

## Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2014 – 2:00 PM

Gallatin County Detention Center, Bozeman, Montana

A meeting of the Custer-Gallatin Working Group was led by John Prinkki, Carbon County Commissioner.  
Attendees present:

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
<b>John Prinkki</b>	Carbon County Commission
<b>Jim Hart</b>	Madison County Commission
<b>Joe Skinner</b>	Gallatin County Commission
Steve White	Gallatin County Commission
<b>Jim Durgan</b>	Park County Commission
<b>Joe Josephson</b>	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
<b>Kevin Germain</b>	Lake Mountain Land Co.
<b>Jeff Schmidt</b>	Red Lodge Mountain Ski Area
<b>Jerry Furtney</b>	RY Timber
Don Bachman	GWA
Earl Atwood	Beartooth RC&D
<b>Mikael Christianson</b>	Non Industrial Private Foreste landowner
Traute Parrie	USFS
Lisa Stoeffler	USFS
Mary Erickson	USFS
Kurt Hansen	USFS
<b>Mike Penfold</b>	Our Montana
Kathryn QannaYahu	Enhancing Montana's Wildlife and Habitat (EMWH)

*Names in bold denote representatives of seated members*

At 2:00 pm Chairman Prinkki opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

**Introduction of members and guests.** Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and identify their affiliation or representation.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and adopted by the members present.

**Meeting Agenda:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
2:00	Opening and introductions	Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed, ground rules clear, Oct. meeting minutes approved
2:15	Action on Membership applications	Atwood	Applications (if any) considered, voted upon
2:30	Public Comment	Atwood/Prinkki	Allow for public comment/questions
2:45	Working Group Guiding Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mission Statement</li><li>• Operations Manual</li><li>• CGWG Membership Structure</li></ul>	Prinkki	Updated versions of manual and mission statement presented; member list updated
3:00	Forest Service Presentation and discussion	Kurt Hansen, Sioux Dist. Ranger	Info on Sioux District program of work, issues
3:40	New topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sideboards for project selection/Forest Restoration Principles</li><li>• Collaboration Foundation meeting (Missoula, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>)</li><li>• Funding Options</li></ul>	Prinkki	Develop criteria for selecting/prioritizing issues or projects for Working Group support. Discuss CGWG request for funding from stakeholders and State of Montana
4:40	Public Comment	Atwood/Prinkki	Allow for public comment/questions
4:50	December meeting plan	Atwood	Location, Agenda items, assignments for December meeting
5:00	Adjourn		

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Approval of the minutes with a minor correction was moved by Jim Hart, seconded by Joe Skinner. **Motion Approved.**

**Membership.** Applications for membership in the collaborative were presented by the following organizations:

Mike Penfold, Our Montana - will also be representing the motorized recreation industry.

Jim Hart moved acceptance and approval of Mr. Penfold's membership, seconded by Kevin Germain. **Motion Approved.**

Michael Christianson, Private Non-Industrial Forest Landowner

Jim Durgan moved acceptance and approval of Mr. Christianson's membership as the CGWG Member At Large, seconded by Jeff Schmidt. **Motion Approved.**

With the new members seated the roster for CGWG now has 14 seated members, leaving 8 of the currently designated seats to be filled. Chairman Prinkki raised the topic of further recruitment to obtain representation for additional non-governmental organizations (3), Agriculture/Ranching (1), Quiet Recreation (1), Hunting (1), Fishing (1), and Commercial Outfitters (1). Group consensus was for additional recruitment effort the next month or two to add members to the working group roster.

**Public Comment.** Chairman Prinkki invited any members of the public in attendance to comment. There were none.

### **Organizational Documents**

The Operations Manual and other guiding documents for the working group were put on the table. No suggestions for update or modification were made at this time.

Mike Penfold suggested that the issue of fire safety and fuel mitigation in the Wildland Urban Interface in adjacent to the Custer-Gallatin forest be an area of interest for the working group. Members agreed to include this as a future topic. It was suggested that the group invite a representative from DNRC to discuss how these projects interact with the Forest Management Plan. Trautie Parrie, USFS, pointed out that the Working Group structure permits assignment of task groups to take up different issues such as WUI, fuels reduction and project selection.

Mary Erickson, USFS, added that she is still looking for an indication from the working group of the level of detail we want to work at, i.e. high level planning, project intervention, project recommendations for specific sections of the forest. She pointed out that revision of the forest plan will begin in 2016, to update the long term plan for Custer-Gallatin to guide activities for the next 15-20 years. New planning rules are in place which are intended to result in a "more strategic – less proscriptive" forest plan.

Used this point to emphasize the need for the working group to adopt principles that can be used as a foundation for project selection or for supporting and commenting on projects. These will be to be in place to properly assess, comment, and support any project or the upcoming forest plan revision. Examples of principles adopted by the Montana Forest Restoration Committee and New Mexico Forest Restoration were included in the meeting packet for members to review and consider for our own purposes.

### **Forest Service Presentation.**

Kurt Hansent, District Ranger for the Sioux Ranger District presented a very informative and comprehensive overview of the district. Notes from the presentation are incorporated as an attachment to the minutes.

### **Outreach and Communications.**

Chairman Prinkki reported on his ongoing efforts to identify funding options for the working group. Based on a review of the costs experienced by other collaboratives with similar missions, we should expect that our annual costs would be in the range of \$20,000 to \$60,000 depending on how extensive our outreach efforts are, and the degree to which the working group might become involved in litigation. For the time being, as a startup, our costs are more modest, and while we are pursuing grants of one type or another we should consider asking for private donations to help with our early facilitation and meeting costs. The group discussed some regional business entities which might be approached for a donation, and agreed that a solicitation letter under Chairman Prinkki's signature would be appropriate.

Meeting location was discussed. Mike Penfold had suggested we consider a meeting elsewhere, perhaps Red Lodge, especially if/when the topic of WUI and fuel mitigation projects might be on the table. It was also mentioned that we consider alternate meeting locations to coincide with presentations that focus on Ranger Districts in a given area.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 10th, 1:00 PM at the Gallatin Detention Center. Suggested agenda items include: Restoration Principles (1 to 1-1/2 hours)

Forest Service Presentation covering the West Zone (1- 1/2 to 2 hours)

Looking ahead to the January meeting, possible location would be Livingston or Big Timber, with a Forest Service Presentation covering the Central Zone. February meeting, possible focus on the Greater Red Lodge Area project and Red Lodge Watershed topics.

Chairman Prinkki thanked everyone in attendance, adjourning the meeting at 4:45 pm.