

Meeting Notes 8.24.2021

Attendees: Mitch Long, Darcy Batura, Melissa Speeg, Nicky Pasi, Gary Berndt, Judy Hallesy, Peter Dykstra, Nancy Lundquist, Phil Hess, Nicole Ogden, Tonya Morrey, Pam Hawk, Vic Monahan, Larry Leach, Cathy Cook, Martha Wycoff, Tom Krippaehne, Jay McGowan
Notetaker: Katie Pofahl

Updates and Discussion

- TNC Land Management; Darcy
 - Recreation closure - please help spread the word
 - How Go commercial thinning going well, still working on area around trails, will reopen as soon as we can, will close again for prescribed fire
 - logger shuts down every day at 1 for fire risk
 - near Rat Pac trail now, hoping to re-open lands and Rat Pac
- TNC Funding opportunities - TNC is seeking letters of support; Katie
 - LWCF on Taneum, seeking \$14.5M for 12K acres, has ranked very highly in the past, ranked #1 nationally but did not receive full funding
 - incredible opportunity for water quality, restoration, rare species, reducing fragmentation, etc; project is solid
 - Forest Legacy Funding - working forest lands and ecological value, 3rd submission, would be transferred to DNR, has been challenging in the past to get priority for this project but we have support to continue submitting as the other projects that are highly ranked are completed
 - also a strong project but we need to do a better job showing community support for this effort
 - Cabin Creek may also become a focus for salmon and bull trout restoration - this area is coming into focus
 - Judy Hallesy Kittitas Audubon could write a letter for Cabin Creek -
 - We will reach out via email - we can recycle letters from previous years, about 1 month turnaround; reaching out to cities, YBIP, WFFA, KCT, MTSG

Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Watershed Lands Subcommittee; Peter Dykstra

- Why YBIP and CPPC?
 - Purpose of the Watershed Lands Subcommittee: Protection of existing public land and support acquisition of public lands across the Yakima Basin; bring in a diversity of voices to support the integrated plan into the future
 - Peter started out representing the Wilderness Society in his role on the committee; also reps from USFS, KCo, Yakima Co, TNC, American Rivers, Yakama Nation, etc
 - Identified lands for acquisition in Yakima Basin, both in forested and shrub steppe with the goal of water security and fisheries restoration
 - Set up principles for conservation in 30 year plan; over 100K acres of forested land coming up for sale
 - Concern from counties that this transition into public ownership could be a challenge, so they initially set target limits - 15K acres of shrub steppe; 55K acres of forested lands identified as priorities and alternatives for the 30 year Yakima Basin integrated plan
 - Have hit goals with shrub steppe

- Forested landscape; 1st 3 years hit target; Teanaway was priority and they acquired 50K acres; also supported LWCF projects to make up the remaining 5K
- The YBIP is an adaptive, science-based strategy; snowpack is the “6th reservoir”; developed Phase 2 plan. They are looking at potential additional forested lands acquisition, same priority parcels
 - Wrote letter of support for Manastash-Taneum priority project - this is an example of how they can support now; also eg \$100M lobbying for Teanaway Community Forest
 - Land subcommittee feels they could support the Checkerboard Partnership projects, esp CE Ridge; it meets the principals of the subcommittee
 - They are interested in doing this for the long term to make sure that it is managed and stewarded in a way that is consistent with the YBIP
- Discussion:
 - How do we move forward? CPPC has been moving forward for several years; we have \$3M grant and anticipate additional success; YBIP is managing at a watershed scale and there is alignment on CE Ridge
 - Is this the place to invest? So far, yes, but what does that look like? What support do we need? Will that fit with the goals?
 - Ownership question - they understand this challenge; DNR was going to own Teanaway, but now it’s joint DNR and DFW, so this is an example of the kinds of shifts they are comfortable navigating
 - BuRec, Irrigators, and other non-traditional conservation stakeholders are also advisors; YBIP has been able to develop creative solutions because of the way their dialogue works
 - Martha: Thank you Peter. Your comments on collaborations and multi- perspectives are great reminder and difficult conversations are necessary too
 - Gary: How involved can YBIP be in guiding the CPPC in this process? There is good cross-over between our groups
 - Nicky: How do we start the dialogue and messaging between CPPC and YBIP?
 - There is the option to support a variety of things, including operations and management. But best to have CPPC outline what we need and bring that to the YBIP Lands Subcommittee
 - YBIP interested in CE Ridge, potentially Domerie, ongoing support, Phase I
 - Different ownerships across phases?
 - CPPC needs to have these challenging conversations and daylight the preferences
 - Peter’s job is to be a liaison between YBIP and community groups, not as a volunteer, so please reach out to him

Fundraising

- Active account with KCT dedicated to CE Ridge stewardship and management; \$340 now, Mitch is reaching small donors to show support and reach the community, so far \$2800 and 33 donors!
- Using Little Green Light to manage donors separately for CE Ridge
- Goal? \$200K between now and Jan 1; this amount would fund annual maintenance
 - Friends, family, social media, etc to show community support
- Fundraising materials?

- Fundraising committee and outreach committee work together?
- Newspaper ads, flyers, talking points, map of CE Ridge including Domerie parcels and messages about values and benefits
- TNC could work on developing a map for the key parcels in this acquisition (similar to winter rec map but with additional ownerships, key values, locations, cities. Keep trails? Don't want to bind future owners to this exact management plan but also want to show recreational opportunities and values including habitat)
- Communicate some of these values online as well; storymaps etc
 - Identifying user groups we want to reach more effectively
 - Opportunities to work with recreationists via the Rec Forum
 - Let's be careful not to make this a "recreation planning" conversation - sometimes it can be easy to go too far in that direction
 - Let's make sure we are also focusing on forest health and fire resilience
 - Cultural and scenic values as well
- Suncadia Harvest Fest
 - Free table space, 3k ppl per day
 - [Harvest Festival \(destinationhotels.com\)](http://destinationhotels.com)
 - Oct 2&3, 9&10
 - Tom can help with a day or two, KCT can help, Nicky on 9th or 10th
 - Nancy suggested a signup sheet with shifts; Melissa will work on this
 - KCT has tent and table
 - We can use this as a deadline for some of our materials - works with TNC's publication timeline; could do handouts and large posters
- Event Brainstorming for Outreach Committee
 - Log Fest, Public Lands Day
 - Covid might be a problem for some of these events
 - Create our own events in the fall - @Basecamp with food, music, info, rides, hikes, etc
 - Create events calendar?
 - Nick on Rock's Fundraiser
 - Fall: Depending on timing, we could also center an event around the successful linkage of Towns to Teanaway to the West Fork Campground
 - Goals for outreach? Business sponsorship - MTB, fishing, forest health hike, etc., highlight the organizations that are supporting us, fundraising, showing community support
 - Merge fundraising and outreach committees for a time to work on these ideas together

Updates

- Fundraising, Tom
 - Little Green Light donor mgmt system, KCT could use for other types of donor mgmt
 - Internal controls for donor mgmt are coming along eg procurement policy, separation of duties, oversight
- Outreach, Nicky
 - Met August 2, want to work with future funding committee to create clear statements for talking points (amount to raise, when we will decide final owner by, based on valuation report by TNC)
- Governance, Larry: No update
- Donate page is up! [DONATE | CPPC WORKING \(checkerboardpartnership.com\)](http://DONATE | CPPC WORKING (checkerboardpartnership.com))
 - idea: Update photo to include images of the community

- keep taking/sharing photos that inspire this work!