

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)
Tuesday, December 14th, 2016
Bozeman Ranger District Office, 3710 Fallon St., Bozeman, Mt.

Meeting Minutes

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki / Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
1:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki / Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
1:08	Membership seats/applications	Prinkki / Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications
1:10	North Hebgen Project Committee report; Monitoring options	Skinner / Brennan / Warden / Prinkki	Progress report; Consider options for white bark pine monitoring
1:30	Shields Farm Bill Project	Malone / FS, Tera Little	Progress report; When do "boots hit the ground"
1:45	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly. Mariah Lueschen & Pam Novitzky	Progress report; Existing Conditions Assessment, WSR, and Wilderness; 2017 Calendar,
2:15	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision; University of Montana	Mariah Lueschen	CGWG Community Outreach Education materials; Needs/Desires
2:30	Local Government Center:	Blake Christensen	Set agenda and outline of presentations for Forest Plan Revision meetings 2017
3:30	DNRC: Forest In Focus and Good Neighbor Authority	Mo Bookwalter / Matt Arno	Forest in Focus update Good Neighbor Authority State wide projects update Local Government Forest Advisor activities: Montana Counties Forest Summit
4:00	Collaborative Funding Sources	Prinkki	Discuss sources; Internally and externally; New contributions
4:15	January meeting agenda		Staying on task
4:30	Close, if not sooner		

Attendance:

John Prinkki, Chair
 Jim Hart
 Bill Wallace
 Scott Brennan
 Barb Cestero
 Darcie Warden
 Kerry White
 John Beaudry
 Blake Christensen
 Ian Jones
 Jerry Furtney
 Mike Christianson
 John Bailey
 Joe Skinner
 Earl Atwood

Mary Erickson
 Virginia Kelley
 Margo Magnant
 Sally Cathey
 Don Bachman
 Chad Benson
 Richard Lyon

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Prinkki. Members and guests were introduced.

Motion by Bill Wallace, second by Jim Hart to approve consent list items, which included minutes from the September 2016 and November 2016 meetings, and the current CGWG Funds Report. CARRIED

Richard Lyon, Bozeman, MT has applied for membership on CGWG. Introduced himself to the group and provided a synopsis of his relevant experience and interests. Not applying as a representative of any organization, but rather as citizen at large. Chairman Prinkki reviewed the membership structure set out in our Operations manual and asked for clarification if our Member at Large seat is currently filled or vacant. Mike Christiansen currently fills that seat on the CGWG. For the time being, Mr, Lyon was welcomed and encouraged to attend meetings as an interested citizen. No action taken on the application.

Leadership Discussion: Chairman Prinkki announced his recent decision to retire from the Carbon County Commission, which will become effective in March, 2017. He requested the CGWG members consider modifying our Operations Manual to permit a County Commissioner or designated representative to serve as Chairman, and indicated he has already obtained approval from his Commission to continue representing Carbon County on the CGWG.

Motion by John Bailey, seconded by Mike Christiansen to have the draft amendment to the OPS Manual prepared for consideration at the January meeting. CARRIED

North Hebgen Update: Darcie Warden gave a brief status update on the North Hebgen project, reporting that the District Ranger says their goal is to be implementing the project by the summer months of 2017. The draft decision will be released in the February-March timeframe with 45 day objection period to follow. Final decision is anticipated by July.

Forest Plan Revision: Virginia Kelly (USFS) reported on the November 30th release of the assessment and individual reports on line. Feedback on these documents will be taken through January. Members Darcie Warden and Barb Cestero commented that they had already read all or most of the assessment reports, and both were very positive in their critique of the drafts. Kelley stated that for 2017, their efforts will be toward development of the draft plan and proposed actions – with a target release date of January 2018. Active Public engagement (community meetings) will resume in February 2017. Projected locations and dates were discussed, and members were asked to contribute ideas toward the structure and content of these community outreach events.

Meeting Locations already planned by USFS during February/March:

Camp Crook, Ashland, Bozeman, Cook City, Billings, Red Lodge, Big Timber, Gardiner, Livingston, West Yellowstone.

Possible locations for County coordinated events: Big Sky, Ennis, Absarokee, Roscoe? Members to consider additional opportunities.

Blake Christensen, MSU Local Govt. Center led discussion to develop details and clarify action items for community engagement events. Next steps included 1) Determine desired Forest Service staff to attend local events, 2) Determine the specific objectives for the meeting(s), 3) Make final determination of locations and dates to have the events, and 4) arrange for meeting notices to be published. Members will finalize at January meeting.

Chairman Prinkki reminded the members that a grant opportunity through DNRC existed under their Forests in Focus program which may provide funding to counties for forestry coordination. He requested approval of the County members to submit a collective grant application before the mid-January deadline. Motion by Joe Skinner, seconded by Jim Hart authorizing John Prinkki to develop the grant application. CARRIED

Next Meeting – January 11, 2017 – Bozeman

Location – Gallatin County Detention Center (subject to confirmation of the room reservation)

Meeting adjourned 4:15 pm