

**Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)**  
**Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, September 11, 2019 (1:00 PM)**  
Gallatin County Courthouse, Community Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
Bozeman, MT

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Review Agenda, Meeting materials	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
Attendance: John Prinkki                      Mary Erickson Barb Cestero                      Nancy Schultz Hilary Eisen                      Don Bachman Kerry White                      Richard Lyon Joe Skinner                      John Duvall Candace Carr Strauss              Kristin DeWaay Colin Cooney                      Nancy Ostlie Jackie Walden                      Emily Cleveland Bill Bullock                      Cory Lewellan Jim Hart                      Virginia Kelly Steve Caldwell                      Rich Stem Bill Wallace                      Pete Walden Dominique Woodham Mike Harris			
1:05	Consent Agenda: Past Minutes and Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
Consent agenda including May 8, 2019 meeting minutes and financial report approved. (Caldwell, Skinner)			
1:10	Membership applications, New Members:	Prinkki/Atwood	
Vote taken on membership application from Colin Cooney (Trout Unlimited) (Motion by Jim Hart, second Steve Caldwell) Approved. Welcomed new member Dominique Woodham representing University System. Discussion by group about recruiting representation by Timber, Hunting, Fishing, Ag or At Large.			
1:20	Report on Montana Forest Action Committee priorities	Schmidt/ Warden	Update on MFAC recent events, priorities and actions
Jeff Schmidt and Darcie Warden could not attend. Report deferred to next event.			
1:30	Custer Gallatin Forest Team Report	Mary Erickson and staff	Updates, introduction of new staff members, dialog with CGWG concerning new projects and priorities going forward.
Virginia Kelly provided and update on the Forest Plan Revision.			
2:30	Forest Service Retirees	Rich Stem	FSR Perspective and priorities
Rich Stem, representing National Association of Forest Service Retirees, gave a presentation to the group of the NAFSR efforts to gain Congressional support to address human capital deficiencies within the Forest			

<p>Service. NAFSR has developed a report regarding Increasing Workforce Capacity and submitted it to the Secretary of Agriculture in July of 2019, outlining specific conclusions and recommendations for addressing numerous resource challenges within the Forest Service. CGWG members expressed interest in publicly supporting the NAFSR recommendations. Motion by Kerry White, seconded by Steve Caldwell to issue a CGWG statement in support of the recommendations and to express our support using Op-Eds and letters to the Montana Congressional delegation, and one-on-one meetings if they can be arranged. Approved.</p>			
3:15	Review of Crystal Creek Trailhead project (CGWG Support letter 3/2018)	Prinkki	Status and discussion of recent public engagement
<p>Chairman Prinkki gave an informational update to members regarding recent public attention on a trailhead project in Carbon County that CGWG supported in 2018. The project was approved and schedule, however in recent months there have been some landowner objections which the FS is addressing.</p>			
3:20	Letter to Coalition of Forest Counties requesting funds for engagement on North Bridger litigation	Prinkki	Update group on the request – discussion regarding CGWG options as intervenor, amicus brief, or declaration of harm
<p>Chairman Prinkki discussed options for legal intervention by CGWG on the North Bridger litigation. Potential costs and funding options were discussed, including possible additional grants which were being investigated. It was agreed that we should explore for sufficient resources to support legal action, but at a minimum CGWG should submit a Declaration of Harm in support of the project. Motion by Kerry White, seconded by Mike Harris to approve development of a Declaration of Harm, and to pursue additional appropriate legal action including engagement of an attorney to assist with Amicus Brief provided the funding is available. Approved</p>			
3:25	Discussion on CGWG involvement in new CGNF projects	Prinkki/Atwood	Future CGNF projects that the CGWG would engage in
<p>Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson gave a presentation on their planned 2019-2023 projects and priorities. Chairman Prinkki asked members to review the proposed actions to identify any projects that would be prioritized by CGWG, and recommendations regarding establishment of subcommittees for same.</p>			
3:55	CGWG Meeting schedule	Prinkki / Atwood	Confirm change to quarterly meetings, set next meeting date
<p>Members discussed the default meeting schedule and agreed to change to a quarterly meeting format in March, June, September and December on second Wednesdays. Next meeting will be on December 11, 2019.</p>			
4:00	Adjourned		