

North Idaho Working Group (NIWG) Meeting Record
Tuesday, January 18, 2022, from 5 to 8 p.m. PST
On Zoom

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance

Members: Commissioner Tim Bertling, Boundary County; Commissioner Jeff Connolly, Bonner County; Olivia Drake, citizen-at-large; Hilary Eisen, Winter Wildlands Alliance; Greg Figg, Spokane Winter Knights Snowmobile Club; John Finney, Sandpoint Winter Riders; Alan Harper, Idaho Forest Group; Phil Hough, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness; Tim Koerner, citizen-at-large; Mathew Kramer, citizen-at-large; Aaron Lieberman, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association; Tony McDermott, citizen-at-large; Stan Meyers, citizen-at-large; Orin Moses, CDA Snowmobile Club; Mike Peak, Winter Riders; Trevor Schneider, citizen-at-large; Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League; and Dave Wenk, Boundary Country Grooming Board.

Technical advisors: Trevor Anderson and Nate Sparks, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation; Jessie Berner, Beth Bigelow, Brett Lyndaker, and Carl Petrick, Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF); Commissioner Dan Denning, Boundary County; Jace Hogg, Office of Governor Brad Little; Christy Johnson-Hughes, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Marc Kilmer, Office of Congressman Russ Fulcher; Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe; Darren Parker, Office of Senator James Risch; Mitch Silvers, Office of Senator Mike Crapo; Todd Wernex, Idaho Department of Lands

Tribal members: William Barquin, Shannon Ehlers, Norm Merz, Scott Soultz, and Rhonda Vogl, Kootenai Tribe

Stakeholders: Leon Brown, Clark Fork Outfitters; Tom Dabrowski, Idaho Trails Association; Jacob Hinrichs, Boundary Backcountry Access Club; Merritt Horsmon, Idaho Fish & Game; Paul Sieraki, citizen-at-large

Facilitators: Ben Irey, Seamus Land, and Maisie Powell, The National Forest Foundation.

Objectives

- Identify roles within the Working Group.
- Approve the Code of Conduct.
- Approve the Process Committee.
- Approve the December Meeting Record.
- Review timeline and confirm upcoming meetings.
- Discuss agenda items.

Decisions

- Members approved December meeting record.

- Members approved Process Committee members.
- Members approved the Code of Conduct.

Action Items

- The Process Committee will decide on starting point regarding maps.
- The Process Committee will revise the group's 'Purpose' on the Code of Conduct to eliminate the use of the word stakeholder.
- Ben will update the Code of Conduct language to reflect that members with dissenting opinions will publicly support the legitimacy of the process.
- Ben will amend the deadline for the final package and send out the North Idaho Working Group timeline.
- Ben will send out a Doodle Poll to find a recurring monthly meeting for the Working Group.
- Ben will email out the updated contacts list.
- Ben will send out the meeting records from the Process Committee.
- Ben will look into setting up an electronic depository of information through the National Forest Foundation.
- Ben will reach out to Jason Welker to determine his interest in involvement.
- Anyone with thoughts on maps should get in touch with a member of the Process Committee before the February 1st meeting.

Bin Items

Members review maps and submit ideas and comments to the Process Committee.

MEETING RECORD

1. Welcome and introductions

Ben reviews the meeting agenda. Participants introduce themselves.

2. Identifying roles in Working Group

- Ben shared a list of people who mentioned their interest in being members at the December meeting. The group confirmed members and changed unconfirmed folks to pending.
- The phrase 'Technical Advisor' must be changed. There was a suggestion for 'Technical Consultant'.
- Ben will share the North Idaho Working Group Contact list so participants can review membership.

3. Discuss & approve Code of Conduct and December meeting record

- Members review the Draft Code of Conduct.
- The term 'stakeholder' as used in the Purpose is confusing based on the roles of the group. The Process Committee will address this at their next meeting.
- Question: How do the caveats of consensus translate to expressing public dissent, especially with the clause about supporting Working Group decisions?

- Ben will change the language in the Code of Conduct to reflect that members support the process and its legitimacy.
- Members approve the Code of Conduct with the proposed amendments.
- Members approve the December meeting record with no amendments.

4. Discuss & approve Process Committee

- The Process Committee will be the leadership for the Group.
- At the last meeting, state agencies agreed to serve as Technical Advisors. It seems to pose an awkward situation if one state agency representative is a voting member.
 - Since Parks and Recreation has such a large stake in the process, it seemed like it could work.
- The Kootenai Tribe would like to hold a space for either a member or a spot on the Process Committee after discussion with the Tribal Council.
- Members approve the Process Committee, with the addition of holding space for the Kootenai Tribe after consultation with their Tribal Council.

5. Review timeline & discuss agenda items

- In February, Working Group members will work to gain an understanding of the landscape and different values of participants.
- In March, the Working Group will begin to draft recommendations.
- The IPNF is hoping to have a proposed action by June of 2022.
 - IPNF needs a final recommendation by the end of May to incorporate recommendations into their proposed action.
 - Ben will amend the timeline to reflect a later date of voting on a final package in early April and sending the package to the IPNF in May.
- The IPNF will be looking at alternatives as well as the recommendation. The Working Group could help by looking at the proposed alternatives to keep the Group as involved as possible.

6. Confirm dates and times for upcoming meetings

- Ben will send out a Doodle Poll to find a time for monthly recurring meetings.
- The Process Committee will meet the first Tuesday of every month from 4:30-6:30pm. The next meeting will be February 1st.

7. Public comment

No public comment made.

8. Members' final thoughts

- Members could review maps before the next meeting to hold a map exercise in February.
- There are a lot of members and a short time frame. The group must be focused. User groups should work together between meetings to be on the same page.
- The group hopes to have the map review process in person.

- Folks are looking forward to the process and working together to come up with a solution.
- Share the meeting minutes and any maps from the Process Committee with the full mailing list.
- It would be helpful to connect members to people who were involved in the previous planning process.
- There should be a place to have a depository for information. Perhaps NFF could set this up.
- How will the group handle people who learn about the Working Group later down the road and want to join? What will be the cap on the Working Group size?
- What will the group start with if it's not the previous land allocation map? This needs to be determined early on and should be a discussion at the next Process Committee Meeting.
 - Anyone with thoughts on maps should get in touch with a member of the Process Committee before the February 1st meeting.
- Jason Welker is on the member list but has not been to the meetings. Determine his interest in involvement with the process.
- The map that was shared was not complete, it was just a starting point, an internal map for a proposed action. The IPNF needs to know from the group where to start. If this is the map the group wants to use, the IPNF will spend the time to get the map corrected.
 - The Process Committee will discuss the issues of the draft map and how to address them and get back to the IPNF.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.