

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition



Quarterly Board Meeting

June 18, 2020

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

Participants

Doug Ferrell
Ed Levert
Allie Maloney
Tim Dougherty
Mike Petersen
Shawn Morgan
Angelo Alderete
Robyn King
Aaron Peterson
Steve Kimball, Montana DNRC
Caroline Mellor, KFSC Coordinator

Meeting Objectives:

- To learn from and share information with the Kootenai National Forest
- To vote on candidates for officer positions
- To discuss and decide on project-level work and internal protocol updates.
- To discuss and decide on the Education and Outreach Work Plan.

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Caroline Mellor, KFSC Coordinator, provided an overview of the agenda. Doug Ferrell, KFSC Interim Chair, introduced Steve Kimball of Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Kimball provided an overview of his relationship with the Coalition and ability to serve as resource.

Kootenai National Forest Updates

Executive Committee members provided an update on recent meetings with Kootenai National Forest (KNF) supervisor Chad Benson.

Description of recent discussion with Forest Supervisor Chad Benson:

- Project-level work –KFSC comments are welcome in landscape scale and smaller scale projects as well, whenever KFSC has capacity and interest to engage. The KNF is interested to discuss our ideas and concerns as projects are developed.
- It is a priority for KFSC to provide support and comments on projects that involve the WUI.
 - Importance for KFSC efforts to help the general public be able to provide comments and to support the demystification of the process for timber projects.
 - The revived Education and Outreach committee will be important for KFSC to serve this purpose.
- Supervisor Benson stressed that he is committed to working together with KFSC to create and maintain a supportive and productive relationship. He welcomes our involvement with forest projects, with the community fire plan, and welcomes our initiatives for public outreach and education. Potential need to update the Guidelines to include management issues re grizzly bears, climate change, etc.

Officer Elections

At the annual meeting in March 2020, Mark Peck was elected KFSC President; Peck resigned in May 2020 due to County Commissioner commitments. At that time, Doug Ferrell was electronically voted as Interim President. Prior to the June 2020 meeting, Board members were encouraged to nominate any other prospective President and Executive Committee members. No other nominations for President were received prior to the meeting.

Officer Titles – A proposition was brought to change the titles from President and Vice-President to two Co-Chairs. This was presented with the intention to have different interests represented by each Co-Chair and to reflect the mindset of collaboration and of a diversity of perspectives. The Board approved a motion to accept the new change in officer titles to a pair of Co-Chairpersons, and to revise the bylaws to reflect this vote.

Election Process – The election was conducted over the Zoom video conference platform with a combination of verbal approval or virtual hand signals.

Results:

- Doug Ferrell and Tim Dougherty were voted in as Co-Chairmen.
- No nominees for secretary accepted the nomination; the secretary issue will be returned to, with current support provided by KFSC Coordinator Mellor.

Project Level Work

The KFSC Board sought to clarify any criteria or new processes needed to engage in future project-level work on the KNF. After discussion, the board clarified that no new criteria were needed to engage in project-level work and that the existing protocol for the initiation of project-level work serve current KFSC needs. As noted in the Protocol future project involvement will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Information on the KFSC can be found at Kootenaifuture.org

Additional discussion items:

- Interest and importance to continue to pro-actively build relationships with District Rangers.
- Importance of timing with draft comments and to ensure enough time for Board feedback on future draft comments.
- Concern with capacity to do work – Discussed part of the process to decide if KFSC will engage on a project will include the issue of capacity.
- Upcoming potential opportunities – An upcoming Joint Chiefs project was discussed as an opportunity for KFSC to collaborate with the KNF.
 - Note: Joint Chiefs projects are those under a partnership between the Forest Service and the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to invest funds in projects that mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality and restore healthy forest ecosystems on public and private lands.

Document Updates

- Guidelines – Discussion continued from March 2020 Board meeting that the Guidelines will be used internally to guide Board decisions and comment content but not to reference specific pages of the document or that may give the perception that KNF staff are expected to abide by.
 - The Guidelines are to be considered a “living document” and future revisions will focus on (1) to keep abreast of changes in science, (2) updates in climate science, and (3) potential revisions to address the nuances of grizzly bear management.
- By-laws – Coordinator Mellor introduced proposed changes to the by-laws to streamline terminology, clarify the decision-making roles between the Executive Committee and the Board, and to more clearly define the roles and responsibilities of different levels of membership.
 - These proposed changes will be e-mailed out to the Board for careful review and voted on electronically.

Committee Updates

Education and Outreach Committee:

- Allie Maloney, Committee Chair, introduced the goals and objective of the Work Plan and provided an overview of the planned activities between June and October. Board members expressed appreciation for the work of Maloney and the Education Committee.
- Discussion included that one goal of the Work Plan is to bring in new volunteers and increase future capacity to do work.
- The Education Committee will work with each Board member to create outreach contributions that fit Board member's interest areas, skill and capacity.
- The Board voted to adopt the Education Committee Work Plan

Funding Committee:

- Ferrell initiated the idea of the Funding Committee to research opportunities for grants and areas where KFC funds could be of service to the communities of the KNF region and to the work of the KNF. Ed Levert and Mike Petersen expressed interest in the initial Committee work.

Legislative Committee:

Information on the KFSC can be found at Kootenaifuture.org

- Committee Chair Robyn King discussed the need for the committee to meet and discuss areas for consensus on elements to include in a prospective legislative package.
- Discussion of a sense or urgency due to a possible window of opportunity for such legislature after the upcoming election.

District Committees:

- No other District Committee updates outside of the project-level work discussion.

Next Steps

Transition in Represented Organizations – Aaron Peterson was proposed to replace Robyn King as the representative for the Yaak Valley Forest Council (YVFC). Peterson is currently transitioning into the Executive Director position for the YVFC. King will stay on as a member of KFSC. A vote for Peterson will be conducted over email after he fills out the membership and agreement forms online.

Action items before September 2020 meeting:

Action item	Responsible Party
Meetings with District Rangers	Tim Dougherty, Doug Ferrell
Proposed document updates to be circulated via email	Caroline Mellor, Doug Ferrell
Education Committee Work Plan implementation	Allie Maloney, Caroline Mellor and other Committee and Board members as assigned
Funding Committee - Met to discuss initial next steps	Doug Ferrell, Ed Levert, Mike Petersen
Joint Chiefs projects involvement	Follow-up with Chad Benson on future opportunities for involvement.