

Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2016 (1:00 pm)

The Community Room, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main, Bozeman, Mt

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials: Minutes, Membership applications	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
1:10PM	Consent Agenda: Minutes Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items:
1:15PM	Membership applications	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications
1:20PM	North Hebgen Subcommittee report	Joe Skinner	Advance CGWG decision on Alternative selection
1:40PM	Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Subcommittee report; Agenda/meeting schedule Discuss media campaign	Prinkki / Brennan	Review and discuss 2016 CGWG Forest Plan subcommittee meeting schedule and agenda with defined outreach campaign
2:00PM	Review of CGWG Operations Manual to use as 'roadmap' for how the CGWG will determine appropriate levels of involvement in the CGNF Plan Revision	Prinkki / Brennan	Understanding among members of how we will use the Operations Manual to guide our engagement in the Forest Plan Revision process that CGWG will follow
2:15PM	CGWG 2016 Action items: 1. Administration 2. Forest Plan Revision 3. North Hebgen 4. Bridger Farm Bill	Atwood / Prinkki	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish subcommittees2. Define scope of work3. Set goals and calendar4. Financial plan
3:00PM	Break		
3:15PM	Resume discussion	Atwood / Prinkki	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish subcommittees2. Define scope of work3. Set goals and calendar4. Financial plan
4:45PM	Set next meeting date/agenda	Prinkki / Atwood	
5:00PM	Close, if not sooner		

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Prinkki at 1:05 pm. The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

In attendance:

Bill Wallace	Earl Atwood
Jerry Furtney	Don Bachman
Jackie Musgrove	Nancy Shulz
Brent Sinnema	Steve White
Scott Brennan	
Jeff Schmidt	
John Bailey	
John Prinkki	
Jim Hart	
Marty Malone	
Joe Skinner	
Mike Penfold	
Bob Zimmer (GYC)	

Before moving to the published agenda, Chairman Prinkki reported he had received a contact just prior to the meeting from Mo Bookwalter (DNRC) concerning a funding opportunity for the Custer Gallatin National Forest from additional Cohesive Strategy funds that are being allocated to priority projects. DNRC has developed a support letter to be sent to the Washington office of the Forest Service in support of consideration to allocate \$200,000 of the available funds to the Custer Gallatin to assure timely completion of the North Hebgen NEPA. She wanted the CGWG to be aware of this in the event members would desire to have the CGWG issue their own support letter. Discussion among the members was favorable to the idea of additional funding, however there were questions about whether this was an indication of a funding shortfall or simply adding resources as a measure of insurance that adequate resources were available. Scott Brennan moved, seconded by Jim Hart to authorize the Chairman to generate a letter of support for additional funding to insure adequate and timely completion of the NEPA process in the North Hebgen project. APPROVED

Consent list items included minutes from the December 9, 2015 meeting, the updated funds reports, and Beartooth RC&D invoice for administrative support and coordination from July through December, 2015. Marty Malone moved approval, seconded by John Bailey. APPROVED

Commissioner Joe Skinner reported for the North Hebgen subcommittee. The final analysis will be done in April with release of the Environmental Assessment. This will be our best opportunity to comment, and the subcommittee plans to meet in February to work on areas of agreement which can be brought to the Group as recommended consensus comment. The will also meet with the Forest Service to narrow the issues, and in April have Forest Service present alternatives to the subcommittee and/or the full Working Group about at the beginning of the 30-day comment period.

Commissioner Prinkki reported for the Forest Plan Revision subcommittee, which met on January 12th in Bozeman to work out the process for the subcommittees engagement on the project. One of the early tasks will be the creation of a checklist to be used on this and other projects to insure that subcommittee actions insure that actions or recommendations of the subcommittee are consistent the the direction already set by the members. The subcommittee met with Virginia Kelly and Mariah Lushen to review the project timeline and received five (5) hard copies of the existing forest plan for use by the Working Group. The Forest Service will have press releases on January 25th to kick off their roll-out of the project, and will start a series of community meetings between February 2nd and March 14th. A conditions report will be released in August. Between now and then the CGWG can assist in gathering this information. The FS will provide us with criteria on what is relevant information. The subcommittee agreed that part of their focus will be to find ways to emphasize public awareness and participation in FS community events, and to help set an objective tone for these meetings. The subcommittee nominated John Prinkki, Jim Hart and/or Joe Skinner to be selected to attend training in Denver on April 26-27, subject to availability of seats and budget. It was agreed that a fact sheet or article about the Forest Plan Revision would be a good tool for the members to have in hand as they work within their own communities to build awareness and promote participation in Forest Service information events.

The Bridgers projects subcommittee is in formation, with members still being recruited. Earl Atwood reported that he received word from Member Mike Christianson that he would like to participate on that committee and would be willing to Chair.

Current rosters of the subcommittees were confirmed:

North Hebgen: Joe Skinner, Chair; Marty Malone, Jim Hart, Scott Brennan, Darcie Warden, Jerry Furtney

Forest Plan Revision: John Prinkki, Chair; Jeff Schmidt, Scott Brennan, Jackie Musgrove, Jerry Furtney, Kerry White, Darcie Warden, Mike Penfold

Bridgers Forest Health: to be determined.

Chairman Prinkki reported that the position in DNRC created by 2015 HB510 for Local Government Forest Advisor has been filled. The person hired is Matt Arno from Missoula, and he will be reporting to Mo Bookwalter. Both will be invited to the next meeting for Matt's introduction to the Group and updates on the program.

The next full membership meeting will be on February 10th. It was agreed that only subcommittees would meet in March. Full membership will meet again on April 13th. As the Gallatin County Courthouse is not available on Feb10 and Apr13, Joe Skinner and Marty Malone agreed to work together on finding location(s) for those dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Atwood