

Teanaway Community Forest



Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee Meeting Summary May 14, 2015 4:00 – 6:30 PM

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Andrea Imler	Tom Ring (for Phil Rigdon)	Wayne Mohler
Gary Berndt	Mike Reimer	Tom Tebb (for D. Sandison)
Jeri Downs	Gregg Bafundo	Mark Charlton
Kitty Craig	Jim Halstrom	Jason Ridlon
Martha Wyckoff	Doug Schindler	Reagan Dunn
Urban Eberhart		

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

JJ Collins
 Brian Crowley
 Deborah Essman
 Dale Bambrick

Agency and Consultant Staff:

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental (DE)	Rick Roeder – DNR
Eric Winford – DNR/WDFW	Larry Leach - DNR
Michael Livingston – WDFW	Doug McClelland - DNR
Sarah Brace – DE Team	

Staff Action Items		Date Due
DNR and DFW Agency Staff	Compilation of SEPA Comments and Responses	May 22, 2015
Advisory Committee Action Items		Date Due
TCF Advisory Committee	Coordinate on potluck on June 11	June 11

1) Welcome, Review the Day (Lisa)

- a) March 26 meeting summary approved. No changes or comments.
- b) June 11 next and last AC meeting. 1-hr meeting at Grange (3-4:00), immediately after, a potluck event from for AC members and staff from 4-8:00 PM. Gary will provide hamburger and sausages, Dale will bring chickens; please sign up for additional side dishes. **Doug** Schindler will coordinate by email.

2) Overview of SEPA Comments and Plan Changes (Eric Winford)

- a) Over 700 comments on the draft management plan; a few on the actual SEPA document. About 150 categories and the agency is preparing responses to these. Most were supportive of the plan and acknowledged future planning efforts. Some comments about specific projects, actions that weren't really addressed in this strategic-level plan.
- b) Issues that were raised (Eric walked through the changes on PPT -- ALSO ON HANDOUT):
 - i) Climate change impacts should be addressed. Mentioned that purchase of the Teanaway itself is a step toward mitigating climate change.
 - ii) Forestry plan – protect old trees. Plan should guide restoration of the forest.
 - (1) What is “old”? What is “conservation”?
 - (2) Use the term “legacy trees” rather than “old”
 - (3) Add “as appropriate”
 - (4) How will old trees be identified?
 - (5) All OK with the changes proposed.
 - iii) Priority action under seasonal wildlife concentration areas – change timeline for identification of these areas from December 2016 to 2015.
 - iv) Recommendation that control of noxious weeds needs to be funded. Acknowledged that this needs to be addressed (Ch. 4) and a priority action was added (list of steps to be taken).
 - (1) How do we distinguish between “noxious” and “Non-native”? What about zebra mussels?
- c) SEPA Document comments
 - i) Consistent with the comprehensive master plan
 - ii) Acknowledgement of 2020 milestone
 - iii) Brook trout in Teanaway could harm other species.
- d) Kitty: How will you capture the statements and thoughts in the 700 comments moving forward?

Eric: In SEPA process, looked to see if we missed anything; comments that were largely statements were supportive and most of them were in line with what we are planning to do.

Mike: Anything that required a response will be made public. Any letters that were very similar (form letters, for example), they get one response.

Comprehensive SEPA Document with all comments and responses will be posted on the website next week.

3) Future Advisory Committee (Rick and Mike)

- a) **Structure** – Right now walking through the process with commissioners.
- b) **Advisory Committee:**
 - i) Reapplication process – All current Advisory Committee members will be invited to resubmit an application and serve another term. Recreation will be broadened in representation. Application process will open for a short period in early June. Signing ceremony will occur at

- the end of June and the agencies plan to bring a new group together after that.
- ii) Staggered terms with two and three-year cycles. Overlapping terms to maintain consistency. Ideally 20 members; will draw on 12-15 folks from this group for the recreation plan. Full Advisory Committee would meet quarterly. Recreation Subcommittee's activities would be reported out to the full Advisory Committee on quarterly basis.
 - iii) May add a few more folks to serve only on the Recreation Committee to make sure all interests are covered. But we are looking for a good balance.
 - iv) Kick off for the new process: July 23rd. Roll out new committee and start the process. Moving from planning to implementation focus.
- c) **Debrief on this process (function, room for improvements)**
- i) Kitty, Andrea, Doug and Gary have all gone to the legislators to support funding of the TCF and and heard many questions regarding the TCF process: Can the agencies really work together? Why is DNR trying to manage timber? What about wolves? Turn the Federal Forest into Community Forest? The Advisory Committee members involved felt they got the message across regarding the sustainability of the community forest concept and the need for a sustainable funding source. Key point: this committee as your (the agencies) advocates.
 - ii) Scheduling: if felt like the schedule was variable; need more heads-up for different meeting times. Generally please provide tighter schedule as it is respectful of AC members time.
 - iii) Field tours were really great, could have done more (even shorter) tours.
 - iv) Keep the public involvement portion of these meetings, particularly as we get into recreation.
 - v) Time slots will need to be later for community involvement (Rec committee for example). Probably need to shift to evening meetings.
 - vi) Kudos: This group has accomplished a lot! Really incredible – a testament to your commitment to the endeavor.
 - vii) Need more time for the group to just TALK and to explore implementation. Build this in from the very beginning.
 - viii) Suggestion to agencies: As we move into implementation, don't forget to bring problems to this group of citizens (AC) – let us help solve them, as a community we might work it out. Utilize the Committee: there will be many issues that will come up, draw on the Committee as ambassadors to the Legislature and as problem solvers that represent citizens in a powerful way.
 - ix) Sense of urgency has gone by; now we can be deliberate on what needs to be done.
 - x) Public outreach – use tools to get the word out with more advanced notice.
 - xi) Rick reported that facilitation will be managed by DNR staff. AC Comments: You may need to keep the facilitation as an outside role, not agency. Neutrality is important; sense of independence. Lisa's facilitation allowed us to develop a plan that the agencies supported. If not a non-agency neutral, then consider a third party agency person (not land manager). Consider funds through a foundation or other non-profit support entity for facilitation.
 - (1) Rec Planning Process – should have a planner.
 - (2) Advisory Committee itself – local land manager would not be ideal. Need someone who's role is to represent the community - neutral.
 - xii) Would have been helpful to include metrics with goals and objectives and strategies. Do this in the future.
 - xiii) Appreciate that the agencies respected and responded to our questions.
 - xiv) How was the iterative nature of the process (Mike's question)? Sometimes the process got frustrating; sometimes it worked.
 - xv) Like to have more time to for the final document. Very fast wrap-up. Some of the comments from the March meeting did not make it into the final draft of the plan.

- xvi) Laying out the ground rules a little more often – sometimes the level of respect for one another slipped.
- xvii) Process could have been improved if we had information (data) sooner in the process.
- xviii) Recreation subcommittee – Ask that the agencies provide clear guidance on ORV. Agencies need to decide if there will be ORV, and then the committee will figure out how to implement this decision/ what it looks like. We've had extensive discussion; not sure how much more discussion this would require. Agencies to take lead on decision.

4) Field Updates

- a) **Budget:** No decisions have been made.
- b) **Lidar:** Data collection using Lidar has been completed. Data are being processed and QA/QC. Hope some of this information will be available to guide the rec process. Other data as well.
- c) **Law Enforcement:** DNR officer. Several patrols (DNR + DFW). Every other weekend agencies are trading off the patrol duty. Not seeing the level of issues they saw last year. Complaints are being called in. Need to pay attention to opening day for deer/elk. Patrols are out there, sometimes they are not advertising their presence -- staying out of sight but they are there. Doug Schindler mentioned that they are now seeing motorcycles on TNC and Roslyn Community Forest properties. Some local landowners are seeing more traffic on their lands – perception that folks are being pushed off Teanaway onto private land. Some are hearing that trespassing is up. TNC is wanting help with enforcement and is open to cost share on gates.
- d) **Signage** – Efforts are underway to increase signage.
- e) **DNR work projects;** Purchased fish passage pipes (for West Fork Teanaway); road improvements on West Fork Road; installed 6 new gates this week; Teanaway Campground crews getting improved fencing; rock set down in campgrounds to fix driveways; new toilets; picnic tables and fire rings on order. Improved fencing at Teanaway Campground to eliminate conflict with cows.
- f) **Campground Work Party Opportunity** – June 3-4 for campground improvements. Later work party weekend coming up.
- g) **DFW Training** –On WARSEM model for interns and techs.
- h) **Signing ceremony** – June 25th late afternoon. Time to be confirmed. Commissioner and Director plus informal gathering in the campground.
- i) **Other** -- Gary Berndt: Conflict Resolution course at Central. Before the TCF AC began their work, the group asked: What kinds of things did we think we might encounter? At the end of this process, they called and asked for a follow up on how the process went. They wanted to hear some real-world case studies. What types of conflicts come up and how are they addressed?

5) Teanaway Valley Farm Property – Trust for Public Lands briefing and AC Discussion (Ann Weld, Trust for Public Lands; Peter Dykstra, Consultant to TPL)

- a) 215 Acres, river-front, touches the Community Forest on both sides. Sweet addition to the community forest (gateway). 120 acres of timber.
- b) Urgency of property is high. TPL is prepared to buy and hold the property if funding is possible but not readily available. Funding is critical, could otherwise be subdivided into 9+ residential lots.
- c) Agencies: Important for the AC to support these types of projects. Ultimately would like to wrap this parcel into the community forest. Kittitas County is a partner in the project from a water rights standpoint. DNR, DFW and Yakama Nation are also partnering.
- d) 28 acres under Timothy hay irrigation; current landowners don't live on the property. Leasing the land for 1-cutting hay. This is the agriculture component and a basis for adjudicated water rights (from Timothy Hay production). Irrigation is primarily about keeping out noxious and invasive weeds. Potential long term floodplain restoration activities.
- e) All six Teanaway Forest Community goals can be met on this property – in context of the larger

forest.

- f) Washington Water Trust – leased through 2022. Right to buy all the water and transfer all the water rights into that Trust when the lease expires.
- g) County interested in floodplain benefits and in 50 AF consumptive water transfer to the trust program for instream flows and water banking purposes.
- h) Kittitas County supports this. TPL has an option that expires next spring; looking for public funding.
- i) DFW is looking for funding; looking for advice from the Advisory Committee.
- j) Kiosk, gateway, parking lot – sounds great.

6) Public Comment

- a) Lana Thomas Cruise – Columbia Recreation Planning Committee. DNR facilitators do a good job with the public in recreation planning processes.
- b) Laura Gricar – New, local Community Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy.

a) Handouts

- a) Agenda, May 13, 2015
- b) Meeting Summary, March 26, 2015
- c) Changes to plan from SEPA Comments