

## Members Present

**American Forest Resource Council (AFRC):** Tom Partin, Lawson Fite, Sara Ghafouri; **Boise-Cascade:** Kevin Arneson; **Cascade Fisheries:** Jason Lundgren; **Cascadia Conservation District (CCD):** Patrick Haggerty, Ryan Williams; **Chelan County:** Bob Bugert, Mike Kaputa, Doug England; **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT):** ABSENT; **Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition:** Corrine Hoffman; **Colville Tribal Federal Corporation - Timber:** ABSENT; **Conservation Northwest (CNW):** Dave Werntz; **Hampton Lumber:** Anjolene Price; **Lake Wenatchee Fire Adapted Community:** Jim Passage; **Methow Valley Citizen Council:** Sam Israel, Jasmine Minbashian; **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Lloyd McGee, Darcy Batura, Reese Lolley; **Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS):** ABSENT; **Okanogan Conservation District (OCD):** Lorah Super; **Okanogan County:** Chris Branch; **Trout Unlimited:** Crystal Elliot; **US Forest Service--OWNF:** Kristin Bail, Darren Goodding, Jeff Rivera, Chris Furr, Sendi Kalcic, Eireann Pederson, Deb Kelly, Nate Anderson, Victoria Wilkens, Nate Standish; **Vaagen Bros. Lumber Co:** ABSENT; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Lynda Hoffman; **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Chuck Hersey, Jennifer Watkins, Larry Leach; **WA Prescribed Fire Council:** ABSENT; **The Wilderness Society (TWS):** Mike Anderson; **Yakama Nation:** Brandon Rogers, Tia Beavert, Phil Rigdon, Ryan Sanchey; **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB):** Melody Kreimes, Nicole Jordan, Ryan Niemeyer, Nicole Jordan, Pete Teigen, Alicia Meier, Sarah Walker (Facilitator).

## Other Meeting Participants

**C6 Forest to Farm:** Tom McCoy; **Congressman Dan Newhouse's Staff:** Rachel McClure; **Sustainable Northwest:** Jenna Knobloch; **WSU Extension Forester:** Andy Perleberg; **Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council/Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative:** Rose Shriner; **Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council:** Tessa Vermeul

## Regular Business

Chair Branch opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves. Sarah reviewed the meeting objectives and framed Member decision requests.

**Members approved the August 8, 2020 Quarterly meeting summary with corrections.** The final will be posted online at: <https://www.ncwfhc.org/meetings/>

## 2020-2022 NCWFHC Steering Committee Representatives (affirm, approve)

- Participants reviewed the SC Members-Representatives for the 2020-2022 term.
  - Participating Members will continue to represent their respective organizations
  - Chris Branch will remain Co-chair for the rest of his 2019-2021 term
  - Dave Werntz / Mike Liu will continue to represent CNW on the SC until a replacement for Kathleen Gobush is designated.
  - Sam Israel has replaced Hannah Dewey as the Methow Valley Citizen's Council representative to the NCWFHC.

**Members approved all 2020-2022 Steering Committee representatives and change in MVCC representation on the NCWFHC.**

## OWNF Process & Projects

### Supervisor's Update

#### *FY21 Budget and 5-year Plan*

New Forest Service budget structure limits OWNF flexibility to be able to shift-reallocate funds among “buckets” (below), as SO has been able to do in the past.

1. Permanent salary (stay within spending limits now have head count cap)
  2. Seasonal work force and expenses, permanent seasonal employees
  3. Appropriations accounts, contracts, supplies and materials
- CFLRP FY21 funding will be allocated based on priority; Great American Outdoors Act FY21 process has changed. Hope to get more clarity in December for both.
  - 5-year Plan Gantt Chart reflects new NEPA regulations effective Sept. 15, 2020. Wider use of CEs; Page and Timeline restrictions mean shorter more intense periods for collaboration. Pre-NEPA work should start very early in the process.
  - Methow Roadside Shaded Fuel Breaks is currently classified as a CE but may require an EA.

#### *Admin-Staffing Changes*

- Mid-Nov Kevin James (Mt. Baker Snoqualmie NF) will become acting Natural Resources Staff Officer, thru mid-January.
- Sendi Kalcic is new NEPA planner to help Darren Gooding with project implementation guide for partners. Opportunity to align partners with OWNF work from beginning to end.
- Matt Avery transitioned to CNF
- The OWNF is filling 2 positions road and engineering

#### *Draft Supervisor's Letter of Support to NCWFHC*

Members reviewed suggestions for updates to the 2013 OWNF letter of support.

**Members agreed to provide final input to Co-chair Anderson by 11/30**

### Twisp Restoration Project

- In October the SC agreed to develop a NCWFHC comment letter
- Initial meeting was held with PWG; follow up meeting scheduled for Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-11am.
- Members discussed requesting a comment period extension given the scale and complexity of the project. A 60-day extension would shift the project into next FY on the 5-year Plan.
- Under new NEPA process the OWNF-SO will not be able to adjust comment periods; request will go to the WO-Assistant Secretary.
- MVRD is hosting a public (virtual) open house tomorrow, 11/5

**Members agreed to defer discussion of a comment period extension request until after the 11/12 PWG meeting.**

### UWPP

- Draft EA Timeline Update: Target is Nov 23 for online posting and “sneak peak” before official start of comment period, currently planned for week of Dec 4; end Jan 4, 2021.

- Condition-based NEPA approach; however, site-specifics also relevant. Looking at ways to resolve communication around what “Condition-based” process means, looks like.
  - A better analysis of risk to owl habitat would help support the narrative needed in the EA and to the LSR workgroup. Owls, LSR and fuel work are interrelated, with mtgs. occurring concurrent to draft EA write-up.
  - Participants discussed how to develop a comment letter given unique, independent UWPP groups-planning process.
  - OWG members are coordinating with OWNF re: different UWPP outreach products and partner efforts, next steps
4. Pete will distribute a Doodle poll to the PWG for an initial UWPP comments discussion in January.

## Other Ongoing NCWFHC Projects, Initiatives

### Mission Litigation Update

- The federal district court judge accepted all Members’ amicus briefs. Hearing scheduled for Nov. 10 at 9am in person in Spokane, possible teleconference opportunity. Expect ruling January 2021.
  - OWNF: If Judge upholds and it gets to 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY21, likely fine to proceed with advertising Mission Project.
  - Jenna Knobloch, who works with NEWFC, provided a Mt. Hull update because this and other Tonasket RD projects have shifted to administration by the Colville National Forest.
5. Pete will work with Jenna and Tonasket RD/Colville NF to set up a future information sharing meeting about Tonasket RD project of interest to PWG participants.

### NCWFHC Outreach Video Development

- North 40 virtual outreach, video production ranges from \$3000-\$15000 depending on time.
  - There are 3 different opportunities for NCWFHC representation-participation in outreach activities.
  - A suggestion was made to develop an overall NCWFHC Outreach strategy and proposed budget to help identify priorities, NCWFHC funding sources. The group agreed to table this for future OWG and Steering Committee discussion.
  - The OWNF is planning an UWPP virtual tour with project visuals, StoryMap.
6. OWG members will coordinate with SO and WRRD on UWPP communication strategy and outreach
7. Sarah will carry-over Funding Strategy concept for future SC discussion

### Chelan County Climate Resiliency Strategy Presentation

- Mike Kaputa presented on the draft Chelan County Climate Resiliency Strategy (Need, Background, Partners, Desired Outcomes, etc.)
- Next Steps: Organizational infrastructure--a Climate Round Table led by a subset/Executive Committee who is informed by a Science Advisory Committee.
- The Strategy is new as of October 2020. It will be shared with CC commissioners first and then made publicly available.

8. Chelan County will update the NCWFHC about future opportunities for Round Table engagement, particularly the wildfire, snowpack mitigation areas of the Strategy.

### NCW C6 BioChar Initiative

- Tom McCoy of C6 Forest to Farm, a Methow-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, presented on the NCW C6 BioChar pilot initiative. A research machine will be up and running next month.
  - Need to finish raising \$25,000 to get the machine here and operational and will need additional funds to keep it going.
  - Participants discussed how to partner to support C6's Long term goal of Industrial Bio-Char in NCW.
9. Sarah W. will get PowerPoint, other C6 BioChar information and share with NCWFHC.

### Joint Tapash/NCWFHC Semi-annual Communication

- Melody reviewed Joint Task Force recommendations, which called for semi-annual Tapash Exec. Comm. and NCWFHC SC sharing on work to implement JTF recommendations.
  - The next semi-annual JTF meeting will be at Tapash Executive meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of May 2021).
  - Currently, NCWFHC SC is collaborating with OWNF to advance Chumstick-to-LP (93,000 acre landscape) for long-term stewardship contract consideration; Nason landscape is being considered as concurrent, stand-alone project.
  - YN-OWNF are working to set up a meeting to discuss how to move Aquatic work forward on the OWNF/South Zone. YN is looking at taking a Salmon Recovery leadership role on the Taneum-Tieton project. Aquatic projects will be key. Tribal leadership has an opportunity to bring in additional resources and NEPA support.
  - The Cle Elum District Ranger and YN will meet to talk about what this looks like.
  - DNR would like to be kept be informed about roles and responsibilities in a potential OWNF-YN partnership, useful for legislative communication. Hampton Lumber will be working with the Tapash landscape and would like to be included on updates.
10. Anjolene will research timing for development of an RFI to support Chumstick-to-LP efforts
  11. Sarah coordinate with Tapash to include NCWFHC membership on the May NCWFHC SC/Tapash Exec Comm email notice.

## Tasking Memo

DUE DATE	TASK	ASSIGNED TO
November 13	Update SC on outcomes, next steps re: Twisp Draft EA comment period extension request	Sarah
November 30	Provide feedback to Mike Anderson on revised Supervisor's Letter of Support	NCWFHC Members
After Approval by County Commission	Distribute Chelan County Climate Resiliency Strategy to NCWFHC	Sarah Walker/UCSRB
asap	Obtain C6 BioChar PowerPoint, other information and share with NCWFHC	Sarah
asap	Distribute Doodle poll to the PWG for an initial UWPP comments mtg. in January.	Pete Teigen/UCSRB
Ongoing	Coordinate with SO and WRRD on UWPP communication strategy and outreach	NCWFHC/OWG members
Ongoing	Update NCWFHC about future opportunities for Round Table engagement, particularly the wildfire, snowpack mitigation areas of the Strategy.	Mike Kaputa/CCNRD
Ongoing	Work with Jenna and Tonasket RD/Colville NF to set up a future information sharing meeting about projects of ongoing interest to PWG	Pete
Ongoing	Anjolene will research timing for development of an RFI to support Chumstick-to-LP efforts	
2021, based on priority for discussion	Work with OWG, SC Co-chairs to convene funding strategy development	Patrick Haggerty/CCD; Mike Anderson/TWS; Sarah
Before May 2021	Coordinate with Tapash on meeting planning and distribution notice for May Joint meeting	Sarah