

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative
August 1, 2019, 7p.m.
Special Board Meeting – University of Idaho Extension Office

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner & KVRI Co-chair
Angela Cooper, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Vice-Chair & (Alt.) KVRI Co-chair
Dave Sims, City of Bonners Ferry & KVRI Co-chair
Don Allenberg, Corporate Agriculture/Landowner (Alt)
Dave Wattenbarger, Soil Conservation/Landowner
Bob Blanford, Business/Industry
Kevin Knauth, District Ranger, US Forest Service (USFS)
Jim Cadnum, Industrial/Forest
Sandy Ashworth, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests
Rhonda Vogl, KVRI Facilitator & Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)
Karen Schumacher, KVRI Recording Secretary & Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Wally Cossairt, Boundary County Commissioner & (Alt.) KVRI Co-chair
Dave Gray, Social/Cultural/Historical Interests (Alt.) KVRI Board
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's office (***Call in attendance***)
Tim Kastning, Congressman Russ Fulcher's office (***Call in attendance***)
William (Billy) Barquin, Attorney, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (***Call in attendance***)
Christy Johnson-Hughes, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
Tim Dougherty, Idaho Forest Group, Business/Industry (Alt)
Matt Nykiel, Idaho Conservation League
Eric Anderson, 9B Trails

Dan Dinning opened the meeting and introductions were made. On call-in (speaker) were Karen Roetter, representing Senator Mike Crapo's office, Tim Kastning, representing Congressman Russ Fulcher's office and William (Billy) /Barquin, Attorney, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho.

Dan provided some history of CFLR funding and stated that it was not originally believed there would be budget monies but the budget passed and it was appropriated which started the ball rolling for those seeking to submit proposals.

Proposal Discussed: Collaboration with Panhandle Forest Collaborative and Shoshone-Benewah Collaborative on the upcoming new CFLR funding opportunity via one application.

Rhonda Vogl

KVRI was approached by Panhandle Forest Collaborative regarding proposed collaboration. Rhonda directed them to the US Forest Service Supervisor, as that is the Agency that will invite collaboratives to submit for funding.

Dave Sims, Dan Dinning, Gary Aitken & Rhonda Vogl met informally with Peg Polichio, and Liz Johnson-Gephardt from Panhandle Forest Collaborative and Mike Peterson, The Lands Council.

Discussion was had and questions were addressed:

Concerns expressed

- Can KVRI keep autonomy despite it being one application?
- What happens to each collaborative if one collaborative fails to meet obligations/overstates goals?
- Where will needed matching funds come from? We won't be able to use existing forest service (NEPA) funds?
- How many projects will we have? There is a vast amount of (1.8 million acres) work needed in the area South of Boundary County.
- Can we meet the short deadline with the needed review process of possible projects and needs by all three collaboratives?
- How can we assure accountability and upholding of responsibilities?
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is needed and extremely important so that we can avoid losing the progress we've made or having watered down the accomplishments we make.
- Can we identify Areas, Projects, Deliverables and the funding needed by the 8.23 deadline?
- Will we be able to maintain a collaborative versus political approach?
- How do we set boundaries so that all three Collaboratives are self-reliant and meet the obligations in their areas of responsibility?
- In the event of a fire – forest service will have to take that as a precedence over projects.
- There are less projects being funded this year – only 10 across the nation.

Support Expressed:

- A collaboration will greatly increase our chances of being funded
- Tribal Council approval can happen quickly and shouldn't delay work needed to meet August 23rd deadline
- There are many benefits of a mentoring relationship and KVRI's history of leadership can be a positive factor.
- Despite historical/political events that reflected poorly on the Shoshone-Benewah collaborative, enthusiasm and increased organization are being seen
- Panhandle Collaborative has a history of good planning and organization.
- Karen Roetter of Senator Mike Crapo's office expressed support for our proposed collaboration
- Tim Kastning of Congressman's Russ Fulcher's office expressed support and encouraged us to move forward

CFLR Proposal Process:

The first step is submitting a Tier 1 Proposal. Although-Tier 1 is shortened and the outlines needed are broad, it is due August 23 and will require intense work groups as well as a MOA. It will be important for the collaboratives to talk about degree and depth of obligations/commitment.

CFLR funding is meant to allow for increased pace of completing projects not for funding the entire projects.

There are different opportunities that can add on to the CFLR funding such as state Shared Stewardship, Good Neighbor Authority and other Farm bill authorities as additional tools to get work done.

Dan discusses email from Chip Corsi, Idaho Fish & Game, who was unable to attend the meeting in person with the main points being:

- there could be value in collaborating with SBC and PFC
- strengthens our ability to bring funds to N. Idaho
- would be good to have a clear understanding of where/how funds would be allocated to each group to achieve the work. and maintain the distinctive character and effectiveness of each of the groups.

Dan asks Board and attendees for thoughts and input.

Boundary County Commissioners will put on agenda for next week.

David Sims committed City of Bonners Ferry's support for this collaborative funding effort.

Tribal Council and Boundary County Commissioners will vote.

KVRI Board unanimously agrees to move forward.

Timeline for CFLRP Proposal submissions

August 23 – tier 1 proposals due

August 27 – 28 Tier 1 proposal presentations

September 26 tier 1 proposals notified of decision

September 11 CFLRP Webinar on Tier 2

November 5 – 7 Tier 2 proposal presentations

November 8 Tier 2 proposals due to regional office

November 21 letter sent to Secretary w/prioritized region 1 CFLRP proposals and tier 2 proposals notified of decision

November 22 CFLRP proposals due to the Secretary

CFLRP Teleconference scheduled for August 6th.

Reminders to all to RSVP for Fair Booth

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

