

**Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Thursday August 17th, 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. Nathan Davis, Ferry County, ndavis@co.ferry.wa.us
3. Mike Blankenship, FC Commissioner District 3, 6jment@gmail.com
4. Tiana Luke, Conservation NW/NEWFC, tluke@conservationnw.org
5. Maurice Williams, NEWFC
6. Dick Dunton, NEWFC, lrdunton@centurytel.net
7. Matt Scott, Vaagen/NEWFC, mscott@vaagenbros.com
8. Mike Petersen, NEWFC & Lands Council, mpetersen@landscouncil.org
9. Bob Whittaker, Ferry County, misterbobbywhittaker@gmail.com
10. Bill Way, NEWT, lbway321@gmail.com
11. Andrew Spaeth, aspaeth@sustainablenorthwest.org
12. Tim Coleman, KRCG/NEWFC, tcoleman@kettlerange.org
13. Mike Herrin, USFS, mherrin@fs.fed.us
14. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Commissioner District 1, jexner@co.ferry.wa.us
15. Kathleen Ward, Colville NF, ktward@fs.fed.us
16. Steve Parker, Stevens County, sparker@stevenscounty.wa.gov
17. Gloria Flora, NEWFC/SOS, gflora@s-o-solutions.org
18. Merrill Ott, TCMRA, merrillott@centurytel.net
19. Joshua White, USFS, jpwhite@fsfed.us
20. Stan Christie, Ferry County, TCMRA
21. Hailu Gabriel, USFS
22. Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner, wmccart@stevenscounty.wa.gov
23. Mike Paulson, Rep McMorris Rodgers, wolf@bossig.com
24. Jeff Koffel, TEDD, jkoffel@teddonline.com
25. Craig Newman, Colville NF, cnewman03@fsfed.us
26. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County Commissioner, skis@pendoreille.gov
27. Nancy Harshman, Back Country Horseman, nharsh47@gmail.com
28. Holly Weiler, WTA, hweiler@wta.org
29. John Conner, Resident, 509-328-7654
30. Pete Lewis, Colville School District, pete.lewis@coled.org
31. Susan Clara, COLSD, susan.clark@colsd.org
32. Andrew Engell, Rep McMorris Rodgers, 509-684-3481
33. John Boyd, NEWT, lifeinthegorge@yahoo.com
34. David Goode, Evergreen East MTB, david@evergreenest.org
35. Dave Hedrick, Ferry County Conservation District, ferryco.3@gmail.com

Introductions

The meeting was opened at 1:02 pm with introductions.

Josh White was asked to speak about the South Fork of Boulder. It washed out in 1998. There have been multiple attempts that have failed in restoring this road. There is currently a team of folks working on it. The scoping period was extended based on a request from the Tri County Forest Group.

Josh White gave a presentation with help from Andrew Spaeth.

Mike Petersen said that reconstructing the road makes the most sense for most folks. The need to have a hydrologist still exists because they haven't attended to it yet. Mr. Petersen discussed the cost of fixing it as it is. (An unstable area with washouts is.) Cost estimate to repair is 2 million. How does this fit in with our whole plan? How do we move forward with this?

Steve Parker said recreation groups have access with the potential to develop trails.

Bill Way agreed this is a good issue for this group to solve.

Mike Blankenship said he feels like this is a good topic for this group. Discussion was held on the fishery and the streambed damage and how that impacts the fish. The intent is to make a healthy environmental impact. The hope is we can come to this with a can do attitude. How can anyone argue with fixing the damage?

Tim Coleman said restoring balance is important to improve range and forest opportunities. Roads have an impact on fisheries. Can we broaden our horizon to see the big picture?

Dave Hedrick said everyone's constituents ask what we are going to get. The project was an easy one to stop due to hydrology etc. It will be a tough one for this group.

Merrill Ott said what we are seeing in the approach to South Boulder is all the focus groups and the concern is to how to restore. Everyone would gain something. It will be expensive. Here is a project with input from many groups. People are in favor of seeing this move forward.

Mike Blankenship asked for everyone to go home and consider how we can improve that area. Mr. Blankenship supports this project for economic and access reasons.

Bill Way said he would like to stay with the South Fork of Boulder topic. What are the relative costs?

Josh White discussed a winter recreation issue.

Bill Way discussed the costs of the project, coming off of Boulder or rebuilding is the two possibilities.

Josh White said if there is a consensus on the two options that would be helpful with analysis. Cost isn't something that has been evaluated in great length.

Maurice Williams feels impartial to this until he hears 'wildlife trees'.

Josh White said the analysis hasn't been done. We are currently in the scoping period. There will be a full wildlife report. We just are not there yet.

Hailu Gabriel said the variables make it hard to quote a cost. Consider public safety and environmental impacts.

Josh White said reconstruction seems like it would be about \$50,000.00 less.

Discussion was held on potentially decommissioned roads. There is a concern about sediment delivery.

Josh White said we have to do something. There are no zero action alternatives.

Gloria Flora said with this large of a group, if we could put together a survey with a list of objectives. There is a tool called survey monkey that we could use. We could ask what top ten priorities people have. Some people suffer from a lack of knowledge and are unfamiliar with the area.

Josh White agreed with Gloria. He also said the vast majority of comments weren't helpful, because they didn't explain what people's concerns were. It would give a better sense of how to move forward.

Gloria Flora said it will give us a starting point.

Maurice Williams said would the analysis include how many people would be landlocked.

Josh White said he hadn't thought about residents that would be affected.

Andrew Spaeth liked Gloria's suggestion regarding the people around the table having an opportunity to impact this positively.

Merrill Ott asked if we had any photographs of the damaged areas.

Josh White said they could provide that.

Kurtis said field trips are helpful to get a full picture of the damages. Access to timber though that drainage there was a lot of salvage opportunity and the access wasn't good.

Scott Nielsen asked Josh White what about a groomed snow mobile route?

Josh White said yes, if we were to choose that it would stay a groomed route.

Scott Nielsen asked if it was down far enough below that.

Mike Herrin said we should try to manage our expectations. Why in 19 years have we not fixed the fisheries? We may never do it for financial reasons. We would likely get funding to fix the road but probably not for fisheries.

Nancy Harshman said food for thought; there is 100 million in Governor Inslee's budget for wildlife in every region in Washington.

Bob Whittaker said it is a grant Ms. Harshman is talking about. Potentially we could use retained receipts as match funding. Josh White said he is hoping to arrive at a decision on an option with an alternative. We can't get to the analysis until we narrow down the alternatives.

Andrew Spaeth said it may be helpful to define what the decision making process is. What is our vision in the broader scope in regard to getting to a resolution on the South Fork of Boulder?

Mike Petersen asked how big do we draw this picture for 2 miles of road? It impacts more people than that. Maybe conservation could come up with ideas for that watershed.

Kurtis Vaagen agreed.

Mike Blankenship said he available the 31st of August to discuss the survey. 1:00 pm in this room. Mr. Blankenship left at 2:30 pm.

Nathan Davis led the meeting.

Johnna Exner discussed the timber harvest in regard to how this meeting began for a healthy forest and economy for the county. SRS funding was discussed.

Wes McCart said that the QUAD County has already spoken about this. SRS has not been appropriated for 2016 or 2017. What will happen to counties when we lost \$167,000.00 in Stevens County? Ferry County lost \$425,000.00 out of the road fund. Pend Oreille lost \$325,000.00. The likelihood of this being authorized we would see a back payment. This is an ongoing battle to keep the SRS funding.

Mike Herrin discussed the Quad County meeting and how it was positive. We are willing to have a place at the table. It is looking at our 5 and 10 year plan.

Maurice Williams discussed timber verses stewardship. What does it take to maximize the money that goes to the county?

Wes McCart agreed with Maurice. He also said that none of our funding is ever level.

Nathan Davis said Ferry County Public Works is not getting SRS and all of the flooding damage it is a total of \$900,000.00 down off of Public Works budget.

Wes McCart said the road funds are used all over the county. If Ferry County cannot do roads, then the timber harvest will be impossible.

Nathan Davis said in the late 80's we would receive 1 million dollars. Then with SRS it has been reduced to \$400,000.00.

Scott Nielsen said he tried to get Boise to come here. Collaboration has never gotten Boise anything and that is why they aren't here.

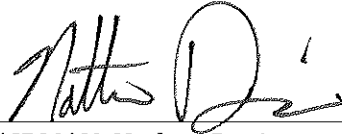
Steve Parker asked that no one interrupt people who are talking.

Wes McCart said to be aware of what's happening in our funding pools.


Mike Herrin included that you should look at the funding streams with your eyes open.

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

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



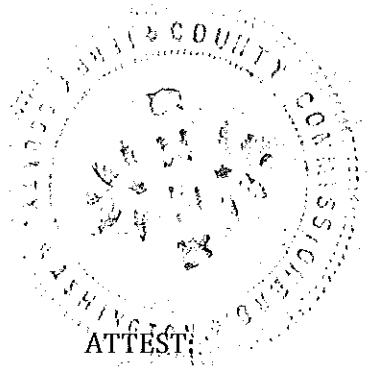
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



VICE CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship



MEMBER, Johnna Exner



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton