

## **HR Stew Crew Meeting Notes**

10/5/15

Notes by Nate Ulrich

*Attendance:* Rick Ragan, Courtney and Russ (from BARK), Polly, Larry, Leanne Hogie, Jon Paul Anderson, Emily-Jane Davis, Casey Gatz, Cindy Thieman, Nate Ulrich, Phil Chang

*Meeting agenda:*

Review the OR collaborative grant program through OWEB.

Get status updates from FS.

*First item:*

Rick Ragan opened the meeting. Rick acknowledged Anne Saxby's work to keep the group going in the past.

*Second item:*

OWEB grants: Cindy led a discussion about OWEB grant funding. The Stew Crew had applied but did not receive funding from the NFF last year. Funds from OWEB are for 2 years (?). They can cover meeting expenses and public outreach and recruitment, facilitation, ecological and social monitoring. SWCD could be the fiscal sponsor for this grant since its recognized by OWEB already. We do not have to be a 501c3.

Cindy asked how this group can increase the pace and scope of restoration. That's important to answer before applying. Does the FS have the capacity to do more work if there is support from the collaborative? Could we develop recommendations more quickly with the help of a facilitator? Rick said a facilitator could help the group get more information. Casey says the FS can do more to help the group get information if needed. Stew Crew capacity may not be able to speed up planning. Casey said that filling Anne's void is the main priority for pursuing funding--that ensures that the group remains viable.

Russ asked if restoration was defined in the grant. The answer is no. EJ explained that Stew Crew had historically been considered a Westside collaborative but now is recognized as being both eastside and westside. The application allows us to define restoration but wants to facilitate vegetation management.

Cindy asked how Blue Mtns Partnership has increased pace and scope. In other words what can we do that they are doing? They increased the size (acreage) and complexity of their projects. Then created a "zones of agreement" document which gave the FS license to do more work within those areas by clarifying what the collaborative supported. They also got a CFLRP grant to help them get additional funds. They also got public support to keep the mill open through long term stewardship contracts. The group used plant association groups to organize their zones of agreement. That way they didn't have to rehash issues on each project. They could talk about unique attributes but not have to repeat old arguments. Also they were able to get money from the Washington Office for

some of their initiatives and the community came together well. EJ also mentioned success on the Deschutes collaborative.

Nate asked where we can find agreement as a group. Do we need consensus to move forward? Rick said the group has done a good job in the past of listening to all voices and trying to ensure we generally keep most people on board. There are times when different voices that don't get their way.

Phil provided some background on the Governor's original support for collaboratives in past binenniums. This time around the OWEB money was doubled to about \$6M in grant funding to help projects and groups get through the bottleneck of planning to implementation. Phil expects fed funding to rise to match the state funding.

Rick asked the group to focus on what our group's work is and what we are collaborating around. In the past the group was reactive, now we are working on being more active and making recommendations. Pollalie-Cooper project is a step in that direction. Rick suggested the grant is key to our existence. Cindy was willing to take the lead on putting the application together. EJ said that Chad Davis suggested that we not submit together with the Wasco group.

Courtney suggested BARK would not support increased restoration and wanted the group to look for other sources of funding. There was a lengthy discussion about whether BARK would support the group seeking funding from OWEB because of language that encouraged active restoration. Courtney encouraged looking for other sources of funding but didn't suggest what those other sources would be. Leanne said that she would appreciate the funding because it allows us to reach out and work together. Courtney said that BARK has thousands of supporters and thought that it's voice should carry a greater weight as a part of a democratic process. Cindy and Polly said that their groups also represented thousands of individuals—that the Stew Crew still needs to work together and recognize the voices of all.

Casey said that increased "scale" as required in the grant application may not be timber alone. Can mean impacting more acres and creating better outcomes. This grant is about increasing capacity. Take on a bigger approach rather than just seeing outcomes as timber. The FS sees the group as important and the Ranger listens to the voice of the group. Some of the things that could add value to the group are the ability to bring in scientists, adding structures for decision making and developing a charter. Getting beyond 4000 acres per year of 1.6 million acres would be a great benefit to the community. Facilitation. *Those 3 things: coordinate, facilitate, science.*

We did a thumbs up vote to see if we should move forward with an application. All but one agreed to go for it--Courtney was neutral. It was agreed to start with a scope of work and budget for the grant. Many in the group asked Courtney to return to future meetings and stay active to build a relationship and awareness of how the group was making decisions and moving forward.

*Item 3 FS updates:*

Comment period for Pollalie-Cooper is coming up in the near term. Gary Asbridge (fish) and Mark Kreiter (hydrologist) have left the district. There is a new hydrologist (Diane Hopster) based out of the scenic area office. So the timeline for comment period has been bumped back a little. 30 days. There will be a public meeting about the comment period. Casey will send an announcement to Cindy to send to the group.

Jon Paul reported that sales are being sold in old planning areas (Red Hill and Lava). Implementation will start next year on culverts and brushing and ditching. One sale went to Interfor and one went to High Cascade.

We adjourned on time at 3:30.