PCFC Meeting Minutes

July 12th, 2023

Tyee Cooperative

Attendees: Carl Wright, Mike Lithgow, Amy Encinas-Yount, Steve Linton, Jim Stevens, Jeff Connolly, Tanner Linton, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt

Liz called the meeting to order at 6:31 AM.

Ongoing Business

**June Meeting minutes ~** Tanner motioned to approve the minutes as they are. Carl seconded the motion. Unanimous.

**Website updates and mission statement ~** We spent a while working on a new mission statement. There are a number of reasons we need to update the statement though essentially the goals of the PCFC are the same. Our involvement as project managers has faded some but we are still involved with many many projects on the IPNF through the PFC. We are also still involved with many community based interests. SO:

**The mission of Priest Community Forest Connection is to bring communities together by fostering relationships between nature and society with a focus on forest education and restoration, recreational opportunities, and community programs.**

**We strive to create a future where forests remain sustainable, are cherished and protected through knowledge and inspiration, for today’s world, and tomorrow’s generations.**

**The PCFC has three action goals: (1) to promote community education and collaborative processes concerning local land issues; (2) to assist and support implementation of ecosystem health restoration opportunities; (3) to help provide for a sustainable resource and recreation- based economy within the local region.**

**For example, some of our project specifics:**

And here Tanner would put in a link to different projects like Granite, Grouse, Hughes, Landsite restoration, Trail, Expo, etc.

Please everyone, look this over again and make changes if you want.

**Priest River Watershed Group ~** Liz told the group that the hours they had set for her work with the PRWG are up. She is wondering if it is worth her time and their money to continue. Liz asked Mike what his thoughts are since he is also participating. After some discussion as to where this group is going or not going, Mike thought that it would be okay for Liz to step back. He will continue to participate but NOT represent PCFC, and he will keep us posted as to the progress. Liz feels that eventually the group may find its footing but right now it is a lot of info meetings (which are really good) and not a lot of getting anything done, which realistically, is probably way in the future. The Board would like Liz (PCFC) to keep our interests on the table and be available for any project development and/or implementation.

Financials

**Edward Jones accounts ~** Liz wanted to know if the Board wanted to do something else with the $55,000 that she deposited with Seth. It is safe, we are rolling along fine, so it was decided to leave things as they are.

The question was why the funds from the City are listed on our spreadsheets as “$44,405.50”? Liz will check with the gals, but the thought is that that is after they took the “fixed asset” ($594.50) they had on their spreadsheet forever, this is the realized gain.

New Business

**PREF ~** Liz went up to PREF and met with the new superintendent, Hannah, and the forester-in-charge, Jason. They are very enthusiastic about getting the Expo back up at the forest. They have ideas and NEPA prepared for the harvest and everything else would basically go back into the old mode. Liz didn’t promise anything. The discussion centered around logistics and costs. Yes, it is further out, it would be about the same cost-wise because we would not be renting so many accessories, the harvest wouldn’t be much different transport wise, the rest is negligible. For now, everyone is going to think about it. We tabled the discussion and will revisit.

PORP Trail

**Wetland signs and bench ~** Mike has acquired prices from the Kalispel Metal shop: the signs (2) would be $1750 (approximately) and the bench will be $1400. Liz is working on editing down the info that Ed Styskel put together for the signs. At this point, Liz needs to put in for the Charitable Fund and we will go from there.

**Funding ~** So we received the $10000 from Innovia and the Rotary has pledged $20000. Liz is currently writing a grant for Avista and is looking for funds at all times. There is an LTAC grant out there but we have to have a sponsor for that ~ such as a City or agency.

We also need to start working with ITD on blocking off that entrance off of the highway before going on to the next phase. We are thinking that this current funding should try and cover the hard surfacing for the already built sections. The estimate is $85000. Also talked about signs for non-motorized and how to get the US bike route 10 signs pointing in the trail’s direction.

**NEXT MEETING ~ August 16th, boat ride, 4 pm at the docks.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 am.