Sometimes comments bring up things we need to address. We will follow the rules of law as far as the objections. We need to be civil.

AFRC and the DNR will request to participate in the objection review meeting.

Noted: The reason we have collaboratives is to get ahead of litigation.

Annual Meeting agenda, Janene Ritchie

Day 1 - Match 19: Forest Service and DNR presentations.

FS accomplishments

Derek Churchill from DNR will present the Skate Creek landscape evaluation.

Break for LUNCH

Sean Tran will give an update on Good Neighbor Authority work.

In-Depth discussion on restoration through KV funds

Day 2 - March 20: Pinchot Partners business.

- Elections - Board of Directors and Committee volunteers
 - Zones of Agreement - June
 - Communications hiring
 - Job subcommittee
 - By laws manual edits
- Strategic priorities update
- In-Depth discussion on board succession planning

New Business

Morton theater is hosting a film, Living With Wildfire at 5pm, March 24 in Morton. The film is part of a series of events entitled Climate Connections happening in East Lewis County.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am

Minutes prepared by Sharon Hanna

Notes taken by Constance Mears