

Meeting Notes 6.22.21

ATTENDEES

Pam Hawk, Melissa Speeg, Gary Berndt, Mitch Long, Cathy Cook, Nicky Pasi, Phil Hess, Tonya Morrey, Patty O-Hearn, Tristyn Duerr, Judy Hallisey, Larry Leach, Darcy Batura, Vic Monahan, Jay McGowen, Kathy, Tom Krippahne, Nancy Lillquist

CASH FLOW MODELING

Have been wanting to update Cash Flow Modeling for a while. TNC decided to contract the model out to have a third party do the analysis. AFM is doing it. Ideally it would have been done by June but the plan is by the end of July. There is a lot hanging on it, but it is contracted and moving forward.

LWCF AND FOREST LEGACY

Last fall we put in \$26 million in grant requests. Information came out a few weeks ago. The good news is, TNC worked directly with Kristen Bail (USFS supervisor) and asked for \$14.5 million. Nationally the proposal ranked #1 which is great, but only received \$2.4 million. TNC is working with YN and YBIP partners to ask for that to be adjusted. New earmark this year and aggressively going for that. Shooting with partners in the Taneum next week talking about the value of the project. Feel like we are going to get there since it ranked #1 nationally. Even if we get it all the earliest it could transfer is in 2023, so it will still take time.

Forest Legacy for Cabin Creek. The good news is that we are on the ranked list, but the bad news is that we are way down below the funding line. Having conversations with DNR about how to move forward and who to talk with at the state and national level. Trying to understand how we modify our approach and proposal for the next round, if we do. This is the 3rd time we have applied, but out of those three years, this is the first year we were ranked. The first year it was up against a project that had received multiple years of funding and was in their last phase. The second year no funding was allocated. This year is the first year there was a real competition. Need to do some work to make it competitive and advocate for it in a different way. Will need the group's help moving that forward.

Partners can reach out to their Washington US Senators to request they increase the LWCF funding for Taneum. Darcy will provide information to Melissa.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Darcy will send materials to Melissa
- Partners can reach out to representatives with talking points Cantwell and Murray

CASE FOR SUPPORT

Have been going round and round about the case of support. Could use some input on who the audience(s) is. Will wait to get some input from the group. Could do short marketing pieces, lengthier content for bigger donors, tailor it to certain situations. Rather than go off on a number of rabbit trails,

should bring up what our real needs are. Might have priorities. Have a series of questions about where to take the case of support.

Want to gear up a donor program. KCT can help open up a bank account that is restricted to the community forest, but is a way to open the door for accepting donations, which has been a big issue for us since we don't know who is going to own it yet.

- Is the CPPC comfortable with KCT opening a bank account on behalf of the CPPC to hold donations?
 - Yes - IIIII IIIII IIIII I
 - No I
- Is it time to create lengthier material for bigger donors?
 - Are We Ready for shorter?
 - Yes IIIII IIIII IIIII II
 - No
 - Lengthier Materials:
 - Yes I
 - No III*
 - Toms discretion for timing on lengthier
 - Tim for shorter but defer to folks working on this stuff for longer
 - Shorter will build longer one
 - Thinks website explains pretty well

* Voting ended early as all members through it was best to wait until later for the lengthier materials.

Questions:

- What is the tax status for donating to the community forest?
 - Don't have one at present because we don't have an entity. Since KCT is a non-profit, can they claim it as a charitable contribution? Pretty sure they can but it still burdens KCT a little bit managing a restricted fund. Need to ask KCT's attorney if there is anything we should concern ourselves with. KCT's burden will be fairly minimal. There will be a certain amount of funding required to open the account, but the overall management will be minimal.
- How long until we have non-profit status?
 - We will eventually have back up for lawyers and support.

This could be interim or long term depending on what entity ends up owning and managing it. If it ends up being owned by DNR or another government entity then we could set up a Friends under KCT. As we go through this we will be working to make sure the process and internal controls are put in place to protect the funds and what the controls will look like. This is critical for us to demonstrate success for the project in the long term to gain more support.

Tristyn doesn't feel that KCT represents the user groups. Mitch said the solicitation of funds doesn't preclude any future use of the forest. It is just a way to demonstrate more support. Is there another way that the fundraising should be done? Tristyn felt the last meeting had been a shift to how to manage the Cle Elum Ridge land and that the user group is non-motorized. If that continues, it will just be another TCF. Thinks the county would be less biased against motorized recreation and better suited. The Checkerboard Partnership has been set up to focus on the preservation of the lands. It is not set up to be a recreational forum. It is a little bit out of sequence. When we set up this group, we asked whether it was important to protect these lands, but not any specific use on them.

It isn't just the Cle Elum Ridge, it is Taneum and Cabin Creek too. There is motorized use in Taneum. We have been talking about Cle Elum Ridge because we received the funding, but those are important components too. We will shift back to how to move those lands back to their owners. In February of 2020 the CPPC put a lot of energy into setting up a PDA with this exact vision. Members of the community were also concerned that board members elected by the county could end up with a lot of bias down the road in the future. Having KCT open up this account in no way determines the outcome for the ownership or management of the Cle Elum Ridge.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mitch will talk to attorney to see if there are concerns about opening this account
- Mitch will speak with board to see if they will approve opening an account
- Outreach will work with Tom to develop materials

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The results were sent in the email last week. Want to walk through it and see if you have any input on the results. Tonya took the group through the survey results and findings.

Any questions, concerns or different takes on the survey? Next steps are to disperse the survey results on different platforms (website, newspapers, etc.) and provide it to our local governments. When it says recreation, it could be any form of recreation, is that correct? Gary thinks it's well done and we should get it out and about.

NISQUALLY COMMUNITY FOREST FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION

Had a follow up conversation with Joe Kane. The Nisqually Land Trust set up a supporting organization because of the potential for revenue generation from timber harvest, which could have jeopardized their 501.c.3 status. They did some extensive work with Conrad Legal, an attorney that works with land trusts, to set up the separate organization. If that is the direction we move in, KCT might choose to set up a similar organization. Joe has agreed to meet and talk more with the CPPC and KCT's board. They also went through a process similar to ours of laying out all the different entities, and that is the direction that they went.

Can you tell us what kind of timeline they were on when they proceeded on? Are we tracking on a similar timeline to them or are we ambitious? It took a while for NLT to decide on how they are going

incorporate the community forest into their organization. They were creating the wheel. It probably took them a couple of years of working with their attorney and board members. They have been an established community forest for some time. Don't know if we want to take everything they used but maybe could take bits and pieces. Their advisory committee developed the management and recreation plan. We are starting to get a handle on what the forest means through the survey but would be doing planning around this. I don't think our timeline with RCO is going to make it so we have to create a separate entity.

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT MODELS

YBIP Lands Subcommittee

The committee asks a series of questions, which were a blanket yes for the Cle Elum Ridge. The ridge lands are not specifically key to any watershed. They are not important for protecting the Teanaway or Cle Elum watersheds directly. What extent can they expand their focus to watershed buffers and should they? Another question is whether this group (the CPPC) would be interested in looking at some sort of co-ownership model like DNR and KCT. Thought that would be a more appropriate conversation to have with the LLC.

Mitch has made some headway with this. We have committed to meeting more regularly. Basically it is the discussion of getting more insight into the buyer and seller and developing a relationship and understanding of what the seller is looking for and what the buyer would need to have. Larry - we are laying baseline. Then the real decision making of the task force will turn into a recommendation for the work group. Thinks this decision is a ways out.

There are some voices the county is hearing from and county interest that we haven't scratched the surface of quite yet. That will be the real meat of the conversation. They are very keen to see the valuation study - this will be key to getting support. Also interested in looking at the habitat values and how they are connected to the TCF. Darcy, does TNC have these overlays? This might be helpful. The wildlife corridors will be important to show. We keep talking about this in phases but need to look at it in one block. This will be important for YBIP. It shows that we are putting together a solid wildlife corridor and protecting water. We need to look at this thing holistically.

DNR

Larry's conversation was long overdue. We would need to get sustainable funding for TCF, Klickitat, and whatever this addition is. Yes, the community forest is supposed to support itself, but we are seeing a lot of pressure and impact from recreation. The legislature continually has cut the recreational budget at DNR. Already had to make the decision not to implement new projects and the recreational plans. Once we are fully funded in the TCF (timeline would look like a big legislative push in 2023 and 2025) then DNR could purchase new lands in 2025 and 2027. This would be a big advocacy lift.

What do you see with the timeframe of the RCO grant? This doesn't seem to align with what DNR will need. That is the Program's answer. Larry expects there will be pressure coming from other directions to see what Hilary's response might be to the same question. Larry doesn't get to have that conversation -

that will be other stakeholders dealing with an elected official. Is it something that people in this group could be helping with? Yes. This builds with the YBIP connection we are making because YBIP does have political backing and support. Even from KCT's board's perspective, having YBP's support will be key.

KCT

Survey is pointing out the expectation of recreation on these lands with no real funding to support it. If we can show support then it will make it easier for deciders to say, "Yes, that is something we are willing to take on." Sticking point is how to manage these lands and having the support to do it.

Tristyn - Think it's important to call out that a lot of motorized recreation on the ridge above the communities. Also think it's important to recognize that non-motorized has a lot of impact as well. Even non-motorized has significant impacts that need to be managed. KCT manages recreation on other lands but also has to take into account the habitat, watershed health, etc.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Continue to let conversations play out
- Need to work on providing evaluation data
- Conversation with LLC about split ownership model
- Request habitat data from Scott Downes and Darcy for YBIP

TNC UPDATES

How Go Unit is underway on the Cle Elum Ridge. Finally have markets and forester on staff and a contractor that is working on it. It will be a long project. It is slated through the end of 2022. Will have to find time to take a look. The mastication is set to be complete next week.

TNC hired a new community relations person. Her name is Katie. She starts July 19th so we can introduce her at the next CPPC meeting. She will be moving here in August.

TASK GROUP REPORT OUT

Outreach and Engagement

The only other thing to report from the committee is that we conducted the CPPC 101 Open House 2 weeks ago with a dozen folks who attended. A really good meeting with good questions.

Funding Committee

Tiffany gave an RCO update that restoration won't be possible for match since we applied as straight acquisition. Tom just wants to reiterate that we agreed to focus on the Cle Elum Ridge rather than Tameum and Cabin Creek for now to stay focused. Talk a lot about donations.

Final Closing Thoughts

Would be wonderful if partners could reach out. Use Cantwell's direct message on her website.