

**Hood River Stewardship Collaborative Meeting**  
May 18, 2016  
**Facilitator's Summary**

---

*The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings.*

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>By When?</b>
Provide draft meeting summary to Stew Crew for edits	Emily	5/25
Provide summary edits to Emily	Stew Crew	5/30
Draft language for Stew Crew's purpose and objectives	Charter Sub-Group	6/8
Coordinate Waucoma Field Trip for end of June	Field Trip Sub Group	Mid-June
Determine date of Field Trip	John & Emily	5/25
Develop list of 'shared ecological goals'	Stew Crew	Later date

**Present for all or part of the meeting:** Tyson Bestone-Riggs (OR Dept. of Forestry), John Dodd (U.S. Forest Service), Sam Doak (Resident), Ann Dow (Resident), Rick Larson (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation), Jay McLaughlin (Mount Adams Resource Stewards), Hugh McMahan (HR Valley Resident Committee), Russ Plaeger (Bark), Rick Ragan (HR Soil & Water Conservation District), Ron Schneider (High Cascade, Inc.), Cindy Thieman (HR Watershed Group)

**Facilitator & Notes:** Emily Plummer, DS Consulting

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Facilitator, Emily Plummer, welcomed everyone to the Hood River Stewardship Collaborative (Stew Crew) meeting, noting that the purpose of the session is to discuss organizational structure and process needs and begin formulating operating principles to help guide the Stew Crew as they work collaboratively. They will explore issues and develop recommendations. She noted that there will be time to discuss technical assistance needs for the summer field season, as well as upcoming field trips.

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Follow-up**

The group reviewed and approved the April 20<sup>th</sup> Facilitator's Summary with strong consensus (all 1's and 2's). The final summary will be posted to the Stew Crew website. Additionally, as discussed at the April meeting, Emily presented the group with a revised version of the Discussion Protocols, which the group also approved with strong consensus.

At the last meeting, the group agreed to create a Stew Crew website, separate from the Hood River Watershed Group's site. Casey Gatz (USFS) and Emily Jane Davis (OSU Extension) offered to set up the website. Emily will manage and update it. The web site will provide meeting agendas, final summaries, and relevant materials. The website is up and running and can be accessed at [www.hrstewcrew.org](http://www.hrstewcrew.org). Emily encouraged the Stew Crew to contact her with suggestions for how to make the website accessible and helpful.

### **Stew Crew Structure and Process**

Following the April meeting, Emily conducted assessment interviews with Stew Crew members and created an online survey that was sent to the Stew Crew list serve. The interviews provided input from the Stew Crew as to what organizational structure and processes will be needed to support Stew Crew discussions and outcomes. Emily noted common themes that emerged from these interviews, which include:

- Stew Crew's Purpose and Objectives – who is the Stew Crew and what do we do?

- Participation - who should participate and what are members' roles? Is there a need to recruit participation from other affiliations/agencies?
- Representation - how should we address multiple voices for the same organization/agency, or a singular voice acting as a spokesperson for many?
- Decision Making - how does the Stew Crew make decisions? How do we ensure that all interests are represented? Who weighs in on decisions around recommendations? What happens when the group cannot coalesce around a decision?

Emily noted that today's discussion will focus on developing a joint understanding of the Stew Crew's purpose and objective. The group brainstormed around 'Who is the Stew Crew' and 'What does the Stew Crew do'; the brainstorm is captured below.

### ***Who is the Stew Crew?***

- Recommending body that provides input to the Forest Service and has an ongoing relationship with the Forest Service.
- Potentially a group that provides recommendations to landowners other than the Forest Service, including neighboring landowners, Hood River County, the BLM, and other agencies and/or groups.
  - The Stew Crew could provide recommendations outside of the USFS projects; for example, fish barrier removal via retained receipts projects.
  - At this point, Stew Crew efforts are focused primarily on Forest Service projects, however, in the future there may be opportunities to expand the scope of landowners with whom the Stew Crew works.
- A dedicated group that provides recommendations over time and multiple planning projects, not just the Waucoma planning area.
- We are separate from the Forest Service; however, include Forest Service representatives in conversations.
- Group of stakeholders that actively helps shape Forest Service projects in the Hood River Ranger District.
- We focus on forestry related issues.
- We provide recommendations on planning, implementation, and monitoring; also, could implement monitoring.
- We take a landscape and watershed level approach and incorporate neighboring land-use as it pertains to Forest Service lands and projects.
- We focus on the long term and the big picture – look to provide recommendations that take into consideration the accumulative effects over time.
- We've focused geographically in the Hood River Ranger District and watershed; however, there is potential to expand to Hood River County and adjacent lands.
  - Potential to collaborate with other Collaboratives in the region – Wasco or Clackamas Collaboratives.
- We are a diverse set of stakeholders

### ***What do we do?***

- We strive to provide consensus recommendations; where there is not consensus, we clarify the differing perspectives.
  - We explore multiple perspectives.
  - We seek to provide a unified voice, representing a diversity of perspectives.
- We facilitate learning experiences; facilitate mutual learning both within the Stew Crew and externally with partners.
  - Utilize science based presentations and fieldtrips as opportunities to learn.

- We gather and share information within the Stew Crew, community, Forest Service and landowners.
- We identify opportunities that can only be achieved across multiple ownerships due to their landscape level.
- We proactively develop projects with the Forest Service.
- We take a long-term, forward-focused view when developing recommendations.
- We seek to provide value to the process and to be clear on the value that we are adding.
- We work to improve forest health: resiliency, restoration and rehabilitation of past land use practices.
- We work to protect clean water.
- We consider the economic benefits to communities.

There was rich discussion around the current scope of work as compared to the potential future scope of work. It was noted that some of the ideas brainstormed are aspirational at this point; however, the Stew Crew is developing overarching guidance for the group and thus can expand the current scope if desired. The group generally supported an expanded scope into the future, with interest in focusing efforts beyond Forest Service projects and beyond the geographical constraints of the Hood River Ranger District. That being said, it was recognized that the primary focus of the Stew Crew at this point is on Forest Service lands in the Hood River Ranger District.

Due to time constraints and to continue moving forward, a sub-group was convened to draft language for the purpose and objectives of the Stew Crew. This language will then be provided back to the larger group for discussion and revisions prior to the June meeting.

**Charter Sub-group:** Tyson, Hugh, and Rick Larson (if time allows).

- **ACTION:** The Charter Sub-Group will meet to draft language on the purpose and objective of the Stew Crew and provide it back to the group for discussion at the June meeting. **If others are interested in joining the sub-group, please contact Emily ASAP!**

It was noted that it would be great to eventually develop a list of the Stew Crew's shared ecological goals. For instance, the group coalesced around the idea of improving forest health, however, could not quickly agree on goals around fire and fuels management. Everyone agreed that it would be worthwhile to spend time to develop a list of shared ecological goals. **This will be added to the agenda for future discussions.**

### **Technical Assistance Needs & Field Trips**

The Stew Crew revisited the conversation from the April meeting around Technical Assistance and information needs. The group recounted that funding was secured for field work (\$13,000) to help provide information to the Stew Crew and USFS for the Waucoma planning area. It was noted that some information is available through the USFS and it would be helpful to connect with them on what data is available, and its date, so the Stew Crew can put a finer point on what information is needed. Russ suggested sending a list of information needs to the USFS specialists with a request to clarify what, if any, is available on those topics. John thought this would be possible, but noted they will not be able to do any analysis at this point. There was general interest in hearing more from the USFS Specialists as to why they choose the Waucoma. Again, however, many people who prioritized the area are no longer at the District, and there is no written record of the prioritization process. There are some documents, however, that may be helpful.

Potential resources to explore for more information on the Waucoma planning area are:

- 1996 Watershed Analysis

- 2000 Environmental Assessments
- 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (details management sideboards)

Emily recapped areas of interest noted during the groups' April brainstorming that addressed additional information needed to generate recommendations for Waucoma:

- High elevation data (i.e. boundaries, topographic maps, landscape level information)
- Recreation
- Fire and Fuels
- Disease - insects and stand health
- Fish and Streams
- Invasive Species
- Vegetation
- Forest use – past and present
- Economics
- Wildlife

Additionally, the group did an initial brainstorm of potential Technical Assistance surveys for the 2016 field season<sup>1</sup>:

- Red Tree Vole surveys
- Owl surveys
- Recreational use
- Fire history/ Fuel loading
- Forest condition/stand health
- Economic value of prescriptions

The group noted that they would like to schedule a fieldtrip as soon as possible to get acquainted with the Waucoma planning area. There were many ideas as to what could be covered in the field, and the group decided it would need multiple field trips to cover it all. **For the June field trip, the group suggested: An overall orientation of the planning area, illustrating current and past conditions and management practices, stream and road crossings, etc.; land-use allocations; planning area boundaries; and plant associations.**

The group would like to discuss other ideas in the field. They could explore the resources from different resource management perspectives, for example, the management concerns of Farmers Irrigation District. Additionally, people wanted to hear from Hood River County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife regarding potential consultation, as well as from the stakeholder groups within the Stew Crew. OSU Extension Foresters, such as Glen Ahrens, and the Nature Conservancy may be able to provide expertise as well. At this point, the group thought they could gather more information from the USFS specialists and the fieldtrip, then reassess needs before bringing in additional resources. Russ noted that Bark will send representatives out for ground-truthing. Emily suggested that Russ let the Stew Crew know when they plan to go out in case there are people who would like to join.

A field trip sub-group was formed to help plan and organize the June field trip. They will find a few dates that work for USFS staff to attend and then will send a Doodle poll to the group to schedule for the end of June.

**Field Trip Sub-group:** John Dodd, Rick Ragan, Jon Paul (volunteered by Ron).

---

<sup>1</sup> This was an initial brainstorm. The group thought that following the June field trip they will have a better idea of what TA may be needed.

→ **ACTION:** The Field Trip Sub-group will schedule the first Waucoma field trip for the last two weeks of June. They will also manage field trip logistics and planning. Cindy will contact Cathy Flick to see if she can join this or future field trips.

**Action Items**

The Charter Sub-group will meet to draft language for the purpose and objectives which will be provided to the Stew Crew for input. The Field Trip Sub-group will schedule a date and begin preparing for the trip. Emily will provide a summary of the meeting to the Stew Crew, who will provide suggested edits.

**The next Stew Crew meeting is from 2:00-5:00 on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The first Waucoma field trip will be scheduled for the end of June.**

*This summary is respectfully submitted by DS Consulting Facilitators; suggested edits can be provided to Emily at emily@dsconsult.co.*