

**Meeting of the Board of
Ferry County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Thursday May 18, 2017 1:00 PM**

**Location: Tri county Economic Development District 986 S Main St. Colville, WA 99114
Meeting Room**

Introduction of Attendees:

1. Amanda Rowton, Clerk of the Board, commissioners@co.ferry.wa.us
2. Mike Blankenship, FC Commissioner District 3, 6jment@gmail.com
3. Nathan Davis, FC Commissioner District 2, ndavis@co.ferry.wa.us
4. Tiana Luke, Conservation NW/NEWFC, tluke@conservationnw.org
5. Maurice Williams, NEWFC
6. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County Commissioner, skis@pendoreille.org
7. Dave Hedrick, Ferry County Conservation District, ferryco.3@gmail.com
8. Dick Dunton, NEWFC, lrdunton@centurytel.net
9. Matt Scott, Vaagen/NEWFC, mscott@vaagenbros.com
10. Mike Petersen, NEWFC & Lands Council, mpetersen@landscouncil.org
11. Bob Whittaker, Ferry County, misterbobbywhittaker@gmail.com
12. Bill Way, NEWT, lbway321@gmail.com
13. Nathan Hutchens, nate@evergreeneast.org
14. Holly Weiler, hweiler@wta.org
15. Nancy Harshman, Back Country Horsemen, nancyhars47@gmail.com
16. Andrew Spaeth, aspaeth@sustainablenorthwest.org
17. Scott Nielsen, Cattle producers of WA, rsnielsen@plixtel.com
18. Russ Vaagen, Vaagen Brothers, rvaagen@vaagenbros.com
19. Will Stone, Evergreen East, will@evergreeneast.org
20. John Boyd, NEWT, lifeinthegorge@yahoo.com
21. Tim Coleman, KRCCG/NEWFC, tcoleman@kettlerange.org
22. Andrew Engell, Representing C. McMorris-Rodgers, andrew.engell@mail.house.gov
23. Craig Newman, Colville National Forest, cnewman03@fs.fed.us
24. Mike Herrin, USFS, mherrin@fs.fed.us
25. Jeff Koffel, TEDD
26. Kinsey Larsen, TEDD
27. Stan Christie, TCMRA
28. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Commissioner District 1, jexner@co.ferry.wa.us
29. Lawson File, AFRC, lfite@amforest.org
30. Kathleen Ward, Colville NF, ktward@fs.fed.us
31. Cesar Ramirez, Colville NF, cesarramirez@fs.fed.us
32. Steve Parker, Stevens County, sparker@stevenscounty.wa.gov

Introductions

The meeting was opened at 1:05 p.m.

Discussion was held on small groups and what is hoped for in regard to feedback.

Merrill Ott asked to be on the on the non-motorized small group.

Nancy Harshman asked to be on motorized and non-motorized.

Mike Blankenship asked that each group meet and appoint a lead for communication & organization. He also said that this is planning mode.

Mike Petersen discussed Secured Rural Schools.

Andrew Engell said the bills out there are looking for support. Any pressure from outside support could be helpful.

Mike Blankenship discussed harvesting trees as a solution.

Discussion was held on the amount of SRS funding.

Craig Newman discussed collaboration and gave a historic overview of the Pacific NW National Scenic Trail. Colville is 120 miles of that trail.

Craig Newman discussed the trail stewardship act. He presented two handouts for review.

Steve Parker discussed a meeting here 6 months ago.

Craig Newman said that the project stalled.

Mike Blankenship asked about the study about the trail. Is there opportunity to move the trail?

Craig distributed the report and discussed how the town of Republic could be connected. He discussed alternate routes. He also confirmed that it is not a fixed trail by Congress.

Tim Coleman discussed a route near Swamp Creek.

Mike Petersen said he is concerned about the process and it was created to go around Republic. He also said he didn't get a sense that the director wanted to change.

Craig Newman is the liaison. He discussed a potential meeting in Republic.

Bob Whittaker discussed wanting to be involved in the horseshoe around Republic and how it doesn't make sense.

Bill Way discussed Tim, who would know the history & or the problems with the trail.

Nancy Harshman said the mission statement is to have stock on the trails.

Holly Weiler said she has depended on the horses for tools etc. She said they figure out who has the skill set and work together based on that factor.

Matt Scott asked about stewardship dollars.

Craig Newman said yes to retained receipts but it has to be spent to lessen the impact of watershed.

Matt Scott asked is that the whole Colville Forest?

Craig Newman said it is about the roads, but we can't do county roads.

Cesar Ramirez said that the retained receipts are the same pots of money that isn't fully funding SRS.

Lawson Fite gave an update on the A to Z project. He said it is a really great example of NEWFC collaboration project. The appeals were denied. There is a restorative forest project with strong public support.

Dave Hedrick said if you prevail in June you can still go forward with sale?

Lawson Fite agreed with Hedrick.

Mike Petersen asked Lawson about the other fire.

Lawson said the Tower salvage post fire project was challenged. It is on the Idaho pan handle. The appeal was denied.

Steve Parker suggested designing collaborative strategies against outside non interest groups.

Russ Vaagen suggested collaborative strength through numbers.

Mike Petersen said all sorts of people have discussed this issue and it is worthy of discussion.

Mike Blankenship said the last MTR meeting, they asked about the wagon road from Inchelium. The people don't want to do it on the state highway, can we accommodate them all?

Nancy Harshman said it is a great idea "Stagecoach".

Steve Parker agreed.

Merrill Ott said that Hall Creek would be good for that.

Mike Blankenship discussed the waiver and liability issues.

Craig Newman sent out another handout for matching funds award program.

Scott Nielsen asked for clarification.

Mike Blankenship said that this groups overall goal is discovery and organization. He said he doesn't want it to get mired down by the details of the agreements and trails or projects.

John Boyd discussed activating younger people to participate in a beginner stage (like 4 year olds). The next generation is going to be building these projects.

Mike Blankenship agreed.

Mike Petersen discussed the needs we have in our community.

Mike Blankenship added that there is an economic benefit.

Mike Blankenship said after these groups are established, we can incorporate maps. If you can identify areas on public lands, let's put those on a map. A special quality area from each groups focus to add to the map.

Dick Dunton reported that 170 acres were burned over a two day period in Inchelium.

Mike Petersen said he would head up the Forest Plan sub group and he will forward a list.

The next meeting is going to be June 15th, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

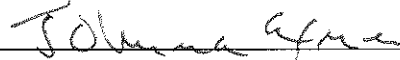
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



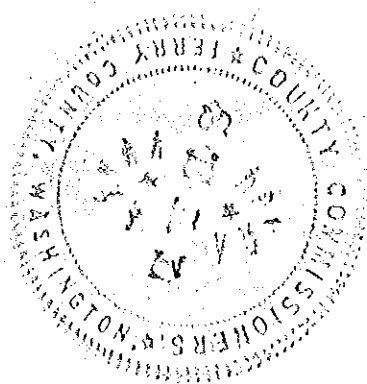
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



VICE CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship



MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton