

CPPC In-Person Meeting Teanaway Grange

12.15.21

12-3 PM

Notetaker: Katie Pofahl

Facilitator: Melissa Speeg

Attendees: Mitch Long, Pam Hawk, Nicky Pasi, Laura Osiadacz, Jamey Basye, Vince Pruis, Cathy Cook, Martha Wycoff, Darcy Batura, Gary Berndt, Jay McGowan, Phil Hess, Katie Pofahl, Nancy Lillquist, Tom Krippahne, Kathy Young, Jane Kiker, Judy Hallisey, Joe Rauch, Melissa Speeg, Vic Monahan

[Link to the agenda](#)

[Link to the presentation](#)

- Clarifications to the charter:
 - We support transition for the full 27,000 acres of the Central Cascades Forest but our main purpose is the 9,000-10,000 acres of the Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest
 - We would like to refine a few aspects of the charter - membership and representation, decision-making, standards for reporting out, and committees
- Items not on the slides:
 - RCO Grant update, Mitch: KCT and their board are considering co-signing as the community partner on the RCO grant, pending signs of support for DNR. They have been open and transparent with RCO and have some more time before action needs to be taken
 - Yakima Basin Integrated Plan update, Peter:
 - The YBIP watershed lands subcommittee was instrumental in protecting Teanaway Community Forest and they continue to advocate for support from DNR for TCF. Cle Elum Ridge was identified as a priority for the watershed lands subcommittee and they are willing to partner and collaborate with us to secure partnership with DNR and foster mutual benefits for both forests.
 - DNR has stated that they need an operations and management package for the Teanaway and Kickitat Community Forests before they can consider taking on new lands. Peter is working with Larry and others at DNR, both regional and state level, along with TNC's government relations team, to address this O&M concern.
 - YBIP is also working to secure 214K acre feet of additional water storage as part of the agreement for protecting Teanaway, this is on track but there are several major projects to go to achieve that.
 - What roles can CPPC play? All lands and waters are connected - working together to develop a partnership; continue to further RCO grant conversations with DNR to help them partner, demonstrate that there is community support for this pathway

Thoughts/Q&A from CPPC

- Nicky: How do we ID the philanthropy fundraising component?
 - Katie: that amount will be informed by the DNR O&M goal; endowment would be additional; these are questions we are looking to CPPC to help move forward on
- Laura: if new CF was just to become part of the larger TCF, how would that play into concerns from this group that members should be residents of Kittitas County.
 - Nicky: Current makeup of TCF Advisory Committee - now its mostly KCo, but there is a perception that it is non-locals persists
 - Laura points out that there's nothing in the advisory committee that ensures this local management, this is a change we have IDd wanting to make
 - Jane - this is a good chance for CPPC to lobby hard for local representation
 - Melissa: still need to have a community-based nonprofit supporting that org - that can be the local control and input and how do we ensure that local control
 - Mitch: Could be a TCF model but not same as TCF; there is opportunity to develop this to be its own thing; main goal right now is to get DNR to sit down and talk to us about this. As a group though, we should ID what would make us uncomfortable about how this CF would operate
 - Darcy: This is a good conversation - reflect and support local economic impacts and benefits; recreation brings infrastructure challenges
- Tom: Is there anything major that DNR can't/wouldn't take care of, how are we going to take care of it?
 - Eg: Nicky: Recreation - Towns to Teanaway is envisioning 60 miles of trail, this is a lot for DNR to take on (even just parking and sanitation). Historically they have not been a rec manager. They look to groups like WTA, EMBA, MTSG who have more recreation planning, building, and management expertise. DNR will look to these groups to provide this kind of leadership.
 - Nicky: Goal 5: 5th TCF goal is community engagement, there is a goal 5 subcommittee in TCF advisory committee (volunteer events, community engagement, education, advocacy in Olympia around the budget) - there will need to be a group in CPPC to do something similar
 - Darcy: East Cascades Rec Partnership - a great forum to have these conversations and how rec partners and managers can pull together to advocate and develop shared work and objectives
 - EG; submitting and advocate-driven funding request for additional funding for O&M funding request to DNR, DFW, etc. This is in clear alignment with our goals, CPPC could support this
 - TCF Advisory committee is all volunteer; DNR provides 1 rec specialist, oversight, maintenance, wildlife biologists, law enforcement, etc. Some are spread across DNR ownership.
 - Darcy: Greenway has been leading collaboration among recreation groups; Kittitas Stewardship Fund came from brainstorming in this group to support projects and build capacity within our County to be successful
- Tom: How do other CFs staff this work?

- Mitch: Each CF is unique - our job is to figure out what fits our needs; we need to figure out how to maintain this level of participation and continue to provide this capacity long-term
- Jane - it's a requirement of the CF to have a nonprofit support this work
 - Nicky: TCF is a model for this - MTSG pays Nicky to help execute Goal 5; they brought on an additional coordinator to help with this
 - Tom: When do we start figuring that out?
 - Nicky - right now we are "pinch hitting" with KCT, CPPC. But we need to resolve the question of capacity. So, do we need to resolve this now (eg: capacity question)
- Phil Hess - fine with DNR ownership - his concern is that their public perception is that CE Ridge CF will just be an addition to TCF. How can we come up with a means for keeping it separate? Name, structurally? We know it, but the public needs to understand it. Could be Cle Elum Community Forest or Cle Elum/Roslyn CF.
 - Q: In order for DNR to take ownership, do we need O&M schedule or scheme in place for them to take ownership?
 - Mitch: Annual cost is approx \$250K for maintenance. Does not include forestry costs.
 - Comment: As we hand this over to DNR, this committee should come up with the land stewardship guidelines or plan.
 - Jane: RCO guidelines requires this - the community group is responsible for developing that community management plan
- Joe Rauch: Pass
- Jayme Bayse: Appreciates the 3 courses of action - Cabin Creek DNR trust; Taneum to USFS, Community Forest for CE Ridge - but what is the total cost?
 - Jane: TNC is working on updating our estimates on land values, early estimates from 2016 = approx \$20M, we have \$3M RCO grant now
 - Jayme - will this increase? Yes, over time. LLC requires an appraisal before any sale
 - Jayme - thanks to TNC for giving us the chance to add these lands to our forest
- Pam: Pass
- Gary: In response to Phil: Is it going to be seen as adding onto TCF? How is Kent separated from Fife? Don't think it's a problem to have a CF managed adjacently to other ownerships. It is still us. We share where we have common interests and where it needs where it works. It's nothing but beneficial to own it, manage it, and do that management across boundaries. Glad that we have finally narrowed it down, we couldn't design a management group because every time we met we've had a different route to take. We will need a board, an advisory body in the community, support from the people who use it. Nothing to discourage him today.
- Cathy: Is DNR saying they will not consider a CE Ridge CF until they have O&M costs for TCF?
 - Melissa: Yes, TCF, Klickitat, and CE Ridge...DNR's ask is that those 2 be sustained through permanent O&M

- Jane: Peter and our GR team are working at a DNR HQ level over the next year plus to get a package together for 2023 legislation
- Melissa - CPPC will help with that advocacy - lobbying DNR and our reps to get this support as a permanent item in the budget
- Nicky - not the DNR saying “quid pro quo”, it’s the leadership level in Olympia that we are not adding new until we can manage what we have
- Gary - one of our first jobs is to formally advocate for that? Legislative letter, etc;
- Jane - we will want to wait for the right time
- Mitch: they need YBIP, particularly TCF to meet the goals and objectives so we are smart to align with them
- Katie: we need to keep tracking with this GR progress
- Vic Monahan:
 - We want to keep tracking with this and not let it get “swallowed up in the beast”, still want to make this our own and representative of our community
- Laura O: Pass
- Darcy: Larry hates that he is missing this, she has been texting him. DNR has offered an incredible commitment so far, they need to see the community has skin in the game in tangible and intangible ways - CPPC is that focal point. On the Q of whether it is part of the TCF or stand alone - she still feels the ticking clock. This is land that is at the highest demand of development. Let’s not lose sight of the risk. The good work that is already happening - forest health work, is already being supported with DNR. That will continue no matter who manages it. We are creating those norms across the landscape
- Jay McGowan: Nothing to add
- Nancy Lilquist: As we ask DNR to take it, we should be asking for local control. From their perspective managing 2 separate CFs would take more time and resources, but that is the goal. DNR ownership still seems tenuous - not asking for O&M till 2023, can take a while to get this. Comfortable with us all moving in this direction and putting the resources we have to make this solution real, but at what point would we know if this isn’t going to work out and what is our plan B? Not going back to the nonprofit, but could go back to the PDA model
 - Melissa: EG: RCO grant needs to be returned if we can’t get DNR on board - that would be a really valuable check-in on whether this strategy is working;
 - When does this decision occur?
- Judy Hallisey: Where does Domerie Creek fit into this?
 - Melissa: community forest serves the community, but each in different ways. Water and rec
 - Could the City own and manage the lands? Cathy Cook - unlikely. Water supply grants? Other options?
 - Mitch: KCT could help with this; fits into objectives for water conservation within the resort; there is significant need for protection; he strongly supports including DNR
 - Mitch - local partnership is with Larry, but a lot of the advocacy work will be on DNR state level