

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

October 14, 2015

Meeting Minutes

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	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications
1:30	Strategic and Organizational Planning: Statement of Purpose and Process	Prinkki /Atwood / Severson	Adoption of Statement of Purpose and Process
3:00	Break		
3:20	Strategic and Organizational Planning, cont.: Skills and Experience matrix	Severson / Prinkki / Atwood	Purpose and Process
4:30	Funding the CGWG	Prinkki	Maintain a functional collaborative
4:45	Public comment	Prinkki	Allow for Public comment/questions
5:00	Adjourn		

Chairman Prinkki opened the meeting at 1:00 pm in the Community Room, Gallatin County Courthouse.

In attendance were:

John Prinkki, Chair	Jerry Furtney, RY Timber
Jim Hart, Vice-Chair	Joe Skinner, Gallatin Co. Commission
Gerald Dell, Stillwater Co. Commission	Kevin Germain, LMLC/Big Sky Chamber
Mike Christianson, At Large Member	John Beaudry, Stillwater Mining Co
Marty Malone, Parc Co. Commission	Scott Brennan, Wilderness Society
Kerry White, Citizens for Balance Use	Nancy Schultz, Gallatin Wildlife
Jackie Musgrove, Society for Range Mgmt	Don Bachman, Citizen
Brent Sinnema, Rancher	Jeff Gildenhaus, Beartooth Ranger District, CGNF
Dan Clark, MSU Local Govt. Center	Alex Sienkevicz, CGNF Liaison to CGWG
Bill Wallace, Sweet Grass Co. Commission	Gary Severson, High Point Resources, LLC
Earl Atwood, Beartooth RC&D	

Consent Agenda: Minutes from the September meeting were available for review, however the financial/disbursement reports were not included in the meeting packet. Earl Atwood recommended deferral of the consent list until the next meeting. Deferral was approved by acclamation.

There were no membership applications, however Dan Clark, MSU Local Government Center indicated we should expect his application by the next meeting.

The Statement of Purpose and Process draft document was brought for discussion. Conceptual changes discussed at the last meeting have been incorporated, and were outlined by Earl Atwood for the group. Gary Severson, High Point Resources, spoke to the question concerning the use of the work 'restoration' which several members had continued reservation over its meaning. Mr. Severson emphasized that the term is probably most appropriate for our purposes within the document for two key reasons. First, it being a prevalent term in forestry which is often cited in planning and budgeting documentation, and is a key outcome identified in many forest management projects, and grants and regulations. Second, in this context restoration is generally taken to mean bringing the forest landscape to a set of desired conditions which meet current objectives and priorities, not associated strictly to a state of past existence.

The draft document was reviewed section by section. A number of additional changes were identified through discussion. These revisions will be incorporated for consideration and adoption along with the updates to the Operations Manual at the November meeting.

Gary Severson – Next Steps presentation. Mr. Severson distributed a handout and spoke to the concept off Taking Citizen Collaborative Groups to the Next Level, within the NEPA process. Starting with a review of the Forest Service Planning Model, he covered the progressive roles that collaboratives can take beginning with making recommendations about desired conditions and actions to achieve them. This would be followed by assisting with implementation of approved actions, primarily through obtaining necessary resources for implementation. And finally, the highest level of collaboration in evaluating the progress of projects and results achieved (monitoring), to complete the feedback loop on projects. These levels were then linked to the forest management planning triangle.

In contemplation of the information presented, Mr. Severson brought forward a number of questions from a prior meeting with Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, designed to clarify the scope and direction of the collaborative. These were:

Geographic Scale: is this group trying to address too large an area?

Is your topical scope too broad?

Can CGWG make its action plan for 2 years?

At what level to you want to work, i.e. Policy or Project level?

Supervisor Erickson had also asked for the Group to consider assistance to the Custer Gallatin Forest in developing the public engagement component of the Forest Revision Plan (kickoff in Feb/2016).

She has proposed to have Virginia Kelly, Plan Revision Team Leader, to come to our meeting in November and present an overview of the Plan Revision process and deliver an outline of work units that we can align with for CGWG engagement.

Gary Severson asked members, in preparation for the November Meeting to consider what types of things (projects and priorities) we can and should engage on in 2016 and 2017 which can be added to our work plan.

Next meeting: November 8th, Bozeman – Gallatin County Courthouse 1 – 5 pm, followed by an evening panel for public attendance focused on Wildfire ecology and management issues, arranged by the North Hebgen Subcommittee – same room 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned – 4:45 PM