

## CPPC – 10/27/2020

**Attendees:** Cathy Cooke, Brian Straniti, Mitch Long, Judy H, Kate Hourihan, Melissa Speeg, Patty O'Hearn, John Storch, Nicky Pasi, Scott Nikolai, Jane Kiker, Nancy Lillquist, Martha Wycoff, Larry Leach, Tom

**Introduce Savannah Fields** – CWU student conducting master's thesis on both an ecosystems evaluation and a recreation cost benefit analysis on the Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest. She will be developing a survey and working with the Outreach and engagement group, as well as looking toward the CPPC for guidance and documentation.

**KPRD** - envisions the CF group having its own separate board. Required to have a KPRD commissioner be on the board. It would have its own financials and potentially a separate funding mechanism

In the past, KPRD has relied on strategic planning process and engaging the public by hosting town halls (difficulty during covid). Bring in facilitator.

Board members and how they are selected – County commission, separate entity. Elected or appointed. They are currently forgoing elections and going with appointee as they are generally unopposed. It costs 3k to put someone on the ballot. (John, Chris M, Eric Kein (sp), Tim Pendlerick (sp))

Accountable to community thought RCO and WAC. 3 active boards appointed by volunteers and a commissioner – Rat Pac, Snow park, Towns to Teanaway.

Recreation aspect could be satisfied by KPRD, but also forest health and land management needs? RCW enables P&R district to be broad what is extent of authority to manage large tracts. KPRD can hold conservation trusts. Lands outside of Seattle is held by P&R dist. Nothing prohibits KPRD1 to partner with other orgs (KCT) for conservation easements or other holdings

Strong caveat that KPRD needs our support. Sub committees do the work. KPRD is holding group.

Capacity issues – KPRD has hired outside council to look at city agreements such as partnering and fulfilling obligations (Suncadia). KPRD will not be involved in community center conversation with Cle Elum. KPRD can become land and property holder of Suncadia land promised for community center. KPRD is possibly getting 1M\$ to buy out as the agreement has not been fulfilled. Separate from 12M\$ in assets to go the city (Bullfrog Flats, park improvements and playfields). Or, if you do not perform by this date, need to fund regional recreation group 1M\$. Attorney helping them either pursue the assets for the city rather than the cash buyout 1M\$.

Legal capacity – KPRD ability to respond to landowner responsibility. TNC needs to step away and need to develop land management issues. This group would need to provide funding for attorney fees for revenue. Similarity, when TNC steps back, this group would need to provide all funding. For capital projects, there is opportunity for KPRD to be able to create BONDS and support/create LEVYS. Other levys have been close, CPPC might be able to leverage outreach and education. Restricted funding source toward this activity.

Strategic planning process. What is the timing and financial modeling? Timing would be conducting a survey for the community to see what they would like to have KPRD do? Then

looking and funding models to see what is appropriate (LEVY/BONDS?) Looking to re-plan for 2021

I want to make sure that we do not have competing interests...would rather the community forest effort NOT viewed by the public as competing with the community center. This would not be good.

KPRD as a fiduciary and account structure. KPRD does not handle money. Handled and audited by county auditor. Oversight from independent party. Allowed to set up restricted funds. County can sweep into general funds but not into restricted. Cannot move money from one project into the other. How would the county respond to the project? They deal with all the fire and health districts and this would not be that large of an undertaking. Need someone to help with submitting financials to county.

This is an opportunity of time. If this is not the right thing for this group. KPRD believe this group will be successful either way but believes it could be mutually beneficial to partner. Having a strong Parks and Rec dist has been key to a lot of local conservation efforts. Want to do things that benefit both the community and the forest. Intensive management needs require a great deal of support. Appreciate of KPRD to step up and want to make commitments.

Chris Martin is commissioner, has personal descending opinion. Making it clear that he is keeping his personal interests separate (wearing KPRD or personal landowner hats).

When the group came together, TNC came up with bookends for what they would need to see with land management. TNC is making them a little clearer in the next month or so. Recreation is incidental use for TNC – need to answer all these management needs in the coming months.

## **Ownership and Management models**

Looking at various models of ownership (see folder for documents) - Abilities, considerations and expertise

KPRD – PDA, KSF, County – KPRD, KCT, MTS

Paying property taxes – TNC makes payment in lieu of property tax but make it anyway. Even if PDA or KPRD is not obligated, it would still be desirable to citizens of Kittitas County.

Pros and Cons - look at docs. For basics

PDA – when we think of managing a forest, we would develop an organization that is 100% tailored to vision and mission. Would not be as possible with combination of existing orgs. Everything needs to be compared back to our vision and mission.

PDA - county commissioners elect future board, but it can be flexible with our charter. Ellensburg Development Authority are not elected but are “blessed.” If you wanted to be on board, need to be an opening, and plead to board/commissioners. However, usually self-appoint.

KPRD would support same model as Ellensburg Development Authority – In addition, if commissioners were not accepting, they could not just replace but push it back to board for another candidate.

501c3 – would be developed so could be nimble like the PDA. Would support lots of various needs around the county. Could it become a land trust if need? It broadens the scope of the KSF and would need to broaden the scope. Would that be necessary with all the entities stepping up. GOAL 5 could be helpful to support stewardship there.

Can the KPRD charter be modified to format to better format the overall mission and vision of the CPPC? YES – They are currently revisiting their 5-year plan. Can refocus charter at this point. Not contrary to state constitution or law. Separate sub-charter for CPPC activities.

Lots of nimble opportunities! Need a subcommittee to understand management models – perhaps work our way backwards from our “dream list” of pros. Have Tom and John help

## **Report out**

Mitch reported out to Chamber of Commerce – not opposed to PDA and want to support recreation and land management more. High level of support!

Nearly 600 respondents to survey – will close on Nov 1

RCO grant – will know where we are ranked by the end of the month – there is a button online but no info yet. Have heard they are impressed!