

**Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday January 25th, 2018 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 Commissioner
3. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Commissioner
4. Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
5. Steve Parker, Stevens County
6. Craig Newman, Colville NF
7. Nancy Harshman, BCH
8. Bob Whittaker, Ferry County, misterbobbywhittaker@gmail.com
9. Gary Nielsen, TCMRA
10. Davis Goode, Evergreen
11. Kevin Arneson, Boise Cascade, kevinarneson@bc.com
12. Kinsey Coots, TEDD
13. Merrill Ott, TCMRA
14. Tim Ibietsen, CAPR Pend Oreille County, TimeIbbetson.com
15. Jeff Koffel, TEDD, jkoffel@teddonline.com
16. Andrew Engell, CMR
17. Dave Hedrick, Ferry County Conservation District
18. Sue Cona, public, snscona4ever@yahoo.com
19. Steve Cona, public,
20. Ken Timmerick, Selkirk Trail Blazers, olie@putc.net
21. Mike Oien, Selkirk Trail Blazers, 509-993-1790
22. Paul Edgren, Selkirk Trail Blazers, 509-993-4896
23. Tiana Luke, Conservation NW/NEWFC, tluke@conservationnw.org
24. Tim Coleman, NEWFC
25. Kurtis Vaagen, Vaagen Bros., kvaagen@vaagenbros.com
26. Shane Robson, CNF, srobson@fs.fed.us
27. Joshua White, USFS, jpwhite@fsfed.us
28. Scott Nielsen, Cattle Producers of WA
29. Mike Lithgow, Back Country Hunters
30. Matt Scott, Vaagen Brothers
31. Gloria Flora, SOS & NEWFC
32. Holly Weiler, WTA
33. Bill Way

Introductions

Commissioner Blankenship noted the addition of formalization and the decision making process for the group.

Commissioner Steve Parker gave a presentation on why we are here and how we got to this place. From the Commissioner stand point this group has been up and running for 16 months. The quad county commissioners have met for the past 5 years. Commissioners are elected to serve all members to the best of their ability. Commissioners are trying to bring people together in a group that wouldn't normally mix. Missing is a clear-cut set of expectations in a way that honors and respects all views. How do we go about giving our position and move on. South Fork should have been done months ago. Some organization and some formalization and we can turn this around. Time is what we have to spend.

This group needs management to bring these dialogues together to come to a common agreement. The Forest Service asked this group to review the South Fork of Boulder project. We are looking for the forest health and good access. Write down 3 reasons why or why not you support the South Fork of Boulder project.

Maurice Williamson said consensus is a bad word for this group. Is there a problem with collaborative?

Commissioner Steve Parker said if you would like to discuss it more, get on the agenda at a later time.

Bill Way said he likes the process and is ok with what we did with South Fork. He is in favor of pushing forward in the process and favored the letter even if everyone doesn't 100 percent agree, let's move forward.

Scott Nielsen said he will support projects that negatively impact the cattelman. Some projects will not impact the cattlemen but that won't stop me from the support I give.

Kurtis Vaagen said this is a great collaborative. What are we here for? NEWFC was trying to accomplish getting a group like this with elected officials. We can use this platform to best utilize our forest. Everyone should win. The forest is for everyone.

Gloria Flora said the collaborative idea may end up with a grudgingly consent. There is a strong need for structure. If you want someone to trust you, they need to know what to expect. "Step out of the competitive mold". One way of expecting your lack of consensus, is not showing up.

Maurice Williamson said that NEWFC has had to learn how to not throw rocks at each other.

Merrill Ott asked what is the purpose and intent of this meeting.

Josh White said there are opportunities that the Forest Service might be able to help with tutelage. South Fork Boulder project may have bogged down. How do we move forward? Does this group approve the South Fork Road?

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said the three counties have agreed that we want to move forward with the letter to support the SFB project. He said he hasn't heard from anyone why this would be a

bad project or what is wrong with the project. There are some people that will never sign on to the letter.

Nancy Harshman supports this project especially with forest management.

Tim Coleman asked about the previous approved letter.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said the letter was withdrawn because people who were vetted didn't get a chance to agree. (Commissioner Steve Parker was one of them)

Bob Whittaker said we need to get back to the structure of the group.

Commissioner Steve Parker said going forward we will gain efficiencies as we grow. He said he is not in favor of Forest Service facilitator. He would rather have a local homegrown group.

Bob Whittaker asked if the chairman would be Ferry County for the next five years.

Commissioner Steve Parker said yes, a Ferry County Commissioner will be chairman for the next five years because no one would be here if they hadn't brought this group together.

Tiana Luke asked how we get a set group for voting and approval of something.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said he took the first list and the last list of folks who attended and came up with approximately 39 people. The groups that would be represented would include; Conservation NW, Lands Council, bicycle group, each industry, tribe, motorized recreation, backcountry horseman, NEWFC, WA trails association, Evergreen group, Cattle producers, each county, TEDD, USFS and ranchers.

Josh White said that the Forest Service would not be voting.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said we do not need 100 percent agreement to move forward. We would organize and the tribe should have a place at the tables. Commissioner Blankenship will do the reach out.

Paul Edgren said strong leaders are those who can make decisions.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said the group will be making the decisions.

Sue Cona said it seems like everyone is worried about stepping on each other's toes. The bouncing around a lot makes it hard to stay on track.

John Boyd said as the county grows, how a group would get on the panel.

Commissioner Steve Parker said if you have a legitimate group that isn't already onboard or if you want to come a few times and the 3rd time can be able to represent your group.

Kurtis Vaagen said this isn't your typical discussion. We are trying to figure out the rules.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship was hesitant to take charge. He wanted everyone to feel welcomed and to have some control.

Kurtis Vaagen said a balance of a group is important as you don't want it to be lopsided.

Tiana Luke said she thinks it is worth a try with the nameplates. Small groups met before and created a letter.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said he thinks the communication of the letter was lacking which ultimately held it back.

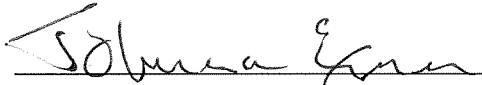
Commissioner Steve Parker said his goal is to make the Forest Service more efficient so they can be out there doing what they need to do. Please submit your name with your three reasons why you support or don't support the SFB project and turn it into the Ferry County Clerk of the Board Amanda Rowton.

Joshua White discussed the forest plan update. He said moving forward they will be meeting with group for release of the final plan. It'll be 3 weeks after department approval.

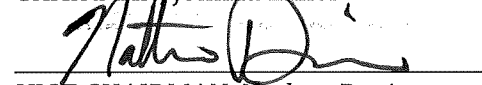
Commissioner Steve Parker asked if this is a voting organization or is this representational.

The next meeting is going to be February 23rd, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

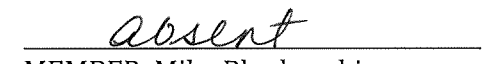
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



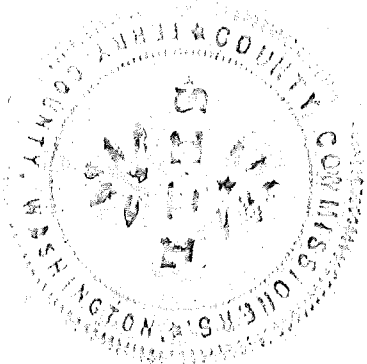
CHAIRMAN, Johnna Exner



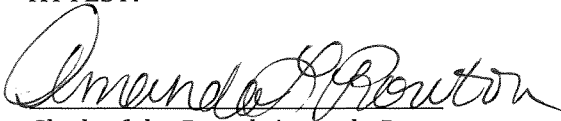
VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton