

CPPC Meeting Notes 1.26.21

CPPC UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS

DNR Community Forest Program Details

DNR back in 2008 created legislation and got it passed that created a Community Forest Trust Program. The Legislator asked DNR to collect proposals for future funding. They gave some sideboards on what those proposals had to include and how DNR needed to score the community forest. There is still stuff on the DNR website asking for proposals to that program, and in there you need to guarantee that it will remain working lands, show you have a financial model to show sustainability financially, and show community support and connection. There were not any proposals that came in that the Goldmark administration felt like pushing through to the legislature for funding. It was that program that was used to acquire the TCF. TCF not subjected to the same rules - didn't have to show it could support itself financially. Another -Klickitat was also put through but they also didn't show it was financially sufficient.

Worked with Hilary early on and ultimately that group went to RCO to create this new program that we are familiar with. However, the DNR Program still exists and as far as Larry can gather from the program manager we are still accepting proposals. It is too late for this legislative session, but if a proposal came in for the next one, DNR would have to evaluate it to see if they would submit it or not. Was there some requirement of match from the community in the original legislation? It's not on the website, but thinks it is in there. Jane thinks it is still in the RCW. It has never been used so we aren't sure how it would be applied.

Does this resonate that this is a sleepy, not paid attention to part of DNR? Community Forests including TCF, in the SW Region we put a ton of effort into both our community forests. It is all but forgotten in Olympia. Adobe is aware of it because it was tagged on to her responsibilities, but questions generally come to Larry. The fire program seems to be dominating everything we do.

Until the state's budget projections are better, then the chances are slim. Even if it were better, the chance would still be 50-50 because of the new community forest program. The original program was set up so that DNR wasn't necessarily the title holder and manager. Question of combining funds hasn't been brought up. How would it differ if there is the potential for creating a new DNR community forest, if we know the permitting is in place to secure additional water, if we were looking at expanding the TCF would that change things? In some ways I think expanding the TCF post knowing that the poison pill had been dealt with, would be easier because it is a less politically risky thing for the department to do.

The last update that Larry saw is if things go as planned, they will have the permits for KDRIPP by 2024. Once the permits are in hand, the poison pill is no more. Is Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant (KDRPP) the only project that needs to happen to meet the needs? KDRPP just happens to meet up with the acre feet of water needed, but if that was accumulated over other projects, then it could work too. To Mitch's knowledge, it is the only project that has advanced as far as it has.

TNC is interested in this pathway because this is the route that restores the natural treaty rights for the Yakama Nation and other sovereign nations. Also feel like there is a little more stability for membership on an advisory committee versus who is holding office for the county commissioners.

Is it worth it to let Olympia know that we are interested in exploring this option? Wouldn't want to do this immediately. Need to know about the status of the poison pill. Darcy wants to highlight that we are painting the picture that as things evolve, the article this last weekend highlighting the year to year real estate increases by county. Mapped it all and showed the growth for all the counties and they ranged from 4.7% to 21%, which was Kittitas County, the highest. Threat from a conversion perspective. Portions of the Cle Elum Ridge are in the green zone near the northern end of the ridge. This amplifies a strong protection strategy. One of the legislators out of Wenatchee who is addressing the issue of investors wanting to invest in water. There is legislation that will help some people but will put a premium on water. It might help irrigators but it might become an issue with lands with water.

Community Forest Discussions with Local Representatives

- So far have had conversations with Laura O, Roslyn: Brent Hals, Geoff Scherer, Jeff Adams, Matthew Lund,
- Have Cory Wright, Brett Wachsmith, Leah Hadfield, Tom Missel, Ken Ratcliff signed up
- It has also been recommended that we reach out to KPRD, the 4 local fire districts, and Yakama Nation (Phil Rigdon)
 - All really important partner community people to reach out to. We are missing the alternative. Who is going to play a role in vitalizing a denser Cle Elum. There is a whole other side bar.
 - Who else to talk to by getting at Martha's point - maybe talk to Sean Northrup to see how many new homes have been platted, how many are in the works for permission through the city, and some more information on how many multi-family homes/low income housing are being developed in conjunction to that. If we are able to point to the development already being developed it may help in that discussion. We need to take that with a grain of salt because you are talking with developers already with projects in the works.
 - Was Elliot on your list? Really solid handle on wildfire on the county level as a whole - if he's not busy, might want to talk to him. It's the local businesses. Basecamp recently opened an outdoor store in Cle Elum. Reach out a broader net to see if we can hear from some of the people that might not be supportive of this.
 - These are second homes that would be built up there and not what local Kittitas County residents.

Community Forest Budget

- The group has been working on the numbers. The framework will handle phases 1, 2 and 3 and then can extract a subset of line items for phase 1. The focus on the numbers (rock bottom numbers), are what we need to plan for out of the gate. We are working on both

revenues and expenditures. Have some numbers based on donations, grants, and harvest. More discussion is yet to come. The expenditures take it a step further. Kyle is running some numbers for both cash flow and expenditures. Hopefully will have numbers in the next few weeks. Larry has been extremely helpful - provided the first rough cut. Larry can review Kyle's number and then the finance group will further discuss. The budget isn't ready for prime time yet. Will have a budget by the next meeting.

- Have a number of other action items - look at other community forest experiences around the state and how they budget (help with framework development), have some questions for the group, and have to develop processes and procedures around handling funding.
 - How to staff?
 - Borrow, part-time, or contract?
 - Definitely need to consider staff whether contracted or otherwise. Figure out how to do that in a cohesive way. Need to include that whether it is part-time or full-time. Might change as we ramp up conservation; it may be expanded. As we get more lands and stable revenue streams it
 - Space for the community forest (leasing a space)?
 - Have a couple of local offices where a single person might be able to reside. Out the gate, we are living in a time where people aren't working in offices anyways. So not as concerned about space right now.
 - When should we start raising funds? Ex. Donations?
 - If we start raising funds, should we have a name and a bank account? What are the appropriate internal controls?
- Martha: Thanks Tom for the great work and it is so key to the long term sustainable entity to address land and conservation and community. my concern —is a bit of a broken record —concern that the new 'thing' will draw away from the collaborations that are real and potentially will just add the same group to the same venn diagram of all we all do. Can we add a way to look at the current groups to avoid re-inventing this idea.

YBIP Lands Subcommittee

One of the big takeaways is the green zone conversation. We figured out the wildland urban interface. The Lands Subcommittee came together to see if there should be an expansion of the TCF or the establishment of a new community forest. When they first came together, these lands were number two behind the TCF. So we went back to look at those values and why it ranked so high and the importance of protecting that landscape.

Some of the people were really convinced of the importance of this area. Then we continued on into the green zone conversation and reminded people of the restrictions on other lands in the county. Look at water banking to see if there is some way to capture the development water rights on these lands and

move them to less desirable lands. You can see the green zone lands are towards the northern stretch of the properties, but it is not in an area that necessarily will serve the community at large.

YBIP is visioning for the next 10 years of acquisitions, so that is what they will be working on next. Will be doing a deep dive at the February meeting (4th). Nicky will be presenting to them. Melissa will work with Nicky to go over if we want to include any new slides in there.

RCO COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM ADVOCACY

WALT Sign-on Letter - please sign

Additional Advocacy?

- Brian had a conversation with someone in Cantwells office and she suggested that written letters work best, then phone calls, then emails and then group emails last.
- What Mitch has heard is that sending individual emails to Warnick and Dent are going to be the most effective. What we are hearing from the way the budget is moving is that folks should send a short paragraph for full funding of the proposed program.
- How far off are we from position number 4 and is there a story to share there. The first four projects will be funded. A lot of that has to do is that those four projects were fairly well known previous to this program. The project underneath us on the list is high profile and there will be a lot of people advocating for it. Can we throw in to partner with that group? Mitch and Darcy are partnered with WALT.
- Email might be best right now because they are already in budget discussions. Starting discussions now so now is the time to do that. Does it make sense to address them to the aides? That would potentially work as well. Helps keep it on their minds. If we have the contacts for the aides let's send it to them too.
- Melissa will send to local reps as well.
- Do we need to share the WALT information sheet we filled out? Take a look at last Friday's meeting to see how they are sharing that. Even if there is a way to have our box with our project in it. Cool visuals with KCT or TNC but maybe just the letter from local residents.
- Maybe share on Facebook to encourage local residents to petition as well? Can include pictures of your family recreating on the ridge. People who did the videos. The big key is to have community leaders, businesses, etc. write these emails to show a broad base of support for the project.
- Please send the template to the Friends of the Teanaway and Pico might gin up his board.

TASK GROUP REPORT OUT

- Draft Board
 - See above.
- Future Funding
 - Something else we were struggling with is how do we staff and provide office space to be the land manager of the property or do we also include someone to facilitate this group and advocate for the other steps along the way? That is another piece of looking at the phases of the acquisition over time.

- Outreach and Engagement
 - Been working with Hannah to create a Why This Forest, Why Now?
 - Could use this video in advocacy.
 - Did a Nature At Home. Melissa and Nicky handled some tough questions very well. This video can be used for outreach.
- Governance
 - No update.

OTHER UPDATES

- Darcy just emailed the group an invite to the next Northwest Coalition meeting. She has suggested that the CPPC be a member/partner. If you are able to make the time and you are interested you should attend. The meetings are quarterly and the information is supposed to be helpful in planning. The next one is focused on wildfire.
- Tomorrow is the strategic planning session with KPRD tomorrow. Hopefully some from this group are planning on participating.
- Remind: when Melissa sent the agenda out last week, Nancy forwarded email about the fact that the county is starting to look at amending their 2016 Parks and Recreation Plan and it would be an excellent opportunity for CPPC to get involved so that these lands are acknowledged in the plan. Whatever kind of community resource it becomes, it will benefit from being called out in the plan. Right now we can say it is consistent in the plan, which we do in our grant writing, but it is way better to have it called out. It would be a great time for someone to show up to request if we can add these lands to the list.
- What is the plan if we receive the funding for the project? Do we go to KCT and ask them to take it on? We need to talk with the RCO grant manager and see what the expectation is for contracting. We should have a little bit of wiggle room there. We heard that the agreement doesn't need to be signed until the end of the year, but we need to be planning for it.

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

- Community Forest Discussions
 - Reach out to KPRD, local fire representatives, and Yakama Nation (Phil Rigdon, others?) to capture their thoughts as well.
 - Reach out to the Chamber and then see if we can talk with other business owners.
- DNR Community Forest Program
 - Procuring a conservation easement? Responsible for 50% of the HBU value on the property.
 - Should we ask questions around how to afford it?
 - Paused for now until we have a better feel for how to proceed?
 - Need to consider that YBIP is looking at how to support this project.
 - Keep it on the back burner for now.
- KCT Board Meeting
 - Still want to hold it for March?
 - Back burner

- RCO Program Funding Advocacy
 - Brian and Melissa will draft a template for people to use
 - Share with
 - Friends of the Teanaway (Pico)
 - Local representatives
 - People who volunteered to do the videos
 - Chamber and local businesses (Hotel Roslyn, Suncadia?, Roslyn Bike Shop)
 - Share on Facebook
- Community Forest Revenue and Expenses
 - Send out 5 questions for the group
- Document Upcoming Events
 - NCFC
 - Parks and Rec Update
 - Commissioners meeting yesterday and might of set a date for upcoming workshops? Ask Nancy.
 - KPRD Planning