

Hood River Stewardship Collaborative Meeting

July 20, 2016

Facilitator’s Summary

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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.

Action Item	Responsible Party	By When?
Provide draft meeting summary to Stew Crew for edits	Emily	7/27
Send Doodle poll to schedule next meeting for week of Aug 22 or 29 th	Emily	7/27
Provide meeting summary edits to Emily	Stew Crew	8/3
Print out <i>Objectives, Goals, Baseline</i> table from the grant proposal for reference	Stew Crew	August session
Coordinate next steps on consolidating data and bringing in scientists for science talks	Science Sub-Group	August session
Incorporate group edits on purpose and good faith agreement	Sam & Emily	Week of 8/1
Draft Charter and send to group for review	Emily	Week of 8/1
Look into password protected web page for resources	Casey	August session
Develop list of ‘shared ecological goals’	Stew Crew	Later date

Present for all or part of the meeting: Jon Paul Anderson (High Cascade, Inc.), Tyson Bertone-Riggs (OR Department of Forestry), Sam Doak (Resident), Ann Dow (Resident), Cathy Flick (retired US Forest Service), Casey Gatz (US Forest Service), Keith Harding (HR Valley Resident Committee), David Jacobs (OR Department of Forestry), Rick Larson (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation), Larry Martin (HR Soil & Water Conservation District), Jay McLaughlin (Mount Adams Resource Stewards), Hilary Medlin (Citizen), Russ Plaeger (Bark), Rick Ragan (HR Soil & Water Conservation District), Cindy Thieman (HR Watershed Group)

Facilitator & Notes: Emily Plummer, DS Consulting

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator, Emily Plummer, welcomed everyone to the Hood River Forest Collaborative (Stew Crew) meeting, noting that the purpose of the session is to continue discussions on technical assistance needs for the summer field season and the Stew Crew organizational structure and process.

June 15th Meeting Follow-up

The group reviewed and approved the June 15th and June 27th Facilitator’s Summaries with strong consensus. The final summaries will be posted to the Stew Crew website.

Technical Assistance for the 2016 Field Season

The group continued conversations regarding potential technical assistance (TA) for the 2016 field season. As follow-up to the June meeting, a Technical Assistance Sub-Group (later determined to be the ‘Science’ sub-group) was set up to further assess and develop a proposal for TA needs. The sub-group presented their ideas to the Stew Crew for input. They suggested exploring the following TA options and asked for the Stew Crew’s feedback:

1. Consolidate and analyze existing datasets

- a. Gather and analyze available USFS data, including GIS, regional studies, etc. to create a picture of the area.
 - i. Provide a broad overview of the entire area, and where feasible, the landscape in which it lies. Once that is accomplished the Stew Crew may be able to make more informed judgements as to identifying areas in which to focus additional effort.

2. Science talks

- a. Build a common baseline understanding of ecological conditions, forest types, etc.
- b. Potential talks include:
 - i. Historic range of variability
 - ii. Future projections and conditions
 - iii. Disturbance regimes (fire, insects, disease, wind, soils)
 - iv. Water quality

3. Collect site specific data if necessary

- a. Will have a better understanding of what, if any, data should be collected on the ground after the available data consolidation and science talks.

In regards to item 1, Tyson Bertone-Riggs, ODF, shared that Trent Seagar, who is a contractor for The Nature Conservancy and about to complete his PhD in forest ecology, may be available to work with the Stew Crew to help them focus their data analysis questions and needs. Others at TNC may be able to compile existing GIS data and provide a summary of the area. Cindy Thieman, HRWG, noted that Sam Doak has started to compile data sources and this list can be used as a starting point for compiling existing data.

In regards to item 2, Tyson shared that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Sustainable Northwest have resources to provide science-based workshops to the Stew Crew to help develop the group's general knowledge of the Waucoma area, ecology, and land management practices. Furthermore, the group could hold workshops or guided tours in areas outside of, but similar to the Waucoma area to learn more generally about these habitat types and ecosystems. Tyson noted that there are a number of scientists that have experience working with Collaboratives that can provide information to the Stew Crew.

The Stew Crew generated ideas of potential scientists to consider inviting to speak with the Stew Crew:

- Louisa Evers (BLM fire ecologist)
- Andrew Merschel (OSU)
- James Johnston (multi-party monitoring coordinator for Blue Mountains Forest Partners)
- Keala Hagmann (University of Washington)
- Dede Olson (Riparian, PNW Research Station)
- Gordon Grant (Hydrologist)
- Mark Harmon (OSU, carbon sequestration)
- Karry Kemp (TNC)

Jay McLaughlin, MARS, suggested that the Stew Crew consider not only what information they are interested in exploring, but also, how they will use that information to inform their recommendations to the USFS regarding Waucoma. He also suggested that people look into GTR 897 which details mixed conifer forests on the Gifford Pinchot, and may be a helpful resource. Russ Plaeger, Bark, noted that he is interested in exploring water quality and riparian information for the Waucoma and suggested that the Stew Crew should inquire with local hydrologists to see what questions they have regarding water quality in Waucoma. Russ pointed to the potential impact of harvest in the lower sections of the waterways and how land management on the headwaters will impact the water quality downstream. Cindy suggested that temperature loggers could be placed along tributaries of interest at the upstream and downstream end of

USFS ownership. Questions might include whether current water temperatures meet state standards coming in and out of USFS lands. She also noted that FID may have some data on Greenpoint Creek. Casey Gatz, USFS, mentioned that he could ask internally to see if there is water quality data for the area. **CONSENSUS:** The group agreed with strong consensus (all 1's) to continue efforts to explore options on consolidating and analyzing existing datasets, and holding science talks.

→ **ACTION:** The Science Sub-Group will work to coordinate a session with Trent Seagar to help the Stew Crew assess their data analysis needs; they will aim to have Trent come to the August meeting. They will also work to coordinate a science talk, and explore options to hold the talk in the field in September/October. Casey will inquire internally at USFS to see if there is water quality data available.

Cindy noted that both items 1 and 2 would fulfill grant requirements, she suggested that Stew Crew members print out the Objectives, Goals, Baseline table from the grant proposal to have as reference as the group moves forward. This table is embedded in the grant application, which is posted on the Stew Crew's website.

→ **ACTION:** Stew Crew members will print out the *Objectives, Goals, Baseline* table from the grant proposal to have as reference as the group moves forward.

Stew Crew Structure and Process

Purpose and Objectives: Sam Doak, resident, provided a revision of the draft purpose and objective for the group to review. The group generally liked the revised language and walked through it providing revisions. They further clarified the geographic scope of the Stew Crew, deciding that they will leave flexibility and define the region by stating that they provide recommendations in the Hood River Ranger District. In the end, the group came to consensus on the language to be included in the Charter as the Purpose and Objective of the Stew Crew.

➤ **CONSENSUS:** The group agreed with strong consensus (all 1's) on the revised language for the Purpose and Objectives and agreed to include the revised language in the Stew Crew Charter.

→ **ACTION:** Sam will incorporate the edits and send Emily the revision to include in the Charter.

Good Faith Agreement: Ann Dow, resident, provided a draft 'good faith' agreement for the Stew Crew to review and provide edits on. The group walked through the draft language and provided suggested edits. They discussed the responsibility of those Stew Crew members serving as 'representatives' for organizations or agencies to circle back to their constituents to keep them informed of Stew Crew conversations and negotiations. Emily stressed, from a process perspective, the importance of 'bringing along' the organization/agency by communicating back where the Stew Crew is, and then providing the Stew Crew with any additional perspective offered by others in the organization/agency. She noted that if representatives are not keeping their people informed, it can cause issues when alternates step in, or during the final negotiation on recommendations. Some did not feel that it was appropriate for the Stew Crew to tell other organizations how they are to communicate internally. Representatives shared that they understand their organization/agencies' interests and are empowered to carry those interests forward for their groups. The group, however, was comfortable stating that it is the representative's responsibility to communicate back to their organization/agency. Additionally, the group decided to remove the language regarding the USFS involvement and instead, include a statement clarifying their participation in the 'Membership' section of the Charter.

➤ **CONSENSUS:** The group agreed with strong consensus (all 1's) on the revised language for the Good Faith Agreement and agreed to include the revised language in the Stew Crew Charter.

- **ACTION:** Emily will incorporate the edits to the Good Faith agreement; she will also populate the draft Charter with the sections that the group has discussed and provide a draft to the Stew Crew for review prior to the next meeting.

Sub-Groups: the group briefly discussed potential sub-groups. It was noted that a communication sub-group could help with public interface, and steering committee could assist the facilitator with developing meeting agendas and such.

- **ACTION:** The group will consider if and what sub-groups should be set up and discuss during the upcoming sessions.

Information sharing and posting resources: The group discussed ways to share resources with the group in a way that does not create conflict and ‘science wars’. Generally, the group was interested in sharing resources, however, wanted to be intentional about how it is done because there was concern that ‘one-sided’ science could be posted and unintentionally create conflicts amongst the Stew Crew. It was suggested that a password protected resource page is set up on the Stew Crew website; Casey will look into this option. Additionally, the group generally agreed that if resources are presented to and discussed at meetings, or used to inform recommendations; those resources can and should be posted on the Stew Crew website on a page visible to the public. Other relevant materials that Stew Crew members would like to share with the group can be provided via email, however, not on the MailChimp list-serve used to communicate, as that program requires links to materials on a webpage.

- **ACTION:** Casey will look into developing a password protected resource page on the Stew Crew website. Emily will post resources discussed at meetings and used to inform recommendations on the public ‘meeting notes’ page. Stew Crew members interested in sharing relevant information will do so via email to the group.

Next Steps

The Science Sub-Group will take steps to coordinate technical assistance efforts for the August through October meetings. Casey will look into developing a password protected page on the website so that the group can share resources with each other. Sam and Emily will work to incorporate the group’s edits to the sections of the Charter and Emily will begin drafting the Charter for the group’s review. Emily will also provide a summary of the meeting to the Stew Crew for their edits. Emily will send a Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting for the week of August 22nd or 29th.

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