

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday November 15th, 2019 1:00 p.m.**

**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@coJerry.wa.us
2. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Commissioner
3. Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
4. Stan Christie, TCMRA
5. Chris Bachman, Lands Council
6. Tiana Luke, Conservation NW
7. Travis Fletcher, USFS
8. Eugene Fisher, TCMRA
9. Bob McKellar, DNR
10. Josh White, USFS
11. Rodney Smolden, USFS
12. Steve Parker, Stevens County Commissioner
13. Ryan Eckersley, Stevens County GIS, reckersley@stevenscountywa.gov
14. Merrill Ott, TCMRA
15. Shelly Stevens, TEDD, sstevens@teddonline.com
16. Jen Knutson, USFS
17. Steve Kiss, Pend Orielle Commissioner
18. Gayne Sears, USFS
19. Scott Nielsen, Cattle Producers of WA
20. Andrew Engel, CMR

Call to Order

Commissioner Mike Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

Chairman appointment

Commissioner Mike Blankenship suggested Commissioner Steve Parker as the Chairman for this meeting. He asked if there would be any objections. There were no objections. Commissioner Steve Parker will be the Chairman of the TCFG going forward.

Motorized Road Request update

Merrill Ott introduced Stevens County GIS Ryan Eckersley. Discussion was held on the roads and where they can currently be accessed. Ryan Eckersley gave a presentation outlining the roads. He showed the Stevens County portal and how to use it. He covered the details that are within the maps. Discussion was held on the GEO PDF. Each time the USFS changes the motor use map, it automatically updates these maps. Merrill Ott showed his example of how the tracking feature works on the map he downloaded off of Avenza. This tool will be a great asset for people who recreate. All the trailheads show up. There is a nationwide mvum that shows where you can and can't go even in another state.

This site is a host for layers. They are working with TEDD. Discussion was held on the letter. A comment sheet was offered. Merrill Ott discussed the dead-end roads and where they end up. There are 73 miles of total roads in there. Travis Fletcher also looked into the roads and where they ended up. Stan Christie discussed the trails from Bamber to the old radar bubble. Merrill Ott asked if there were comments and concerns. Tiana Luke expressed her concerns about proper notification. Travis Fletcher said this meeting wasn't the only notice given. There was 45 days to comment previously. This is a development of a proposal that will move forward. Josh White said the last round we worked on it for 2 years. We thought everyone was involved. Jen Knutson asked what other communication method could be added. Stan Christie said that it has been proven that the more legal opportunities the less illegal activities occur.

Tonasket Ranger District

Rodney Smolden said we were instructed by the regional forester to administratively change the management. They developed a new alignment but have more questions rather than answers. He traveled to Tonasket with employees and discussed it in depth. There is excitement. Everyone in Tonasket recognizes that they are similar to the Colville NF. Rodney Smolden said part of the story is the timing. There has been fiscal year 2020 prepare. Beginning October 2020 they will work under the direction of the Colville NF. Organizational codes are a big part of what is done. Does it stay that way or does the code change for the Tonasket. The highest priority is for the Tonasket employees to know that they are wanted and needed and that there is a smooth transition for them. Discussion was held on the complications. The Ranger is Kathy Johnson. She is new and has been in Tonasket for 8 months.

Biochar

Chris Bachman discussed biochar. They had a kiln built to work with. They are going to run some tests. 2 kilns will be built. It is grant funded. They will be leaving the biochar on the forest floor to benefit the forest. It will retain more water. Josh White asked what the output looks like. Whose area does it fall under due to the clean air act? What do we do about smoke management? Chris Bachman said there is very little smoke that comes out of it. Gayne Sears asked if the output is sellable. Chris said that it could be. It is economically feasible because we are producing onsite. Gayne Sears said it would be a good alternative to deal with slash.

Land Management

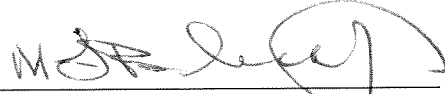
Commissioner Steve Parker said the Land Management is a work in progress. We are working on how to be safe and productive. There is nothing new to report.

USFS Update

Rodney Smolden said next Friday is the official implementation day of the Forest Plan Revision. There is an invitation for a meeting that is on the 25th of November. Guests will be here to include the Undersecretary of AG and the Deputy Chief of the Agency. There is interest in touring the CLI plant and maybe take them out in the woods. The meeting will be at the ambulance shack from 1pm-3pm. It will be an open house for a meet and greet. Cody Desautel has been invited as well. This meeting was requested by the Undersecretary.

The next TCFG meeting is December 20th, 2019.

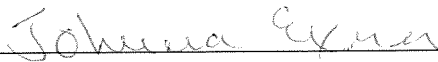
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



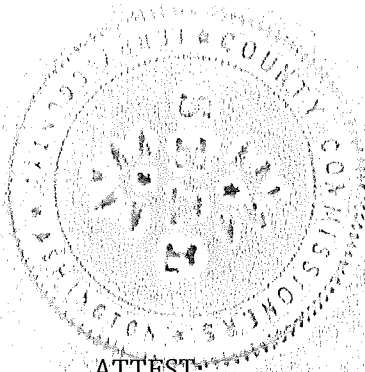
CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship



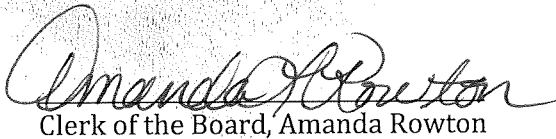
VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton