

CPPC Meeting Notes January 25th, 2022

Attendees: Gary Berndt, Cathay Cooke, Judy Hallisey, Mitch Long, Darcy Batura, Phil Hess, Jane Kiker, Vic Monahan, Martha Wyckoff, Tom Krippaehne, Melissa Speeg, Nicky Pasi, Joe Rausch

Fire & Forest Health Video

Melissa showed the Fire and Forest Health Video. Provide link:

<https://www.checkerboardpartnership.com/media>. Please provide feedback on the video and we will try and incorporate it.

Conversation with Todd Welker

Gary talked with Todd Welker, who is Larry's supervisor. He agreed that it is logical for DNR to acquire these lands. He just said that they need consistent O&M funding. No pushback, which is good. Seems we have a willing partner. Darcy thanked Gary for reaching out and said it's a really important connection. Gary said we really need to reach out to Angus Brody. Mitch - a couple of people, Peter Dykstra, TNC staff, and Mitch are meeting with Angus on Friday to see if we can move forward with the RCO grant or if we need to take more time to strategize. Gary told him this is a process and we are working on developing a plan.

Todd said that we need continual O&M but we need to understand what that estimate is. Would it be good to have a meeting with Justin and Peter before meeting with Angus? The convo about O&M is going to be picking up in March, at which point it will be good to have a meeting with Peter, Justin, Gary, Larry, and/or Todd. We need to get on the same page, but we are getting the same message from DNR and we are working towards that. The meeting this week is about the RCO grant, and when there is more capacity from GR to work on the O&M package we can focus on that. The target date might need to be May, but certainly June. Will put together something for DNR's review. If we want to testify, that would be virtual, but DNR is asking for a 2023 budget that would go to the legislature next year and then we will need to do more lobbying and advocacy.

*Angus Brody - deputy supervisor of uplands state lands (2 or 3 under Hilary Franz).

TNC Government Relations

Late-breaking opportunity to have some advocacy in this session. Got an email from TNC's government relations team. One of the things that TNC is hearing is that in addition to O&M needs that there is a need to support the budget for recreation and is developing a strategy around this. This budget was slashed in the last legislative session and it made managing recreation very difficult. Putting together a letter by the end of the week and having partners sign-on. Could either sign onto letter or might create and sign a template. Some work going on to support that through the Rec Forum. The green dot road subcommittee will be pulling together a letter to local groups. Will also be coordinating with groups across the state. As

includes gates, road maintenance, improvements to road facilities, enforcement. Nicky supports creating a letter in addition to supporting this effort.

Gary had suggested creating letterhead and having an authorized person sign on behalf of the group. Nicky said that she would pull together the letterhead. Nancy will need to check with the Ellensburg City Counsel before signing. Nancy could sign as an individual. The city did sign onto the project so might not be an issue. CPPC could use language in the introduction that acknowledges differences and shared goals to help smooth the process of getting buy on. Nancy will do some checking and maybe we can invite someone for a presentation to touch base. Can call it an annual update. Annually we should consider going out to the board of commissioners and cities to give updates on where we are at. Could be that for instances like this, everyone can bring a letter back to their respective group to get buy-in. This would go to governance typically.

Jane asked how the process will work and raised concern about someone writing letters on the group's behalf that aren't being screened. Silence is assumed consent. We have a structure somewhat like this that we have used. To date, the outreach committee has written the letter and sent it out to the group for review. We could give a week for everyone to look at it. Mitch suggested that we have governance develop bylaws. What Darcy heard was that a letter would be drafted by the end of the week. Can sign Checkerboard Planning Commission as part of the individual signature. As far as Nicky knows the budget requests have to be in by February 7th. The public can start commenting at that time until the end of February. Letters are the best way of portraying the message.

Timeline/Committee Work

KCT will need capacity and support but is willing to fill the role as the "Friends of" 501c3. It would be better to allow CPPC to be an advisory group for now. Could be an advantage to keep CPPC and TCF AC separate because its two large groups in a small geographic area that are demonstrating a need. We are going to be separate for now but as we continue with discussions there is a lot of organic changes and growth that happen. Regardless of if it is together or separate, then we need to make sure it is working together. Ultimately this is a question that DNR needs to solve and that we should support their decision. We can build a bridge to develop strategy and connection and set norms for working together. Nicky is happy to provide regular updates to TCFAC and Marthy is happy to report to Goal 5.

In our language about this, would it be useful to talk about the Cle Elum Ridge Project as an expansion of the TCF, or do we want it to be separate? The downside is the legislative limits on the TCF that wouldn't be applicable to the CLRCF. Might be easier to digest for community members. Larry might be able to help us with that. Todd told Gary that the Klickitat Community Forest isn't fairing well at all. Would hate for us to make the decision. Martha said we would need to frame it correctly.

What might the community forest group look like? What a finance group could be. Tom created an outline of what the CPPC and Finance committee might look at.

Governance evolves into an executive committee. Executive Committee - could be one person from each subcommittee; provides recommendations and advice for the group; ideally, we will have a staff member that will be doing a lot of the work of the CPPC through a 501c3. This committee is where the staff member will go to. The CPPC will do the visioning and mission work and not the day-to-day work.

Short Term Needs/Action Items

1. Continued Conversations with DNR
 - **Mitch**: will coordinate with Gary and keep the group apprised of what the outcomes of these conversations are.
2. Request an update from TNC on Taneum and Cabin Creek lands.
3. DNR has a recreational funding request of \$3.28 million in the governor's budget for 2022. CPPC has been asked to support the request by sending supportive messages to Sen Rolfes and Rep Ormsby.
 - **O&E**: Develop a template support letter for CPPC members to sign and send on behalf of the CPPC.
 - **O&E**: Provide information and template to the group on how to engage.
4. CPPC Capacity
 - **Future Funding**: Will discuss this at the next meeting
5. CPPC By-Laws and Letter Signatory Process
 - **Melissa** will send Mitch the email list of participants on this committee
 - **Mitch** will send email to Larry and try to set a meeting for this month
6. Engagement with Yakama Nation and WDFW
 - **Mitch** will discuss with board at next meeting since both Yakama Nation and WDFW have representatives on the board
7. TCF
 - **Nicky** is willing to represent CPPC at TCF Advisory Committee meetings and **Martha** is willing to represent the CPPC at the Goal 5 meetings.
8. Zoom Invite for Next Meeting
 - **Melissa** will set up a new calendar invite for next month at the request of the group. Will explore having an in-person meeting in March if possible.