



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

Pinchot Partners Annual Meeting:
February 16th, 2022
9:00-12:00 PM

Annual Meeting Day 1

In Attendance: Fred Norman, Janene Ritchie, Tiffini Johnson (CIT), Dave Bunting-Publisher/Editor Highway Shopper, William Serahn (Friends of Skate Creek Park), John O'Brien. Anna Baklund (Program Manager Tread Lightly), Pete Krabbe, Bob Guenther, Sean Tran (DNR), Eli Asher (CIT), Angela Elam (FS), David Owen, Bill Little, Rita Asgeirsson (CIT), Matt Comisky, Estan Vargas (DNR), Sharon Hanna, Anjolene Ngari, Molly Whitney (CFC), John Squires, Sheryl Hall (GPTF), Elizabeth Robinson, Robert Harju (CIT), Gina Owen (Concerned citizen).

MOTION: A motion was made to approve today's agenda 1st: John O'Brien 2nd: Fred Norman -MOTION CARRIED

Treasures Report/David Owen: The current balance in checking is \$48,804.61. We have passed the review with flying colors by Mountain View CPA. This review allows us to apply for additional funding opportunities and is a starting point for now and the future. All deposits go into the KeyBank checking account. An itemization of all credit card charges is available upon request. There are limited opportunities for funds to go missing based upon our current set up.

David Owen is struggling with updating authorized signors with the existing bank. The minutes provided were not acceptable to the bank due to the account number and bank not being listed on the minutes. Tiffini, David and Janene will work together to get that information on the resolution.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the Treasures report 1st: John O'Brien 2nd: Bill Little – MOTION CARRIED

Budget Information/Funding Overview/Janene Ritchie: We are currently in middle of the 21-22 DNR Building Forest Partnerships Contract. This supports personnel, admin. costs, outreach and funding for position statements and zones of agreement. We do not have the RAC funding agreement in place yet. Elizabeth Robinson and Janene are working on this. This is a 75,000 award. We were initially supposed to receive the funding in 2021 but we did not (Janene believes that some of this could be used for the discovery team, she will clarify with Nikia). Elizabeth Robinson is now the point person for the Discovery Team. The Discovery Team has money for the next season. Cascade Forest Conservancy huckleberry work has been on hiatus. The Nation Forest Foundation Funding, this has not yet been approved. This is a 6k grant, if awarded will go towards trail maintenance in woods creek for widening, culvert, recompacting and graveling. There are two rounds of this funding every year. The Building Forest Partnerships Grant for 2021 has been closed out. We also closed out two Forest Service agreements as well. This supported some of the Krause Ridge /Yellow Jacket areas. The National Forest Foundation used to have a community collaborative for funding to support collaborative rolls. This has not been active and will not be coming back. Janene is hoping to see additional funding source opportunities soon and moving towards another model that is more sustainable.

Skate Creek Park Ownership Transfer/ Bill Serahn: A Presentation was given to members and visitors. This is to inform the group and to gain public support. The Skate Creek Park natural area is a 175-acre parcel that is surrounded by private property the site encompasses the last public access to lower Skate Creek. The site also boasts ½ mile of Cowlitz River frontage. In the 2010 area management plan, this was not suitable for overnight camping activities. A 1901 BLM map noted an "Indian Cabin" on Skate Creek per Jim Yoke. Skate Creeks offers season access and hiking. This site is the only low elevation hiking area in Packwood. This area is also prime elk habitat for mating, calving area and eagle habitat There is a variety of waterfalls as well as being a family friendly park.

In 2009 there was very little use of the area. This area is now one of the most popular natural attractions in the region. The property has been managed by State Parks since 1990. A park plan should be agreed upon before transfer. There has been talk of an RV Park. The state parks commission had no idea this was going on. State Parks real-estate however did. Fred Norman Proposes that the Pinchot Partners write a letter to the state and county. The county could be a good title holder to this parcel. It has already been demonstrated. With the county it might be easier to get the things that are needed for this property. We need to work together to make this a success for all of us. State Parks wants to go with a 15-year plan. David Owen asks if it would be reasonable to develop a park plan to make it easy for them to choose their direction. It was recommended to continue to work with Lee Gross on this and get something done with him asap. William Serahn would love any support to keep this park a natural area. The Pinchot Partners will re-visit this at the March meeting. The preference is whoever owns it keeps it in its current natural state as much as possible.

Elections: Board Officers, Nominations took place and are listed in exhibit A.- Board of Director Elections, New members are listed on exhibit A.

MOTION: A motion was made to maintain the current list of directors on the board with current staggered terms. 1st: John O'Brien 2nd: Bob Guenther. MOTION CARRIED

2022 Project Discussions & Prioritization/Janene Ritchie: We did not get to have a meeting with the south Gifford Pinchot group. Not many schools were met with. One funding opportunity, DNR All Lands grant program did not happen for us this year. The National Forest Foundation matching award was applied for this year (2022). Pinchot Partners: Project prioritization, Fred Norman requests to add the Huffaker Bridge and Huckleberry planning as priority items. Molly Whitney has mentioned there are challenges due to no baseline data. Cascade Forest Conservancy has applied for funding to pick this back up again. The Clark County fund may be a good area to search to fund this type of work per John O'Brien. Huckleberry data gathering has been a priority for the Pinchot Partners. With the new Forest Service agreement, the funding may be available for this. Jessica Hudec is back from leave and may be a good contact. Matt asks for more clarity on GNA and how it is an additive in the GPNF plan? Anjolene would also like to have a conversation about the socio economics of the Yellow Jacket sales. Field trips would be good on Skate Creek and rd. 52. Elizabeth states that in August & September deep patch repair work will begin. Tethered Logging site visits are a wish list for a field trip on unit 42 & 46 thinning sites. Pete would like to see spotted owl monitoring. Woods Creek fireside chats, this is going to start happening again soon. The 20th Anniversary retreat, this will have to be pushed to 2023 We would still like to schedule a joint meeting with South Gifford in late summer.

Position Statement Committee: We need to choose two new sections for the following year. The PSC will need to complete two sections by June 2022.

Public Relations: It is time to start discussing hiring a PR person. We can discuss details at a later date. This is something that our board can think about. Janene will circulate hours, pay rate & responsibilities. This would be a really great addition to the Pinchot Partners team.

Good of the Order:

Cowlitz Arts and Education Invite: We are sending two people on 2/21 Janene & Pete CLT will also be present at this meeting.

Anjolene's Field trip Ideas: It would be beneficial to do some community outreach fieldtrip and what this means for the overall watershed health

Privacy Policy: Fred states that we should have a privacy policy.

CFC: Molly states that Ashley Short will start March 1st.

GPTF: Sheryl Hall states that people must be trained to pick up trash along state highways.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM

Meeting minutes prepared by,
Fred Norman & Tiffini Johnson



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Pinchot Partners Annual Meeting:
February 23rd, 2022
9:00-12:00 PM

Annual Meeting Day 2

In attendance: Pete Krabbe, Tiffini Johnson, Sheryl Hall, Nikia Hernandez, David Owen, Bill Little, Janene Ritchie, John Squires, John O'Brien, Christina Donehower, Sean Tran, Cheyenne Adamonis, Anna Baklund, Molly Whitney, Eli Asher, Elizabeth Robinson, Estan Vargas, Judith Roberts, Kyung Koh, Late Day, Sharon Hanna, Bob Guenther, Anjolene Ngari, Matt Comisky, Fred Norman, Dave Bunting, Gina Owen, Angela Elam and Mary Bresee.

Welcome and introductions

Forest Service Updates/Nikia Hernandez: The FS has filled several positions and is in the process of hiring several others. Housing availability still remains a concern, this is a challenge. The Forest Service asks if there are any leads on housing to please inform them asap. The new law enforcement officer should be finishing up his second month in the field and should be here in less than a month. He has quickly become a great asset and a hero. Angela Elam has accepted a new detail. We are sad to see her go but excited for the opportunity for her.

Great American Outdoors Act: Lots of opportunities coming their way. There is a national hiring event for engineers. The Forest Service did a forest wide road maintenance stewardship plan, so they could prioritize.

SRS/RAC: Funding for road maintenance was awarded. The road grader has been on back order. This may not allow grading of roads until next spring.

Camp Creek Aquatic Passage: A culvert will be replaced on the 23 road this summer. This will be a major closure. The reroute is no longer an option on 28. We will be getting some major repairs done through the Great American Outdoors Act. The 23/21 will be graded this year. Skate Creek will be brushed. Some fill will be done but no major projects on Skate Creek. Rock pits/gravel pits will be developed for some of this work.

Hoffaker Bridge: Some funding is on hand, and we are trying to get more. The regional office reached out to make sure we are committed to it by signing the design. This is another delay; recreation is part of the biggest challenge facing the agency currently.

Anna Baklund would love to collaborate on how they can be better stewards of the trails. John Squires voices his thoughts on the hiring algorithm. This is not formatted to hire locals. Nikia states that he is aware of the hiring issues. Anjolene Ngari would be glad to assist with outreach to graduating seniors in the local community. Bob Guenther has some ideas as well. Anjolene suggests forming a hiring subcommittee.

Special Forest Products: Firewood Permits are free for personal use. For those interested in commercial firewood, please contact the Forest Service.

Planning/Yellow Jacket: The EA draft will be out in March. Many good things are coming out of Yellowjacket. There will be reconstruction on over 30 miles. There will also be 4800 acres scheduled for timber harvest in that area.

Scenic Vistas: There is targeted veg. removal on the 23, 28 & 29 road. Scenic drives are the number one recreation activity. The Forest Service will be creating 150 acres of snags for bird habitat. Some logs have been designated specific for in stream restoration work.

Aquatics Program on the Forest/Kate Day: Kate provided a slideshow on the watershed condition framework. This is a 6-step national strategy to improve accountability in prioritization, planning and tracking aquatic restoration. They have



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completed three priority watersheds. New Priority Watersheds for FY 2022: Mount Adams: Dry Creek & Headwaters Wind River, Work in the Cowlitz Valley, Yellow Jacket Creek Essential Project, completion of the projects in 2027 with 8.5 million investments. Kate gave an overview of the Pacific Northwest Region Aquatic Restoration EA Procedure. John Squires asks if the restoration folks go back up to those sites to see if this work was effective? Follow up is not always required as long as it is properly designed and functioning per Eli Asher

Forest Service Patrol: The Captain will be glad to attend future meetings. They currently have 3 officers and one in training. Patrol has been seeing an increase in recreation-based calls. Stolen maple has become an issue but thanks to tree DNA this helps with convictions. Skate Creek has become popular for homeless camps. It is a problem but not as big as central Oregon. We are going to try to address the problem and stay on top of this. The biggest challenge is the officers. Their work has been tough but they are excited to add an additional person.

Region 6/Mary Bresee: They have the remaining volume under contract. The IRSE Integrated service contract for FY 2022 is 164 MBF and is 4th in the region. We have 11 stewardship sales 19 timber sales, the 4 GNA Remaining are bought sales. In the Gifford Pinchot 5 of the 7 sales sold 3.1 million in retained receipts coming in for future project work

GNA/Sean Tran: The theme for this year is the growth. We have 2 new foresters to the GP and 3 new foresters on the Olympic Forest. Estan Vargas will be serving the north zone. Emeline Kemper will be focused on the south zone. In 2019 there was a strong focus on timber sales. After this year they will have 6 active timber sales. In contract they have 22 mbf. They have been able to complete 9 aquatic improvement projects and 94 miles of deferred maintenance. 11 miles of decommissioning, 300 pre-commercial thinning acres, deep patch repair on the 25 road (this has been 3 years in the making). To date 255k has been spent on patch repairs.

Recreation Program Manager, Kyung Koh: GAOA - For the funding year 2021, all new toilets are coming. They hope to see removal and installation this field season (2022). Other purchases are fire rings and picnic tables. They expect these to be delivered this year (100-200). Fiscal Year 2022 The trail bridge replacement on Cowlitz valley and the Blue Lake trail bridge replacement are anticipated if the funding comes in in a reasonable amount of time. The High Bridge replacement will begin next summer,

Northwest youth corps will be coming to the forest for 5 weeks. John Squires asks that this be placed in the District Rangers hands. The last concessionaire was a big problem, revenues are only going to go up in the campgrounds.

Quarry development on Big Creek. The Forest Service hopes to get rock for some deep patch repairs on the 25 road. Several AOP contracts are going on. Lammy Creek AOP will be installed on 4765. Skate Creek brushing was done in coordination with the Muckleshoot tribe. More roads will be decommissioned this summer. They have a road crew of one right now.

Nikia Hernandez, is amazed at all of the work that gets done in the engineering department. Getting the contract and getting the money together was done thanks to Sarah Rockey. The county received a lot of calls and accolades. Thanks to Sarah. Nikia is excited about the newer program managers. They are productive and innovative group. There is a lot of energy and excitement, Appreciation goes to all of our staff. Their planning efforts, energy during a time of shortages.

Nikia is excited about the volunteer groups, Friends of Skate Creek Park, CFC does a lot of volunteer work. We are excited to have Anna with Tread lightly she has a wonderful skillset.

Leave no trace workshop They are an aging workgroup, but they are active. These are wonderful partnerships.

Skate Creek: they are excited to start doing something different with Skate Creek they want to bring in the specialist sooner. Bring them in and prioritize and focus on good quality habitat. We are working with the PNW Research station to help us identify spotted owl habitat and where there is higher probability of habitat.



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We are entering into a stewardship agreement with Muckleshoot to get work done.

Seasonal workforce: They did get many folks hired. They planned for 25 but hired 20 give or take. They bring a sense of excitement and energy. They are the ones getting the real work done without them we would not be successful.

The meeting concluded at 12:41 PM

Meeting minutes prepared by,

Fred Norman & Tiffini Johnson