

Pend Oreille Salmonid Recovery Team Citizen Advisory Group Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes August 24, 2011

Scheduled 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Kalispel Wellness Center, Usk

Facilitator: Nick Bean, Lead Entity Coordinator, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Present: Nick Bean (KNRD), Carol Mack (WSU Extension), Leonard Davaz (Landowner), Ed Hamilton (Citizen/Fisherman), Becca Cory (Community Health Advocate/RN), Norris Boyd (Citizen/Landowner)

Meeting: Called to order by the Coordinator Nick Bean at 6:00 pm.

Introductions: Given by each attendee at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

- The agenda was approved as is yet the group anticipated an open discussion style meeting as appropriate.
- Nick mentioned that Todd Andersen was willing to present the NetMap project to the group.
- The Water Trail project concept plan document is available in local libraries and the PORTA website. The Salmonid Recovery Team and program was included in the interpretation chapter for future funding opportunities (expansion). The deadline is believed to be September 1st for comments and review.
- The next Diggings publication is coming out soon and Carol would like to include the announcement of the POSRT website and potentially sponsor presentations if time allows.
- The Pend Oreille Conservation District is trying to start up again. They are going to post a position for a District Manager. Nick indicated that it would be beneficial to have the POCD sponsor projects again.

2011 SRFB Project Update

- The project sponsors have submitted all the proposal materials to the Lead Entity via PRISM. All of the SRFB Review Panel comments have been addressed.
- The MB LeClerc Restoration project has a potential change in that Stimson may haul the road surface rock off of the project site which could reduce the project budget. Depending on the overall budget reduction, the \$11,000 + deficit we have for projects should be covered and if there is enough additional funds remaining then we could fund the Smalle Creek Fish Passage Design project. This all depends on timing of the decision and how much the project is reduced.
- The Smalle and EF Smalle proposals have gone through all the processes as the funded projects. So in the event we have some cost saving and enough money to fund one of the alternates we can do so.
- There is a regional presentation to the SRFB on September 29. This meeting is in place to present the projects we submitted to the entire SRFB Review Panel. We will address any comments or concerns. The funding decision by the SRFB will take place in December and RCO will work with sponsors to get contracts in place spring of 2012.

Education and Outreach Strategy

- Nick overviewed the new POSRT website at www.posrt.org. Nick explained each page and discussed how we plan on using the site for meetings, materials, project proposals, education, etc. This site is somewhat information heavy since we don't have a regional organization to discuss the background for our area. We have the control over the website and Nick is trained to access the management system and modify site components. The group made it clear that we need to make sure the site is maintained and not allowed to become stale; Nick agreed and he will maintain the site.
- Nick will mail out email reminders but all documents will need to be downloaded from the website. Norris thought that sending out email meeting calendar notices would be a good idea.
- We discussed having other websites reference (reciprocal) our Team's site would be a great way to get the site out there. Send out a canned email to multiple linked sites.
- The group recommended that we have a summary of projects right away on the top of the projects page (e.g. check this out/our projects/projects summary). Also we should highlight what we are doing in a given year. This could be done on the website or in Habitat Work Schedule (linked).

- Another change on the site should be having the habitat/fish pictures pop up a description so the average user understand what they are looking at.
- The group thought that the contact page should require information from the user. This would be discussed further and addressed as appropriate.
- Nick would like to send out a notice in the Newport Miner regarding the new website.
- The group discussed having a method to allow the general public to discuss proposals would be beneficial. This could be cumbersome if we get “flooded” with comments or questions. We may not need to answer the questions but simply provide the comments to sponsor. The alternate form would be to have the CAG summarize the comments then ask the appropriate questions to the sponsors directly.
- It was recommended that we the website announcement, post meeting announcements and other relevant information in the local post offices (bulletin boards). Carol mentioned that she could send Nick a list of local media contact he could use for the same purposes.
- Nick was asked about the Lead Entity budget and how it was proportion to different line items. Nick explained that the budget was setup to where it covered his salary for about a half FTE and the remainder was available for meeting supplies, room rentals, and education/outreach which includes contract services and printing.
- Becca thought it would be beneficial to have the meeting location distributed throughout the community (Ione, Newport, Cusick, and Usk). Nick explained that this could work but the central location has its benefits as well. The group discussed this and potential sites which would be examined. If we chose a more northern site for one or two meetings we could see how it works. We could also have a public presentation day in these rotating locations instead or in addition to. Curly mentioned that Usk is a more central location and this should be considered as well.
- We should consider working with local legislators and political officials or inviting them to listen to us and explain the progress we’ve made and future direction of the group. This would build the base of legislative support in the event we have funding reduction and need support. At a minimum we should include their offices in any mailings and meeting notices we send out. We can also get on the agenda for meetings to provide a ½ hour update for the recovery team (CAG members included in the meeting).
- Part of this strategy is to have sponsors present in a forum to discuss progress and success stories on funded SRFB projects in WRIA 62. The group discussed the logistics of this and several ideas came up on the structure. Carol mentioned having several night meeting to accommodate the CAG members may be appropriate. Becca thought that a recording of the presentations that can be viewed online may be an option. With this, individuals could submit questions to the sponsors which would be answered through email or other methods.
- We discussed the local opportunities such as public forums, fair booths, meetings, etc. as great vehicles to convey our message. Nick apologized for not getting a County Fair booth put together but indicated that he would be more prepared in the future.
- We could use the Spokane Bighorn Show, Spokane and Pend Oreille County Fair and potentially Stevens Fair.
- Some of the “Fair” handout/interactive ideas and kid activities that could be fish stamps, fish ID cards, fish tattoos for kids, mosquito bands, key chains, etc. We need to develop a booth display with education materials and background of salmonid recovery and habitat restoration in our area, but it needs to have information that doesn’t expire frequently (numbers), while being tailored to a 7th grade reading level. Nick explained that the consultant he used for the website didn’t know much about what we do so it forced them to make it simple enough to understand. We should determine the booth size (6x8 or 10x10) but make sure we are not overwhelming the visitors with information. Nick passed out a KNRD handout on WCT as an example of something we can develop.
- Nick passed around a series of education and outreach materials from other watershed groups and lead entities. It was reiterated that the website to be used primarily and to not build multi-paged books that cost a significant amount of money (and ultimately discarded). We could print our own versions if we decide to make a more extensive booklet and bind it in-house. Fish ID cards are a must and will be developed. We are out of the old POCD ones and we don’t have access to the templates or who produced them (or the old brochures). Becca mentioned that we could follow the paper trail at the POCD to find the information if we have time. We all agreed that we need to avoid things that will be trashed when people get home.
- It might be good to have a CAG member from another Lead Entity come and discuss operations, education and outreach and overall success with our group.
- We will continue the education and outreach discussion at the next CAG meeting.

Meeting Wrap-up Discussion; Upcoming Meetings/Items:

- We briefly discussed logistics of evaluating projects and how we could change in the future but ran out of time to fully discuss this. Some of the issues may be resolved using an implementation schedule. Both Norris and Becca discussed examples of how we have prioritized projects and committed to areas in the past.

- Having all of the past surveys and assessments feed the future direction is a must at this point according to the CAG. NetMap will also be a key portion of developing a strategy for projects. Becca motioned, Norris seconded and the group approved a formal request to have the sponsors of the NetMap project present the progress and future usefulness of the tool we purchased. Nick would request the sponsors to present when available. Nick did explain that the product doesn't have all of the information yet (all barriers, fish tools, etc.).
- The next CAG meeting is on September 21st at the Wellness Center from 6-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm