

**Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday February 23rd, 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. Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
4. Steve Parker, Stevens County
5. Craig Newman, Colville NF
6. Bob Whittaker, Ferry County, misterbobbywhittaker@gmail.com
7. Gary Nielsen, TCMRA
8. Kevin Arneson, Boise Cascade, kevinarneson@bc.com
9. Kinsey Coots, TEDD
10. Andrew Engell, CMR
11. Merrill Ott, Colville NF Ambassadors
12. Tiana Luke, Conservation NW/NEWFC, tluke@conservationnw.org
13. Mike Petersen, Lands Council/NEWFC
14. Scott Nielsen, Cattle Producers of WA
15. Matt Scott, Vaagen Brothers
16. Gloria Flora, SOS & NEWFC
17. Holly Weiler, WTA
18. Bill Way
19. Dolly Watkins, Back Country Horsemen
20. Lesa Gregory, Back Country Horsemen, lesagregory83@yahoo.com
21. Maurice Williamson, NEWFC
22. Dick Dunton, NEWFC
23. John Boyd, NEWT
24. Mike Paulson, CMR representative
25. Mitch Friedman, Conservation NW
26. Julie "& Jim Petersen, Evergreen Magazine
27. Greg Frohn, Avista,
28. Cesar Ramirez, USFS
29. Russ Vaagen, Vaagen Timber/NEWFC, rvaagentimbers.com
30. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County, skis@pendorieele.org
31. Bob McKellar, DNR, robertmckellar@dnr.wa.gov
32. Don Dashiell, Stevens County

Introductions

Commissioner Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:02 PM.

Jim & Julia Peterson gave a presentation on collaborative. They presented four magazines for information and they are in the file.

Commissioner Blankenship discussed the South Fork of Boulder Project responses handout. Russ Vaagen said we should have done the South Fork of Boulder project already. Commissioner Blankenship said he thinks the holdup was the fears people have. We don't want to wait another eight months to do this project. Tiana Luke asked how much time it would add to combine projects. Commissioner Blankenship said that it would take at least eight more months. Bulldog needs to be its own project. Mike Petersen discussed the instream work and considers upper pulses from water up higher. Also to include the upper water shed. Tiana Luke said that she is curious if this is the proper time to support this project. She doesn't feel like she has enough information. Scott Nielsen has been working on getting the South Fork of Boulder project done for a long time, approximately 15 years. Historically they said it would be better if we did the project as a stand-alone project. Deer Jasper came along and there was zero support to add the South Fork of Boulder. Now it was said it needs to be a stand-alone project. The frustration has come because he feels it needs to be a stand-alone project.

Commissioner Blankenship said it is time to support the project. We want this project to move forward. Commissioner Parker said from Stevens county standpoint there has been a long standing problem with forest access. This is a new group that has been asked by the forest service to give comment on the alternatives. This group has said it would do that. In our collaborative, we want to help the FS be more effective. Let's look at the issue and move on. He thinks it is inappropriate to give directions to the FS. He wants to see efficiency and effectiveness.

Gloria Flora said she agreed but she doesn't think we should have to constrain ourselves. Craig said these discussions and comments are important to Josh. Even if the projects are done in separate action there will be opportunities for people to comment. Maurice Williamson said maybe Craig can discuss something that pertains to Ferry County's immediate need. He also said that if there is all that background information already done then why we can't expedite the project.

Maurice Williamson asked what the letter said. Commissioner Blankenship said the counties supported alternative B. Bill Way said that he understood that there was no opposition. Commissioner Blankenship verified that there was no negative or opposition.

Cesar Ramirez said that Josh White said that it is going to be a singular project (not with Bulldog). The old analysis can be used with the consideration to the fire damage etc. Gloria Flora discussed the fear that is present in our new group. Bill Way said he doesn't remember the eight month extension. Commissioner Blankenship said it came from outside from a face to face conversation. Commissioner Dashiell said we know the Forest Service is going to do the analysis and we support alternative B. Commissioner Blankenship discussed grant funding for facilitation.

Commissioner Parker feels comfortable with the way we make statements like we did with the South Fork of Boulder project. This is a place where we discuss and get clarity. I represent Stevens County. We are tasked with a great many different things.

Julia said she thinks we are putting the cart before the horse. First you need to figure out who you are and what you are doing. Define yourself. You don't stand for anything if you don't have a mission statement.

Kevin Arneson said the relationship of the community to the forest is the purpose. Bill Way said he is excited to utilize the forest.

Merrill Ott said my purpose to coming to this is to interact with the Commissioners. This group is by the Commissioners for the Commissioners. My heart is with the Commissioners. Gary Nielsen said that to promote and protect all existing uses of the forest.

Commissioner Kiss said that he is here to represent his constituents and help FS avoid litigation. Mike Petersen said he doesn't think the listed sentence is enough for our group.

Commissioner Parker said to make it generic about the forest. We should honor where this started from. It's a County Commissioner group where people were invited. It is a place where we can all give input to the County. Collaboratives suffer from lack of leadership and the potential of this group is huge. The majority of the people want a mission statement. This was done improperly without permission. We wouldn't be here if Ferry County didn't step up.

Gloria Flora said we need a definition of what we are here for. Craig Newman asked if it could be both. Commissioner Parker agreed that it can be both. We are in a new phase of history. This is a time to create a new methodology. The FS is leaning in to do the right thing for the forest and establish a future for the kids and grandkids.

Commissioner Blankenship started this group with three counties to take input from groups in alignment to bring the community together to discuss the forward movement. We don't need a collaborative to accomplish that goal. Currently everything that was said about the mission statement is what has already been said. What are your needs, how can we best represent you? I believe this can work if we work on this together.

Russ Vaagen said he thinks the concern is being unsure of the process. Kevin Arneson said he appreciates the leadership and felt that it was clear to him.

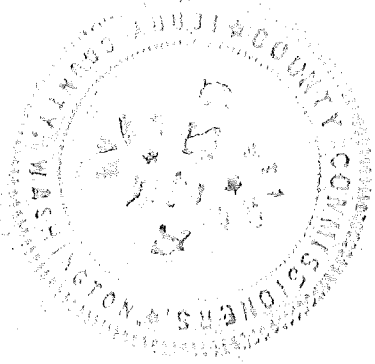
Commissioner Blankenship said a year or so ago it came to my attention that there was groups not being represented. That motivated the creation of this group as it is open to every user group. We as commissioners were for Alternative B but we wanted to give everyone a chance to sign on. Part of the process is to listen to each other.

Commissioner Kiss said not all the groups have time to come see the Commissioners. This is a good open forum.

Kevin Arneson said that maybe we could put together a statement about purpose. Commissioner Blankenship said to prepare for the next meeting by preparing a mission statement, purpose, and voting protocol to share.

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

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Johnna Exner
CHAIRMAN, Johnna Exner

Nathan Davis
VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis

Mike Blankenship
MEMBER, Mike Blankenship

ATTEST:

Amanda Rowton
Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton