

Teanaway Community Forest



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



WASHINGTON STATE
Natural Resources

Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee Meeting Summary March 10, 2016

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Andrea Imler	Tom Ring (for Phil Rigdon)	John Littel
Gary Berndt	Doug Schindler	Andrew Cromarty
Jeri Downs	Wayne Mohler	JJ Collins
Kitty Craig	Lara Gricar	Deborah Essman
Martha Wyckoff	Kathy Young	Jim Halstrom
Urban Eberhart	Dale Bambrick	

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Tom Tebb
Scott Gray
Mike Reimer

Agency Staff:

Eric Winford – DNR/WDFW
Michael Livingston – WDFW
Rick Roeder – DNR
Larry Leach – DNR

Staff Action Items		Due Date
E. Winford	Update progress report with funding needs for actions that are delayed	Next update
E. Winford	Update Committee on emergency response plan	Next update
E. Winford	Update Committee on next-steps for recreation planning	Next update
Advisory Committee Items		Due Date
Sub-committee	Provide questions/ proposals for a non-profit to work with the agencies and the Committee.	Next meeting (6/16)
Sub-committee	Work on developing field trips/events for legislative engagement.	Next meeting (6/16)

1) Welcome, Review the Day (Eric)

- a) Agenda
- b) Meeting Notes
- c) Public Comments provided to the Committee via email. These comments are generally compiled and provided to the Committee with their packet.

2) Updates

- a) The Advisory Committee reviewed the progress on implementing priority actions for 2016 (the report is included in the packet). The agencies are making progress on some actions, but due to budget shortfalls, some actions are behind their completion dates, and other actions have yet to be started.
 - i) The Advisory Committee asked questions about what it would take to start working on the activities that are currently not funded (placed on to-do list).
 - ii) A question was raised about the short-term harvest scheduled, and when we may expect to develop a long-term schedule.
 - iii) A question was raised about the emergency response plan and if we could take action on that (placed on to-do list).
- b) The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Outreach Coordinator, Nicky Pasi, was introduced to the group.
- c) Gary Berndt is resigning his position on the Kittitas County Commission. Paul Jewel will be taking his place on the Committee.

3) Grazing Management Updates

- a) Rick and Mike provided context and background to the current situation, and why grazing management needs to change.
- b) Short-term solutions include creating a one-year permit for the 2016 grazing season that will incorporate changes agreed to by the lease-holders and other partners (NOAA Fisheries and the Yakama Nation). Changes include:
 - i) Protecting the Indian Creek restoration area with a fence. This will fence out approximately one-mile of the creek in order to allow new vegetation to establish itself.
 - ii) Fencing will be improved or installed along sections of the community forest boundary in order to prevent cattle from trespassing on private property.
 - iii) Drop-off location will be changed in order to reduce grazing pressure on Bussoli field.
 - iv) Salt and/or nutrient blocks will be placed away from streams in order to draw cattle into the uplands. Water troughs will be added where necessary to make this successful.
 - v) Stream crossing locations will be adjusted to avoid salmon spawning areas.
 - vi) Agency staff will monitor these improvements to see if they function as expected.
- c) Long-term solutions include the formation of a sub-committee to discuss grazing management in the community forest. This sub-committee will include members of the Advisory Committee, technical experts, and a facilitator. The sub-committee will operate under the same rules as the Advisory Committee. There will be opportunities for the full Advisory Committee to check-in on progress.
 - i) Facilitator will be Jim Huckabay.
 - ii) Advisory Committee members will be Jeri Downs, Jim Halstrom, Kitty Craig, Andrew Cromarty, and Urban Eberhart.
 - iii) Technical experts will be Tip Hudson (WSU Extension), Sean Gross (NOAA Fisheries), Scott Nicolai (Yakama Nation Fisheries), Elayne Hovde (NRCS), Sam Kayser (lease holder).

4) Advisory Committee Discussion Topic: Future sources of funding

- a) The Committee discussed three possible approaches to finding more funding for the community

- forest, while also raising its profile and bringing together more stakeholders.
- b) A non-profit foundation or trust could be established or an existing one could be used as an umbrella organization to accept private-party donations to the TCF that could be used for management, outreach, education, or recreation projects.
 - i) The Committee agreed that a sub-committee could be formed to look into this further.
 - ii) This sub-committee would need to build a coalition of interested groups, as well as build a proposal for the full Advisory Committee and the agencies to consider.
 - c) Committee members, and their respective organizations, could apply for grants and partner with the agencies to implement the grants.
 - i) There is a series of grants focused on recreation that are being offered this year. Partner agencies could apply for these grants.
 - ii) The agencies commented that applying for recreation grants prior to the completion of the recreation plan may divert attention from the funding need, and their priority is to get a recreation plan completed.
 - iii) The Committee discussed the topic further, and agreed that projects that fund low-hanging fruit, and that all user-groups support, would be appropriate.
 - iv) This will be a discussion topic at the next meeting.
 - d) Committee members could continue their engagement this summer by offering field trips. This could help raise the profile of the community forest.
 - i) Committee members agreed to form a sub-committee that would discuss and organize these field trips.

5) Legislative Engagement Update

- a) The legislature is entering a special session. The current operating budget for the House and the Senate does have funding for the TCF.
- b) Committee asked that if we do get funding for a recreation plan, are we thinking about next steps and are there things we can be doing in the interim (placed on to-do list).

6) Public Comment

- a) Lloyd Fetterly, Tahoma Audobon: We should be financially literate, and understand what we are asking for, what operating expenses are.
- b) Cam Nelson, local property owner: At an event last year, people left garbage on their property. User-made trails go through their property and they want users to be respectful. Consider the private landowners within the community forest boundaries.