



Pinchot Partners

WORKING ON COMMON GROUND

OCTOBER 19, 2022 | 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

In attendance

Board Members: Pete Krabbe, Ashley Short, Anjolene Ngari, John O'Brien, Matt Comisky, Sharon Hanna, Bill Little, Bob Guenther; *Executive Director:* Janene Ritchie; *Communications Coordinator:* Constance Mears
USFS: Theresa Tanner CVRD District Ranger, Elizabeth Robinson, Forest Environmental Planner,* Jody Nickerson Powell, Community Engagement Officer* *Guests:* Elliot Johnson, WAF&W Biologist; Harry Bhagwandin; Greg LaDue-Grove, Anna Baklund*, Sheryl Hall,* GP Trash Force; Andrew Spaeth, DNR; Christina Donehower, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Natural Resources Department* Jordan Zettle,* Sustainable NW Wood

Introductions

Special welcome to new USFS District Ranger Theresa Tanner. Theresa most recently served as a District Ranger in Western Virginia. She worked in Alaska for the Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Business Meeting

Today's agenda. MOTION to approve: John O'Brien; 2nd: Ashley Short - CARRIED

July meeting minutes. MOTION to approve: John O'Brien; 2nd: Anjolene Ngari - CARRIED

Treasurer's report. Janene on behalf of David Owen: Current balance of **\$26,785.39** in checking, no unusual expenses. Insurance due in November. MOTION to approve: Ashley Short; 2nd: John O'Brien - CARRIED

Action items / Key Tasks

Janene Ritchie: Provide story map from Jordan Zettle's presentation to attendees.

✓ Due: when available. Status: Completed Oct. 24. See map: <https://www.futureforestsnorthwest.org/pdx-next>

Janene Ritchie: Re-distribute Bob Guenther's tree round timeline to the Partners to gain additional timeline ideas. Work with Constance and Bob to create a design concept for the timeline.

✓ Due: When possible. Status: Completed October 24th

Elizabeth Robinson: Provide RAC meeting update and open position status to Janene for distribution to attendees.

● Due: When available. Status: In progress.

Andrew Spaeth: Provide PNW Wildfire Risk research to Janene for distribution to attendees.

✓ Due: When available. Status: Completed October 24.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/groups/west-side-fire-and-climate-adaptation-research-initiative>

Elizabeth Robinson: Update Partners with status of Discovery Team.

● Due: After her consultation with Theresa. Status: In progress.

Bob Guenther: Explore opportunities to support Discovery Team with director of Pacific Workforce Council and advise Partners

● Due: When possible. Status: In progress.

Presentation - Jordan Zettle, Sustainable NW Wood

Jordan Zettle described recent projects and activities the company has undertaken to source, track, and promote the use of sustainably harvested wood products to “green markets,” architects, designers, and the public.

The company helps managers of public, tribal, and small family forests to obtain Sustainable Forest Certifications (SFC’s) for products from harvests that “go above and beyond” normal management practices. For example, SFCs have been granted to products from National Forest restorations and harvests focused on fire suppression, wildlife and watershed protection, longer rotations, and other conservation goals.

Sustainable NW Wood is currently working on a project for the new terminal at the Portland Airport which is using sustainably harvested wood tracked to specific local forests of origin. Signage in the terminal will identify the specific origins and help educate the public about sustainable harvesting. See

<https://www.futureforestsnorthwest.org/pdx-next>

Discussion:

Bob Guenther: Sustainable NW Wood practices could be of interest to the Lewis County Economic Alliance whose next meeting is focused on forest products. They are currently exploring local CL (laminated) manufacturing opportunities.

Matt and Anjoline: While wood tracking to a specific forest is generally not done by Hampton and other large mills, Hampton is SFI certified and a portion of its product might qualify for SFC-certification based on the percentage of sustainably harvested products it processes.

Anna in chat: Telling the story of local, sustainably harvested wood is important - it helps educate and engage the public.

Tree Round Update - Bob Guenther

Bob Guenther reported that tree rounds are completely dried, banded to prevent further cracking, and ready to be mounted and signed with tree-ring timelines that cover the tree’s life from 1720 to 1950. Approximately 20 rounds will be donated by the Partners to local schools.

Guenther requested the Partners’ help to complete the timeline with meaningful local events so that a placard can be designed and produced, possibly with a QR code to describe the tree’s origin. Money will be needed for the mounting, plaques, and possibly a cart to deliver the rounds to schools.

Zones of Agreement Committee Update - Janene Ritchie

Riparian Reserves. Janine requested approval of the Riparian Reserves Position Statement with the caveat that consensus could not be reached on generalized prescriptions and blanket no-cut zones. Instead, the document outlines actions that the Partners can all endorse: identification of riparian areas early in the NEPA process, site-specific planning, and re-consideration of no-cut policies in areas where watershed health could be improved by treatment.

MOTION to approve: John O'Brien; 2nd: Bill Little - CARRIED

Recreation. The committee is now in the learning/discovery phase for a Recreation Position Statement. Ashley - suggested that Jody Nickerson may want to join the Rec committee.

Communications Update - Constance Mears

Video and newsletter sign-up activated on the website. *Working on Common Ground* downloadable pdf and handout created to explain what our Collaborative does. Newsletter/website will be the primary venues to tell stories about our work. Working on developing social media "original content" to generate website traffic. Press (from Chronicle) came to Field Trip and published a positive article.

Operations update - Janene Ritchie

Sean Roome, Green River Valley Alliance, will give an update on Mt. Saint Helens advocacy campaign at next month's meeting. A letter of support from the Cowlitz Indian Nation is currently going through Cowlitz tribal approval channels, according to John O'Brian and Christina Donahauer.

Pinchot Partners is expecting a \$75,000 grant from a USFS challenge cost share agreement. \$12,000 is earmarked for Cascade Forest Conservancy's huckleberry monitoring and the rest will cover travel, communications, and salaries. Funds are delayed due to a new USFS contracting process, according to Elizabeth.

Closing out two older grants. Janene will submit invoices for Title 2 and WA Department of Natural Resources funding by year-end.

We are developing a 2023 outreach strategy with community events that will build rapport and allow Pinchot Partners to better represent the community voice.

Janene is meeting with Pinchot Partners treasurer David Owen and Mountain View CPA to update our accounting to Quickbooks which will streamline the end-of-year tax process.

Janene is taking the first week of December off to attend a [Udall Foundation](#) skills development course on Collaboration. She will be working toward a 5-year certification program with courses that include conflict resolution, collaboration within the NEPA process, and Collaboration with Tribes.

Forest Service update - Elizabeth Robinson

The Yellowjacket Environmental Assessment is taking longer than anticipated. Recent staff turnover and four wildfires on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest this summer have slowed things down. Securing adjacent properties from fire has been a higher priority. Elizabeth appreciates our patience.

The Skate Creek project status is unchanged since the fires. Staff has had many discussions about how to handle increased human impacts and they are exploring the use of human mapping (as used in Naches) to help monitor the situation.

Public comment closed on Oct. 7 regarding the fee change proposal.

The Forest Service plans to have a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting in January 2023.

Hiring and positions:

There is a lot of transition, but the Forest Service is getting some permanent positions filled. The centralized batch hiring sometimes slows the process.

New acting Forest Supervisor: Donna Mickley, from Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area will fill in after Eric Veach took a new position with the National Park Service.

New acting Deputy Forest Supervisor: Johanna Kovanik

New acting Monument Manager: Bernadette Barthelenghi.

New Community Engagement Staff Officer: Jody Nickerson will be involved in Recreation, Public Affairs, Heritage, Special Uses, Planning, and NEPA

Other business:

PNW Research Lab's Fire Assessment report

Andrew Spaeth: PNW research lab is doing a multi-year research project to assess fire risk amid climate change. Andrew will forward information.

Discovery Team:

Pete: Is the Discovery Team of White Pass still active? Debbie Layman, who managed it, has retired.

Bob Guenther: Can we partner with Centralia College to keep the project going?

Elizabeth Robinson: Maybe Theresa could reach out to the school district.

How can Partners help us with this program?

Forest Service Employment Resources

Pete Krabbe: Perhaps Pinchot Partners can form a group to create resources to help local people apply for Forest Service jobs.

Ideas include:

- Host quarterly job workshops for locals timed to give applicants time to prepare.

- Add resources to Pinchot Partners website

- Offer courses through Centralia College - How to get hired by the forest service.

Theresa: That would be helpful. It takes a long time to create a federal resume. The Forest Service has tutorials available.

Anjolene: We could add tips and tricks to know how to get an interview.

Janene asked who would be interested in creating a Committee to explore this:

Sharon Hanna, Bob G, Pete, Anjolene, Janene, Constance indicated they would.

Lewis County Economic Alliance:

Bob Guenther: Been working with Dr. Rick Gustafson (leading at UW) - on feasibility study for a \$2.6 million Biorefinery Plant in Lewis County that would use feed stocks (invasive species, poplar trees, canary grass, alder residual, forest brushing) to replace plastic. Proposal is to create a pilot plant in Lewis County. Have had hour-long visits with Murray and Cantwell. Kilmer is interested

Pinchot Partners upcoming 20-year celebration in 2023

Bob Guenther and Greg LaDue-Grove shared origin stories of Pinchot Partners:

Bob Guenther: In the beginning, protesters were up in trees. It was cold in November and someone suggested taking local firewood and baked goods for them. People asked why are you helping these people? Bob described Cookie Troxell's contributions as integral.

Greg LaDue-Grove: Cowlitz tribal Elders greeted the tree-sitters, "As the original stewards of this land, we're OK with you being here."

Bob G: First organizers got on the agenda for Democratic Party but didn't know how to get a resolution. Party leads were upset that it cost \$25,000 in pledges from the timber industry.

Cascade Forest Conservancy

Ashley: Cascade Forest Conservancy is very appreciative. Pinchot Partners had a full table at recent fundraising Gala.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31

Minutes prepared by Sharon Hanna

Notes taken by Constance Mears