

Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2016

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
9:00 AM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
9:02 AM	Consent Agenda: Minutes Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items:
9:07 AM	Membership applications	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications
9:10 AM	Leanne Marten, Regional Forester Northern Region 1	Prinkki / Marten	Understanding of goals and process for Region 1 Forest projects. Scale and scope. Q&A
9:40AM	Mo Bookwalter, Mt. DNRC	Prinkki / Bookwalter	Information about new Local Government Forest Advisor. Forest in Focus update. Q&A
10:00AM	Review of CGWG Operations Manual to use as 'roadmap' for how the CGWG will determine appropriate levels of involvement in the CGNF Plan Revision	Prinkki / Brennan	Understanding among members of how we will use the Operations Manual to guide our engagement in the Forest Plan Revision process that CGWG will follow
10:15AM	North Hebgen Project Committee report	Skinner / Brennan	Building CGWG consensus on scope of work for the North Hebgen Project
10:30AM	CGWG consideration of North Hebgen Project Committee recommendations	Prinkki / Skinner	Review and consider recommendations from North Hebgen Committee
11:30AM	Review of Lewis and Clark/Helena Forest Desired Conditions.	Prinkki / Atwood	Assess draft L&C and Helena Forest Desired Conditions fir for the CGNF
12:00PM	Lunch Break !!	All	Comfort food
12:30PM	Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Committee report; Progress in developing Desired Conditions, meeting schedules, Press release/White paper	Prinkki / Brennan	Building CGWG consensus on CGNF Forest Plan Revision; Desired Conditions, public outreach messaging
2:00 PM	CGWG 2016 Action items: 1. Administration 2. Forest Plan Revision 3. North Hebgen 4. Bridger Farm Bill	Atwood / Prinkki	1. Admin.: National Forest Foundation, Collaborative Restoration Workshop, Funding sources. Grant opportunities, NFF
2:45PM	Set next meeting date/agenda	Prinkki / Atwood	
3:00PM	Close, if not sooner		

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Prinkki at 9:00 pm. The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

In attendance:

Bill Wallace, Sweet Grass Co.

Jerry Furtney, RY Timber

Jackie Musgrove, SRM-NGP

Scott Brennan, Wilderness Soc.

Jeff Schmidt, Red Lodge Mtn.

John Prinkki, Carbon Co.

Jim Hart, Madison Co.

Marty Malone, Park Co.

Kerry White, CBU/HD64

Mike Penfold, Our Montana

Bob Zimmer (GYC)

Jerry Dell, Stillwater Co.

Dan Clark, MSU

John Beaudry, Stillwater Mining

Darcie Warden (GYC)

Kevin Germain, LMLC/ Big Sky

Earl Atwood, CGWG Coordinator

Don Bachman, observer

Kiersten Iwai, Sierra Club

Steve White, Gallatin County

Mo Bookwalter, DNRC

Craig Campbell, DNRC

Karrie Taggart, West Yellowstone resident

Barb Cestero, Wilderness Society

Sally Cathey, Montana Wilderness Assn.

Leanne Martin, USFS Region 1

Mary Erickson, CGNF Supervisor

Alex Sienkiewicz, CGNF

Scott Barndt, CGNF

Jason Brey, CGNF

Liz Dellwo, Sen. Daines' Office

Jeremy Carpenter, Congressman Zinke's Office

Joe Josephson, (GYC)

16 members 17 guests

Consent list items included minutes from the January 13, 2016 meeting. Bill Wallace moved approval, seconded by Jackie Musgrove. APPROVED

There were no membership applications.

Chairman Prinkki reported on his plans to attend upcoming meetings in Denver, Colorado for a Collaborative Workshop April 25-28, and a Biomass Conference in Wyoming representing the CGWG. Some expenses will be incurred, but it is possible there will be some financial assistance for the Denver meeting. Total costs would be in the neighborhood of \$1,500.

CGWG members welcomed Leanne Martin, USFS Regional Forester for Region 1. Ms. Martin took a few moments to introduce herself and report on the major items ahead for Region 1. Recently they have created a regional Farm Bill team to add capacity for units across the region to facilitate Farm Bill Projects. Two NEPA teams have also been established in Northern Idaho and Montana which will be a floating resource to lend assistance on large landscape projects and increase the capacity of impacted units.

Ms. Martin identified opportunities for CGWG to work with the Forest Service:

- Cohesive Fuels projects
- Congruence of messaging between Collaboratives in the region to reduce confusion about projects
- Forest Plan Revision support
- Help Forest Service establish and manage mutual expectations about timelines for accomplishing treatments

A number of questions came up for Ms. Martin from members, including further details on regional teams, the current strategies within the Forest Service for funding the competing priorities of firefighting versus forest management, etc.

Mo Bookwalter, DNRC announced to the group the recent hiring of Matt Arno as the Local Government Forest Advisor. She added that Arno comes to the DNRC with experience as a forestry consultant and contractor, and he brings a wealth of collaboration experience with such entities at Blackfoot Challenge and the Montana Forest Restoration Committee.

Ms. Bookwalter also reported that additional Forest in Focus funding of \$2 million for State/Tribal/Private lands and \$1 million for Federal lands would be announced in February or early March. Also, Governor Bullock will be the next Western Governors Association Chair.

Scott Brennan put on the table an observation about the importance of members' being aware of their separate roles as CGWG members and as representatives/actors for the various organizations that sponsor their participation in the Collaborative. He elaborated on the concept of "No Surprises" when individual organizations participating in the collaborative are preparing to issue independent public communications that bear on projects that the Collaborative or its subcommittees are working on.

Chairman Prinkki called for reports pertaining to committee activities since the last meeting.

Joe Skinner submitted notes from the North Hebgen committee, which were read to the group by Scott Brennan.

John Prinkki reported that the Forest Plan Revision committee held its meeting on February 8th in Bozeman. It was the consensus of the committee to concentrate on 3 aspects of the Forest Plan:

Desired and Existing Conditions

Wild and Scenic Rivers and Wilderness Designations

Public Outreach and enhanced involvement early in the Plan Revision process

Ms. Martin from the FS Regional office added that it is important to understand two levels of consideration in the category of Wilderness. First is their review of lands with Wilderness character, which looks at recommended Wilderness areas to see if the recommendation will carry forward in the updated Plan. Second will be actions associated with the legislated Wilderness Study Area(s). She recommended that CGWG members obtain and read Chapter 70 of the Forest Planning Process Rule, which provides clear guidelines for how the Wilderness review is to be carried out.

John Beaudry asked for clarification on how the Wild and Scenic Rivers category will be addressed in the FPR project. Ms. Martin pointed to Chapter 80 of the Planning Rule which applies to Wild and Scenic Rivers as a starting point.

John Prinkki reminded the group that we need to exercise care in not taking on too much scope, given the internal resources of the Committee, and suggested that the FPR committee would begin with a focus on desired (and existing) conditions.

Other comments: Kerry White asked Mary Erickson about non-conforming uses evaluation under Chapter 70, and an explanation of the Forest Supervisors discretion, e.g. is there a national directive or philosophy that will govern. Mike Penfold advocated for focusing on high value WUI-situated projects that are likely to produce litigation, giving CGWG the opportunity to influence public opinion on the plan. Alex Sienkiewicz suggested an additional area that may be relevant for CGWG consideration is access to Forest Service Lands, including public access to the Forest but also Forest Service access to certain areas of the Forest so they can carry out management activities. Darcie Warden added that she would like to have the Group look at desired conditions with a long-term view, i.e. 50 years.

Kerry White advised the Group he had set up a Facebook page for CGWG.

The next meeting of the CGWG will be on March 9th, 2016. Location is tentatively in Livingston at 9:00 am, with the Forest Plan Revision committee meeting the day before at the same location.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Atwood