

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG) Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, January 9th, 2019

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki / Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
Attendance: John Prinkki Earl Atwood RJ Klotz Steph Kamerman Mike Harris Matt Arno Bill Wallace Ryan Cruz Jeff Schmidt Craig Campbell Steve Caldwell Don Bachman Barb Cestero Kristin DeWaay (Sen. Daines) Randy Weimer Richard Lyon Darcie Warden Nancy Schultz Hilary Eisen Jim Hart Bill Bullock Joe Skinner			
Consent Agenda: Minutes, Financial report/disbursements		Prinkki / Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
Past minutes, Funds Report, Beartooth Invoice – Jim Hart moved approval, seconded Darcie Warden Approved			
Membership seats/applications;		Prinkki / Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications; No new applications
North Hebgen White Bark Pine Study and monitoring project; Committee report		Dr. Megan Poulette : Rocky Mountain College; Committee	Inform membership of work accomplished by RMC
Dr. Poulette could not attend.			
North Bridger project		Committee report	North Bridger Project Update
No update.			
1: 20	Smith-Shield Project	Committee report	Smith Shields Project update
No Update			
1:40	Shared Stewardship and Forests in Focus 2.0.	Matt Arno, Forest Assistance Bureau Chief, DNRC	Discuss opportunities for use of Shared Stewardship and Forests in Focus 2.0 in the CGNF

Matt Arno, Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief for DNRC, offered to provide an update on DNRC programs. First, he reported that a new Local Government Advisor is being hired in the near future. He called on the County commissioners for input on priorities which the new hiree should be focused on for 2019. There will be a Coalition of Forest Counties meeting in February. DNRC has hired one Good Neighbor Authority staff member in Libby and one in Flathead. One is anticipated in Helena to cover Central Montana, and one more for Western Montana. Matt referenced Forests in Focus 2.0 (follow the link in his email for document), and Toward Shared Stewardship report regarding relationships with Tribes, Local Govts, and Collaboratives. The Huntley Butte project in Stillwater County was identified as a possible area of attention under the GNA. Governor Bullock will soon be appointing someone to the Montana Forest Action Council from a collaborative. The group will work to identify areas of highest need, strategy, and creating a work plan that is doable. Jeff Schmidt expressed interest.

Hilary Eisen moved, seconded by Bill Wallace, to formally recommend Jeff Schmidt as nominee. Approved. Matt Arno will convey the recommendation.

2:30	Discussion on CGWG involvement in new CGNF projects	Prinkki/Atwood	Future CGNF projects that the CGWG would engage in
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Matt Arno discussed projects that can be engaged by the State under GNA, and ways the GNA can be utilized. The 2.0 plan call for more dialog with Watershed and Forest Collaboratives. John Prinkki wanted to know if members would be in favor of endorsing and formally supporting the State's updated forest management plan. This to be discussed at a future meeting.

3:00	Break		
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3:15	Future of the CGWG	Prinkki/Atwood	
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John Prinkki called on members to consider future needs of the CGWG with regard to projects, and also the continued administrative support for the Collaborative. John and Earl are cost centers for CGWG. Do we still need paid support? He reiterated it is important that we examine our need for continued existence and prepare to update and confirm our mission statement. Mike Harris recommended that we look for additional FUNDED projects that we can get behind and use that opportunity to add to the list of CGWG accomplishments.

John Prinkki commented problems with establishing membership on the Resource Advisory Council (RAC), ie it is a 2 year process to create the Council and appoint membership. Too cumbersome and bureaucratic. Recommended we consider developing a letter outlining key problems with suggestions for improvement that would be submitted to the Congressional Delegation.

3:45	February meeting plan	Prinkki	Agenda, location, homework
Next meeting will be Feb 20 th , to avoid conflict with MACO mid-winter meeting. Gallatin Courthouse			