

**Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting MINUTES
November 18, 2015**

The Community Room, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main, Bozeman, Mt.

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00	Opening and introductions; Meeting materials: Minutes, Membership applications, Skills Matrix, Process and Purpose, CGWG 2015 Action items	Prinkki/Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
1:10	Consent Agenda: Minutes Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items: individual items can be segregated for discussion and vote.
1:20	Membership applications Dan Clark; MSU Extension, CGWG University position	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications
1:30	Custer Gallatin Forest Management Plan revision process	Virginia Kelly; C-G Forest Plan Revision Team Leader	Understand the CGNF planning process.
2:15	Custer Gallatin Forest Management Plan: Sync CGWG Skills with Project Scope	Prinkki / Atwood	Preliminary 2016 CGWG agenda; Adopt 2016 agenda at Dec. 9 th meeting
2:45	Break		
3:00	Strategic and Organizational Planning,	Prinkki / Atwood	Adopt; Purpose and Process, Operations Manual
4:30	Funding the CGWG	Prinkki	Maintain a functional collaborative
4:45	Public comment	Prinkki	Allow for Public comment/questions
5:00	Adjourn		

Documents to review/bring to meeting: meeting agenda, September & October minutes, CGWG Action items, Skills Matrix, Purpose and Process Statement, Operations Manual

Attendees:

John Prinkki, Chair
Jim Hart, Vice-Chair
Brent Sinnema
Jackie Musgove
Jerry Dell
Mike Christianson
Jeff Schmidt
Kerry White
Jerry Furtney
Joe Skinner
Kevin Germain
Joe Josephson
John Beadry
Darcie Warden

Sally Cathey, MT Wilderness Assoc.
Ashley Sites, USFS
Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan, USFS
Virginia Kelley, USFS
Ken Coffin, USFS
Don Bachman
Spenser Merwin, Sen. Daines' Office
Alex Sienkiewicz, USFS

(14 Members – quorum established)

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Prinkki at 1:05 pm. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves. Chairman Prinkki invited comment from any public members in attendance (none offered).

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Consent agenda items included minutes from the September 9th and October 14th meetings, and the current income/expense report for CGWG produced by Beartooth RC&D.

Mike Christianson moved approval of the consent items, seconded by Marty Malone.

APPROVED

A new member application was presented for Dan Clark, MSU Local Govt. Center. The LGC has experience with supporting natural resources focused grass roots collaborative efforts. They can assist with working group with accessing resources within the University system.

After offering a robust testimonial from his past experiences with Mr. Clark and the LGC, Marty Malone moved adoption of the membership application, seconded by John Beaudry.

APPROVED

Virginia Kelly, Team Leader for the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision was introduced to the CGWG. She and Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan provided the Group with the draft Public Engagement Strategy document and a detailed outline of the process that will be used to work through the plan revision in the next several years. Included were suggestions for actions the CGWG might consider to partner with and to support the Custer Gallatin in its process to revise the Forest Plan.

At the end of their presentation, it was suggested that any formalized Growth Policies which have been adopted by counties associated with CGWG should furnish a copy of those plans to the Custer Gallatin Forest for use in aligning the Forest Plan revision with local priorities. Earl Atwood will gather those documents from county offices and furnish them to Ms. Kelley.

The revised Statement of Purpose and Process was placed on the table for final consideration, along with recommended updates to the CGWG Operations Manual. Two minor changes were agreed upon for the Purpose and Process Statement, which was then moved for adoption by Marty Malone, seconded by Kevin Germain. APPROVED

Revisions to the Operations Manual were reviewed and discussed, with minor changes identified to bring language consistent with the current number of counties and agreed membership categories. The previously approved Purpose and Process statement will be incorporated in the Operations Manual in Section 1 in lieu of the previously adopted values statement. The updated version was moved for adoption by Kerry White, seconded by Jim Hart. APPROVED

For future consideration, it was suggested the CGWG review the full set of definitions used by the Montana Forest Restoration Committee for possible annexation to the Operations Manual.

Discussion of the Membership categories in the previous action identified a need for occasional, ad hoc requests for technical assistance from subject matter experts in a variety of disciplines. In these cases the Group would not be recruiting for members, per se, but identifying a network of resources that could be vetted in advance to expedite research when needed. Several members commented they had one or more such resources in mind, so it was agreed we would poll all members and gather suggested experts' nominations and create a reference list. Earl Atwood will poll members for this information prior to the December meeting to be used in conjunction with the Skills Matrix.

Chairman Prinkki reported on his recent efforts to identify and promote additional financial support for CGWG operations, and appealed to member for their assistance, either through recruitment of external contributions, or direct contribution from their represented organizations.

The business meeting was adjourned at 4:45, with a reminder to all that the North Hebgen SubCommittee would be hosting it information event at 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the same room.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Atwood