

**Draft Meeting Record**  
**Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI), Hybrid Board Meeting**  
**June 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Boundary County Annex Building**

***Board Members in Attendance:***

Don Allenberg, Corporate Agriculture/Landowner  
Erik Olson, Soil/Conservation  
Kennon McClintock, Conservation/Environmentalist  
Mike Klaus, City of Bonners Ferry  
Sandy Ashworth, Social, Cultural, Historical  
Tim Bertling, Boundary County, KVRI Co-Chair  
Tim Dougherty, Business & Industry  
Chuck Roady, Landowner/Industrial  
Wally Cossairt, Boundary County

***Agency/Others in Attendance:***

Austin Terrell, Office of Species Conservation (OSC)  
Caleb Davis, US Rep Fulcher  
Chris Bachman Conservation Director, Yaak Valley Forest  
Cindy Lewis, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Claire Bradfield, NRCS  
Dave Wattenbarger, Citizen  
Doug Hansen, US Department of Agriculture, (USDA)  
Jake Garringer, Governor Little's Office  
Jared Hedelius, USDA  
John O'Conner, Local Landowner  
Karen Schumacher, (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI))  
Leon Basdekas, US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)  
Marc Kilmer, Senator Jim Risch's Office  
Maxwell Martell, USDA Wildlife Services  
Michelle Richman, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)  
Nicholas Boring, NRCS  
Norm Merz, Idaho Fish & Game, (IDFG)  
Owen Turner, NRCS  
Remington Daniels, Citizen  
Rob Morris, IDFG  
Robert Akins, IDFG  
Sandi Fisher, US Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS)  
Shelby Therrian, KTOI  
Sydney Koberstein, KTOI, KVRI Reporting Secretary  
Theresa Wheat, KTOI, KVRI Facilitator  
Tom Patton, Wildlife  
Troy Smith  
William Barquin, KTOI

- **Welcome and introductions** were made to begin the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- **Presentations:**

**Kennon McClintock**, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), presented the Forest Legacy Program's focus on conserving private forest lands, highlighting its advantages such as economic stability, certainty for the forest products industry, and natural resource conservation. He detailed the concept of conservation easements, emphasizing that it removes development rights while allowing landowners to retain ownership and control, without affecting property taxes or traditional uses. Under the terms of a conservation easement, the protected land cannot be subdivided into smaller parcels and cannot be

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commercially developed. He highlighted that conservation easements are customized by the landowner to include their desires and wishes for their property, which usually includes living on the property and managing the land.

Kennon underscored the importance of the forest products industry in Boundary County, particularly its contribution to our economy and the need to safeguard the land for future generations. He stated that over the past 5 years, 71% of the log volume processed by the northern six mills in Idaho come from private forestlands, both industrial and family forestlands. Due to our current growth in population, these private forestlands are at high risk for development.

Kennon briefly described the TNC's current Forest Legacy application which will be submitted in July, 2024. This proposal will protect approximately 1,500 acres of private forestlands located in the eastern part of Boundary County. This forestland is owned by the Goodrich/Patton Trust in 3 separate tracts. Kennon has asked KVRI for a Letter of Support. Since two Co-Chairs could not attend this meeting, Tim Bertling said that we would need to bring it up at July's meeting.

**Cindy Lewis**, NRCS, introduced her team, Claire Bradfield, Owen Turner, , Nicholas Boring, a Resource Conservationist, and Kyle Lunsford, a Planner, who are leading the conservation efforts in their respective areas. She highlighted that their team has significantly increased their conservation work this year, with plans to conserve around 120 million dollars on private land.

Nicholas explained their EQIP program, which offers environmental quality and forest management assistance to private landowners. He detailed the application process, ranking system, and funding protocol. Nicholas clarified that while the program does not have a minimum acre requirement, they do ask that applicants have a Forest Management plan in place before starting work.

Cindy Lewis, presented the details of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which is a five-year commitment that targets full operation or land use relevant to specific programs. She highlighted the program's base payment, enhancement options, and financial commitment.

Cindy discussed the Joint Chiefs partnership between NRCS and the Forest Service, aimed at adjusting and addressing fire management on private and public lands. She additionally provided an update on the new Conservation Easement Program, stating it is not expected to happen this year due to the election.

**Max Martell**, USDA Wildlife services, discussed wildlife fencing opportunities. Max Martell introduced himself and his role as a new member of the agency. He has a background in non-lethal prevention of livestock protection.

He discussed the new program initiated by USDA Wildlife Services about electric fencing for predators and mentioned potential business opportunities. Max shared his plans to collaborate with other organizations, offering cost-sharing for permanent solutions. Temporary fences would be put up during the spring, and taken down in the fall, focusing on Grizzly prevention for livestock. He talked about the program being helpful to those who take livestock to 4-H, smaller farms and chicken coops. Max highlighted his interest in expanding his role to include human safety issues. He shared his contact information, and encouraged anyone interested in the program to reach out to him: Maxwell Martell,

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APHIS Wildlife Services, Grizzly Fencing Technician (208)848-5981 or Email [MaxwellMartell@yahoo.com](mailto:MaxwellMartell@yahoo.com)  
[Maxwell.Martell@usda.gov](mailto:Maxwell.Martell@usda.gov)

**Legislative Updates**

The team confirmed no updates for their respective areas, but did mention that the next Grizzly Bear Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2024 and a TMDL Subcommittee is scheduled on October 9, 2024.

**Theresa Wheat**, KTOI, announced that the National Forest Foundation (NFF) had extended an invitation to those award recipients from the original grant, to modify our original grant, potentially up to \$25,000. This initial grant of \$6,312 was received in September, 2023 for producing educational videos on fuels reduction on the Scattered Lands project. The videos will cover perspectives from the Forest Service, citizens, and private landowners. She concluded by inviting everyone to the next KVRI Meeting scheduled on July 15, 2024.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2024

**Upcoming Meetings for Sub-Committees:**

Grizzly Bear Sub-committee: July 11 and October 21

Forestry Sub-committee: August 8 and October 30

TMDL Sub-committee: October 9

Meeting was called at 7:16 p.m.

Meeting Record Prepared by Sydney Koberstein