

**Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday September 15th, 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. Mike Petersen, NEWFC & Lands Council, mpetersen@landscouncil.org
6. Bob Whittaker, Ferry County, misterbobbywhittaker@gmail.com
7. Bill Way, NEWT, lbway321@gmail.com
8. Tim Coleman, KRCG/NEWFC, tcoleman@kettlerange.org
9. Mike Herrin, USFS, mherrin@fs.fed.us
10. Kinsey Coots, TEDD
11. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Commissioner District 1, jexner@co.ferry.wa.us
12. Steve Parker, Stevens County, sparker@stevenscounty.wa.gov
13. Gloria Flora, NEWFC/SOS, gflora@s-o-solutions.org
14. Dolly Watkins, FCBCH
15. Joshua White, USFS, jpwhite@fsfed.us
16. David Goode, Evergreen Mountain Biking, david@evergreenmtb.org
17. Mike Paulson, Rep McMorris Rodgers, wolf@bossig.com
18. Jeff Koffel, TEDD, jkoffel@teddonline.com
19. John Conner, Resident, 509-328-7654

Introductions

The meeting was opened at 1:10 PM.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship discussed the South Fork of Boulder letter.

Gloria Flora addressed the survey that was distributed.

Mike Petersen addressed the letter and proposed adding what the roads were that was mentioned at the end of the letter.

Commissioner Steve Parker discussed the efficiency with NEPA that could be captured.

Josh White said that there is a point where NEPA bogs the process down.

Mike Herrin asked if they are system roads.

Mike Petersen said yes they are system roads.

Tim Coleman said he drove the roads. It was longer and more miles. It was 16 miles from the turnoff at the South Fork/Deadman Cr. It had no signs of washout with logging that has revegetated. It is a superior route compared to Albion Hill.

Bill Way discussed how he didn't get the letter that was distributed. He said walking access to South Boulder would be a nice thing.

(Ferry County Clerk of the Board Amanda Rowton fixed the email issue with the distribution list)

Commissioner Mike Blankenship asked if anyone does not agree with Mike Petersen's addition language for the S. Fork of Boulder letter.

Josh White discussed the agreement and validation of alternatives. He discussed the possibility of the flawed analysis process of these alternatives.

Mike Petersen is going to run it by Gary or Merrill. Josh White is deciding September 30th.

Commissioner Steve Parker said to be clear, we are supporting the letter as it is. We can put in some alternatives that we could list the reasons why we aren't in favor of it.

Josh said that would be helpful.

Tim Coleman said he is not in favor of alternative B. He feels that he has already submitted a letter with his opinion and it is not in favor of alternative B. He discussed road 6114 and discussed how it has a lot to offer.

Josh White discussed alternative development and asks what we have not seen. This process narrows we look at.

Dolly Watkins said basically I am in favor of the letter and alternative B. It's not set in stone so it's a development of ideas.

Josh White this is an opportunity to give feedback.

Tiana Luke said her answer is to give an answer on the 19th.

Commissioner Steve Parker said that we can gather this support to go forward with the next step. It will build a healthy group. It opens up discussion amongst the group. He said he is pleased with this.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said if we get nothing else out of this group, he hopes that trust is gained out of this. How much of a sacrifice can you make without sacrificing the self? He is tired of fighting. It a good test to see if we can work together. He also thanked Commissioner Steve Parker for drafting the letter.

Commissioner Steve Parker confirmed that SRSA funding has not been approved.

Mike Paulson said he is optimistic about receiving it. SES is to replace the local incomes for the timber harvest.

Commissioner Steve Parker agreed. He said let's face the pain now with the SRS funding. Finding the right balance as large land holding needs to be properly managed. Land holders have a responsibility. SRS is just a cover for those responsibilities.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship discussed the time that they knew would come and the timber needs to be managed. Federal government said 25% of local harvest would go to schools. Harvest dropped and we couldn't fund our schools.

Tim Coleman discussed how it takes years to recover the timber economy. He agrees with Commissioner Blankenship and hope it is a wakeup call.

Gloria Flora discussed the nations treasure chest of natural resources. We are the caregivers. SRS doesn't seem like welfare.

Bill Way said they should pay taxes on the land. It is a reasonable idea to expect them to pay taxes as a long term solution.

Commissioner Parker agreed.

Commissioner Blankenship said it makes better sense. Payment in Lieu of taxes PILT is limited to what they decide to pay.

Mike Petersen said it is 17% of our land to be used to support the county.

Commissioner Blankenship said only 17% of land supports the whole county. 2400 square miles 3.5 persons per square mile. Roads need to be maintained on the reservation as well.

Gloria Flora said possibly think about a decision process of the group. Clarifying the process would be helpful.

Commissioner Blankenship asked the group if they are comfortable with a minority report as representing both sides of the table. By looking at both sides we can see where there is a give and take.

Gloria Flora said she would ask Andrew for the document examples that we could use.

Mike Petersen said he would submit something.

Jeff Koffel suggested an MOU. That way you can have representation for each group.

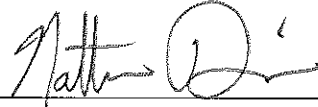
Bill Way said examining existing documents is a good place.

Commissioner Johnna Exner said we can just say who agreed. We don't have to list the people who disagreed.

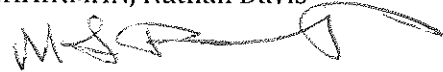
Mike Herrin announced his retirement in June 2018.

The next meeting is going to be October 13th, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

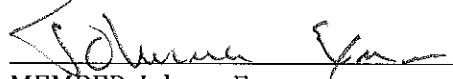
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



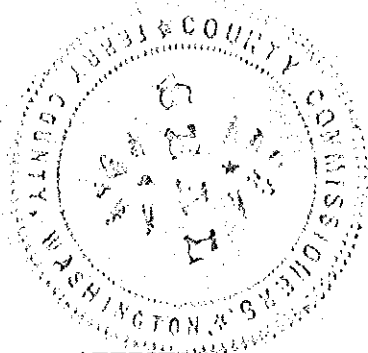
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



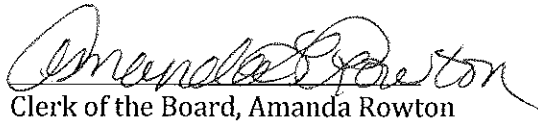
VICE CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship



MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton