

**5B Restoration Coalition
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Community Campus, 1050 Fox Acres Road, Hailey,

Meeting objectives

- Advance major committee and full 5BRC activities, including immediate action steps
- Prepare for the busy public season in Wood River Valley in terms of outreach and communication opportunities

Present:

5BRC Members: Dan Drackett, Lynn Campion-Waddell, Jim Keating, Jo Heiss, Dani Mazzotta, Mark Davidson, Brett Stevenson, Chip Deffe, John Kurtz

Forest Service: Bobbie Filbert

Committee members: Nancy Humphrey, Dayna Gross, Chad Chorney, Chris Leman

Guests: Carl Hjelm, Clare Swanger

Facilitator: Karen DiBari

Welcome and Introductions/Updates: All introduced themselves. Karen DiBari distributed a report on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. She also shared some information provided by Harry Griffith about a new organization that is forming called the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience, being spearheaded by Aimée Christensen.

Calendar items

- April 6, 2015 public meeting, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Community Campus
 - Purpose: Jointly communicate to the public about trail closures, openings, work planned this summer, timeframe of post-fire restoration
 - Press release drafted and comments invited. Karen DiBari will finalize for release.
 - Those involved will coordinate speaking, etc.
- Upcoming committee meetings:
 - Wednesday, April 15 (Ecological Restoration @ 9:00 a.m., Trails & Recreation @ 10:00 a.m., Community Engagement @ 11:00 a.m.)
- Thursday, May 14 (Trails & Recreation @ 10:00 a.m., Community Engagement @ 11:00 a.m.) ***Ecological Restoration Committee will discuss at the 4/15 meeting finding a new day other than Thursday for its regular meeting day/time
- June 3 quarterly meeting CANCELLED due to June 4 field trip

- June 4 field trip in Deer Creek - further details TBD in coordination with Kurt Nelson and his staff
- June 5 Greenhorn event
 - Dan and Martine Drackett have offered to host an event at their pavilion
 - Agreement to hold event, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., casual dress and ambiance, with catered food
 - 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. – short guided restoration tour of Greenhorn trail
 - Community celebration, introduction to the 5B Restoration Coalition, and “light fundraiser”
 - Lynn Campion-Waddell spoke with Matt Leidecker about editing a photo loop for presentation on a screen.
 - 15 minutes or so of presentations/speaking
 - Plan to send targeted invitations and also announce to the community – anticipate ~100 people
 - 5BRC members interested in helping: Dan Drackett, Jim Keating, Angenie McLeary, Lynn Campion-Waddell, Jo Heiss, Nancy Humphrey, Brett Stevenson
 - Karen DiBari will coordinate with Dan Drackett and develop an action plan

Trails & Recreation Committee Report and Discussion

- John Kurtz presented the committee’s “problems and needs” statement
- People liked it and are pleased with progress toward articulating the message.
- Suggestions:
 - Need to add private lands (Sweet Potato Ranch, Deer Creek Ranch)
 - Quantify need in dollars (high level projections)
 - Identify gap in what resources are available and the overall need
- The committee will discuss these issues in April and further refine the statement.

Ecological Restoration Committee Report and Discussion

- Presentation from Clare Swanger, Blaine County Land, Water, & Wildlife Program Coordinator
 - LWWP founded in 2009, \$3.4 million
 - Funds have supported six conservation easements, post-fire seeding (wildlife friendly)
 - \$1.7 million remains
 - Criteria focus on land, water and wildlife; recreation is secondary
 - A volunteer Levy Advisory Board (LAB) was formed as part of the ballot initiative; they recommend proposals for funding
 - When putting together projects, think about:
 - Lasting conservation
 - Must have willing landowners/managers participating

- Demonstrating leverage and partnerships
 - There are no limitations on where the work can be done (which land ownership) except that it must be within Blaine County.
 - No set formula for how the money flows (could go a nonprofit partner or to the FS, for example)
 - Typically a one-year process to move the proposal through the full process to decision
- Dani Mazzotta offered to put together a pre-application to the LWWP for the 5BRC. She sees Deer Creek as being a strong project because the Forest Service has done a substantial amount of assessment work in the watershed.
- DECISION: The group unanimously agreed to submit a pre-application, with thanks to Dani and Idaho Conservation League for taking the lead. Potential partners: Trout Unlimited, National Forest Foundation, Forest Service
 - Proposal will need to be submitted to Clare by April 17 in order to be considered at the May 7 LAB meeting
- Letter of support for Deer Creek to Kit Mullen, SNF Supervisor
 - Letter has been drafted and was circulated at the meeting.
 - Karen received comments and will send out again for review.
 - DECISION: Group decided to have Angenie work with the other commissioners to get the letter signed on County letterhead, on behalf of the 5BRC. The list of members will be attached.
- Firewise
 - Angenie McCleary reported that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Blaine County was updated last year (usually done in March, every other year). The commissioners were somewhat involved in the last update, but plan to be more engaged in the next round.
 - The Mid-Snake River RC&D has some funds for firewise work on private lands. This is an opportunity for homeowners and homeowners associations. There is not enough money for everyone; match is required. The Idaho Department of Lands may have funding for this type of work in the future.
 - Contacts: Mike Elle, Ketchum Fire (north end of valley) and Lorraine Simon, Snake River RC&D (south end of valley)
 - There are still lots of educational resources, but less funding for direct firewise work.
 - The group discussed putting together a subcommittee to work on CWPP/firewise revitalization in 2016.
 - Discussion about how homeowners typically become interested in firewise activities “5 minutes before the fire hits” – group brainstormed a campaign

similar to the “trout friendly lawn” efforts, instead “fire safe community member”.

Community Engagement Committee Report and Discussion

- Video – Chris Leman and Lynn Campion-Waddell both reached out to the high schools to try to engage teachers/students in a video project, but didn’t hear back yet.
- GIS Story Map and Watershed Scorecard – Angenie McCleary described the county’s GIS tool. Go to <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/storymap/beavercreek/index.html> to see the Beaver Creek Fire story map as an example. Map, photos, and a small amount of text. Could this approach help the 5BRC communicate with the public about post-fire restoration needs?
 - Discussion of Renee Catherine’s photographs
 - Brainstorm to show fire history over the past 50 years, overlaid with where there’s heavy recreation activity, wildland urban interface, rangelands, elk and other wildlife habitat, etc.
- Tracking investments – the group reviewed the spreadsheet that Harry Griffith developed, and generally liked it.
- Watershed scorecard – group talked about liking the story map approach better because of challenges with the scorecard.
 - Would there be enough difference between watersheds?
 - Assumes intervention (vs natural recovery)
 - Difficult to ballpark conditions at such a high level

Adjourn