

Checkerboard Partnership meeting 9/24 notes

Attendees: Gary, Laura O, Jamey, Anna L, Jay, Isaac, Jane, Melissa, Judy H, Darcy, Brian, Kayla

Missing: Larry, Nicky, Mitch, Jeff, Tristin/Jonathan, etc.

Session Objectives:

- Welcome and introduction.
- Nason Ridge Community Forest tour reflections
- Begin work on vision and charter
- Strengthen work between group “task forces” and recruit

Summary of outcomes from Aug 27 meeting

- Recognized that we did not develop a group to focus on future ownership models and long-term management.
- Management of Cle Elum and Man/Tan will be less about the fiber and more about the opportunities that the land provides
- Decision: This responsibility will fall to the Governance Task Group for the time being and Laura will join the Governance Team so we have a county representative.
- Conversation about shifting the time to 3 -6pm.
 - People don't take time off work for things like this
 - If we want public engagement, we should schedule community meetings
 - Keep in the back of our minds and let group know if we are getting feedback that the time doesn't work.
- New members schedule time to for introduction
 - If you recruit new member, send them Brian or Darcy's way in order for them to provide background of Partnership

Post Nason Ridge tour

- Attendee feedback and ah-ha's!
 - Unclear about the community engagement model/roles to date
- What is applicable to this group?
 - Stemilt Partnership would be interesting to explore - similarities to the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area (MT)
- Discussion about the October 10 Field Trip – team up with TCF advisory committee to discuss collaboration and support on the Cle Elum Ridge
 - Available: Jay, Judy, Gary, Michelle, Larry
 - Coordinate, streamline, leverage
 - Group likes the idea of a field tour and a discussion about how we can coordinate, streamline, and leverage these existing efforts.

Task forces report out: Who had a chance to meet?

- Draft Board – Gary Berndt
 - Have not yet met. Sent out a message and request for names of who is missing.
 - Laura replied with a full list of people that we should reach out to

Laura met with and discussed this effort with the stage reps. Tom Dent is the most interested - very dedicated to natural resources. All are very supportive of this effort.

- Governance – Larry Leach and David Sack

Larry sent out examples of documents for the team to react to

Need to hold monthly meetings as the outputs from this team are foundational to this group.
Week of October 15?

The TNC office is available for groups to meet

- Survey/Values – Nicky Pasi

This group might not need to meet quite yet, have to define some aspects of vision and goals first.

- Public Engagement – Nicky Pasi

Gary: Can we put together a 2 pager for the bulletin board for the Hunter's Breakfast. Gary will talk to Claire. Have a spot for people to sign up for additional information.

Laura: Should we create Mailchip type email list? MS: creating this will be really important for fundraising eventually.

Jane: Be careful not to get ahead of ourselves. We had planned to do a rollout focused on community engagement at the start of the year. Are we asking them to support something that is already baked. Or are we asking them to come engage.

Melissa - we can do both - it is good to get our name and effort into public consciousness, so when we ask the community to show up, they have an idea of what this is about.

Group will meet and develop materials that will be available for October 12

- Chasing Money – Darcy Batura

Jane sent out an email all the available funding sources and what other community forests have done.

We have a lot of information that we accumulated over the last year as part of the tours, etc. Plenty of short items that are very helpful.

Idea: Let's do a community forest highlight. Darcy will present one next month. Also send info on that with the agenda.

- Facilitation/Agenda – Melissa Speeg

They are on it and doing great!

Group activity – Create template for Governance group of mission and vision

- Mission

Words: Common, Sustainable, Heritage, Respect, Collaborative, Resilient, Getting Outdoors, self-sustaining, responsive, local, connect, cooperation, stewardship, local economy, local benefits, dynamic management, working forests, accessible, invested, diversity, inclusive

Others: Recreation, preservation, conservation, wildlife habitat, watershed, cultural, ecosystem services

Inclusive is both an objective and an approach

The 8 words we landed on included: *Connect, collaborative, inclusive, common, accessible, invested, local benefits, sustainable,*

- Vision

Words: adaptive, outreach, leader, cross-boundary, juiced, engaged, representative, guidance, cohesive, community, support, strengthen, oversee, model, support, team,

What the planning committee is: team, cohesive, Engaged/Juiced, adaptive,

What the planning committee does: Community, cross-boundary, model, representative, aspiration

- Objectives (weave into the charter)

Create the opportunity on developing a community forest in Kittitas County.

- Using the information and models that we have created
- Reference TNC Bookends:
 - Confidence that development of the property will be restricted, and conservation values will be maintained (e.g., through a conservation easement or transfer to public land management agency)
 - Assurance that public access to the property will be maintained
 - Respect for the treaty rights and cultural practices of tribes
 - Confidence in the management capability, operating expertise, and financial capacity of the future landowner
 - Fair market compensation for the property value
 - Ongoing management objectives that are consistent with the existing federal Habitat Conservation Plan
 - Ongoing management that is consistent with the forest health goals of the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative
 - Active forest management; including forest health restoration and sustainable forest management (consistent with goals of potential funders and communities interests)
 - Development and maintenance of recreational trails as consistent with community and conservation goals
 - Ongoing commitment to pay local property taxes or annual payments *in lieu of* same

- Define community

Defined as Kittitas County and the Yakama Nation

Outreach emphasis on upper Kittitas County (because of the heavier impact)

Fundraising focus is statewide and beyond – terrestrial and aquatic health has major downstream impact