

**Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)**  
**Meeting Minutes; Wednesday, February 8, 2017**  
**Livingston, MT**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
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	Operations Manual Update	Prinkki / Atwood	Review and adopt proposed change to Ops Manual Section 2
1:20	Membership seats/applications	Prinkki / Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications, update roster for new County appointments
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	Prinkki / USFS	Progress report;
1:45	CGWG Support Letters for North Hebgen and Smith-Shield Projects	Prinkki	Discuss and authorize support letters
2:00	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision	Prinkki / USFS	Progress report; Update on Community Outreach Plan
2:30	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision Outreach	Prinkki / All	Further Work on CGWG Community Outreach events
3:30	DNRC: Forest In Focus and Good Neighbor Authority	Prinkki / DNRC	FIF & GNA update, Program Personnel changes
3:45	Forest In Focus application status	Prinkki / Arno	Update on status of FIF to County funding
4:15	March meeting plan		Agenda, location, homework
4:30	Close, if not sooner		

Attending:

John Prinkki	Alex Sienkiewicz
Jim Hart	Matt Arno
Bill Wallace	Niel Simpson
Scott Brennan	Richard Lyon
Darcie Warden	Ashley Sites
John Bailey	
Hillary Eisen	
Steve Caldwell	
Joe Skinner	
Jeff Schmidt	
Jackie Musgrove	
Maureen Davey	
Earl Atwood	

Meeting was called to order by Chairman John Prinkki at 1:00 PM and introductions were made.

The **Consent Agenda**, which included minutes from the January 24, 2017 meeting was presented. Steve Caldwell moved approval, seconded by Bill Wallace. CARRIED

**CGWG Operations Manual Revision:** The proposed revision to CGWG Operations Manual was presented. Earl Atwood reviewed the proposed changes which modify the requirements and process for selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman. At this point, Chairman Prinkki excused himself from the meeting to allow for unfettered discussion of the proposed changes and leadership direction by the members. Vice Chairman Jim Hart assumed control of the meeting.

The Group discussion showed consensus among the members in support of the proposed changes in terms of the leadership selection and eligibility for Chairmanship. Also supported was the adjustment to representation categories to create an additional at-large seat. Joe Skinner moved to modify the title of the "Fishing" category to incorporate "Hunting" to preserve representation of non-outfitter hunting interests and to adopt the modified draft Operations Manual effective immediately, seconded by Steve Caldwell. APPROVED.

**2017 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Under the new Operations Manual language, a yearly election of Chairmand and Vice Chairman is to be conducted. Joe Skinner nominated John Prinkki to be Chairman for the remainder of 2017, seconded by Maureen Davey. Jim Hart called for additional nominations three times, and there being none, closed the nominations and called for a vote by the County Commissioners present. All voted in favor of John Prinkki.

Chairman Prinkki was asked to return to the room.

Steve Caldwell moved to nominate Jim Hart for Vice Chairman for the remainder of 2017. Chairman Prinkki then called for additional nominations three times, and there being none, closed the nominations and called for a vote by all members present. All voted in favor of Jim Hart.

In anticipation of the John Prinkki's resignation from the Carbon County Commission in March, 2017, Jeff Schmidt moved to continue Chairman Prinkki's membership after that date by transferring him to the vacant At Large membership, seconded by Jackie Musgrove. APPROVED.

Chairman Prinkki thanked the Group for their continued support. He requested the Group consider approving reimbursement for his time and expenses while acting as CGWG Chairman once he is no longer a County Commissioner. After discussion, Joe Skinner moved to reimburse John Prinkki for time at \$25 per hour and mileage at the current State approved rate, not to exceed \$6,000 for the year without additional consent from the Working Group. Seconded by Steve Caldwell. APPROVED.

Following these actions, Earl Atwood read additional statements of support for the Operations Manual revisions received prior to the meeting via email from members who were unable to attend the meeting, including Kerry White, Mike Penfold, and Ian Jones.

**Forests in Focus Funding Support Letter:** Kerry White, in his email, requested the CGWG members consider approving a letter of support for continued Forests in Focus funding by the Legislature, illustrating the extent of private effort an investment that has leveraged the previous support received by CGWG through the FIF program. Scott Brennan moved, seconded by Jim Hart to authorize Chairman Prinkki to develop the support letter and submit it to Kerry White as early as possible. APPROVED.

**Member Attendance Discussion:** Prompted by an email submitted by Ian Jones, there was some discussion regarding member attendance. Chairman Prinkki agreed to follow up with certain members who have not been

actively participating and make a recommendation regarding their prospective involvement with the Working Group.

**North Hebgen Committee:** No news to report since the January meeting. Currently waiting for more info on initiation of the White Bark Pine Monitoring effort.

**Smith Shields Project:** Alex Sienkiewicz, USFS gave a brief update regarding the project, and indicated that they have received notice of intent to litigate by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies. Chairman Prinkki invited the Forest Service to attend the March meeting in Bozeman, and if possible present an update on the project to more fully inform Members on the decision and issues that are under controversy.

**Forest Plan Revision:** Jackie Musgrove reported that she had attended the Forest Service meetings conducted this week in the Ashland District, stating they were well attended and productive. Joe Skinner and Jim Hart reported they are also working on a supplemental event to be conducted within their planned Joint Commission Meeting (Madison/Gallatin Counties) in Big Sky on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Forests In Focus:** Matt Arno, DNRC reported that the recent applications by CGWG and the Coalition of Montana Forested Counties have been approved, and we will receive contact from the DNRC staff soon to finalize the grants.

**Next Meeting:** March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Bozeman. Joe Skinner offered to search for a meeting room and advise. On the agenda – Standing items plus presentation and discussion on Smith Shields Project.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM