



IDAHO LANDS RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Best Western Plus University Inn, Moscow, Idaho

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

Mark Larson, Chair, Idaho State Fire Marshal
Patti Best, Energy Efficiency/Utilities
Elaine Clegg, Association of Idaho Cities
Robert Cope, ID Association of Counties
Kirk David, ID Forest Owners Association
Margie Ewing, USDA-FS, S&PF
Frank Gariglio, USDA-NRCS
Kurt Mettler, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Janet Valle, USDA-FS, S&PF

Robyn Miller, Vice-Chair, Land Trust Organizations
Randy Brooks, UI Cooperative Extension
Susan Cleverley, ID Bur. of Homeland Security
Brad Cramer, Idaho Chapter, American Planning Association
John DeGroot, Nez Perce Tribe
Janet Funk, Idaho Tree Farm
Ken Knoch, ID Parks & Recreation Association
Robert Reggear, Nursery & Landscape Association
Mike Wolcott, Association of Consulting Foresters (Alt)

AGENCY STAFF & VISITORS PRESENT:

Craig Foss, IDL
Gina Davis, IDL
Mary Fritz, IDL
Stephanie Johnston, Cabin Creek Enterprises
Elt Hasbrouck, Valley County Commission

Craig Glazier, USDA-FS
Dave Stephenson, IDL
Suzie Jude, IDL
Ken Postma, Cabin Creek Enterprises

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Craig welcomed council members, staff and guests. He introduced and turned the meeting over to newly-appointed Chairman Mark Larson and Vice-Chair Robyn Miller, who provided biographical information.

Fall Meeting Action Items Update – Gina Davis

Gina reported that the draft Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) Operating Procedures were reviewed, finalized and sent to members. The next topic was how to best share information among members and staff. Currently, ILRCC is sharing information through the www.ilrcc.terrasummit.com website and will continue to do so. A Google docs account has also been set up for committee use if this is preferred. IDL is developing an ILRCC webpage, which will highlight the Forest Action Plan (FAP) and ILRCC and geared towards the general public. Regarding ILRCC correspondence, most members have indicated they are able to open PDF attachments sent through email; most members are not aware of the terrasummit webpage though.

Follow-up/Action Item: Future IDL correspondence to members will include both PDF attachments AND the appropriate web link along with instruction for accessing documents on the terrasummit webpage or, alternatively, the Google Docs webpage.

ILRCC members are encouraged to attend meetings of other groups and to share information about ILRCC and their activities.

- Susan Cleverley shared information with the Silver Jackets Flood Working Group.
- Ken Knoch will report to the Idaho Park and Recreation Association and a travel initiative group.
- Craig Foss presented to the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership.
- Brad Cramer will present to the Idaho Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Follow-up/Action Item: Brad requested assistance from ILRCC and IDL on potential presentations during their 2013 conference (October 9-11 in Idaho Falls).

Bob Reggear commented that ILRCC members all have opportunities to speak to various groups. Bob is concerned the wider the information is shared about collaborative projects, it will result in grant opportunities becoming more competitive for limited funding. Is there an opportunity to receive additional grant funds for more projects? Because S&PF funds are limited, is the idea to get the 'best of the best' in terms of project proposals?

Craig Foss clarified the vision of the State Forester. It is the goal to identify and advance the best project proposals knowing that there will never be enough grant money to serve all the needs across Idaho. Hopefully, ILRCC will elevate project proposals that best address Idaho Forest Action Plan priorities. Groups will spread their own message by going through the grant process, by generating energy and interest even without a grant. Craig cautioned that IDL funding channels are limited by Congressional appropriations to the S&PF programs IDL administers. When there are good ideas being proposed, there is the possibility other funding will become available, for example, like the Cohesive Strategy (CS) at Island Park for which no specific funds were originally allotted.

Chair Mark Larson commented that because of Idaho's early involvement with the National Fire Plan, Idaho is unique among the other states; now that Idaho's (S&PF) programs have morphed into utilizing a single advisory group (ILRCC) model, it has the opportunity to be even more unique by demonstrating a collaborative effort and advising the IDL on project proposals. Idaho has also helped elevate the national effort about working collaboratively. But, while Idaho cannot generate funding, Idaho can assist others to appeal for funding from other sources.

Cope commented that Idaho has become the western model for what cooperation and collaborative efforts can do and get done. Cope would like to think this group is not about finding funding, but about helping others to do projects right, make projects pay for themselves, and to get more 'bang for the buck.'

Susan commented that the State Hazard Mitigation plan will include information about the ILRCC.

Follow-up/Action Item: Gina emphasized the importance of promoting success stories and how ILRCC participates with on-the-ground actions. This is information that can be highlighted in handouts and newsletters. Council members are encouraged to share any articles or blurbs they write with other members.

A one-page information sheet about FAP was developed in conjunction with the recent Forest Landowner Conference. This information sheet will be sent out with the minutes—any suggestions or changes recommended by Council members are appreciated.

ILRCC Roles per State Forester's Request – Craig Foss

Craig summarized State Forester David Groeschl's letter which provides direction to ILRCC members. Craig asked members to consider whether there are resources IDL and ILRCC represented interests can bring to the table to make current or proposed projects more successful or help create new projects that complement them? Are there groups or resources missing from this discussion or from the pre-proposal effort? Can the council identify blind spots for these projects and groups? The State Forester encourages action in many different avenues and venues both as individuals and as ILRCC members and the interests represented.

Craig explained updating the FAP and Cohesive Strategy development are tied together. However, this discussion will be addressed at the June meeting.

Brad Cramer commented he has a new understanding of what the Planning Association can offer to the council's process and is excited about what they can contribute—it's about sharing information. Brad also commented that rural counties often don't have the technical expertise available that ILRCC can provide.

Elaine commented that she regularly works with small communities that don't have the capacity to work on projects. Also, Idaho lags behind in offering technical assistance and resources to small, rural communities. This would be a valuable role for ILRCC to play if they are able.

Robyn suggested this may be an idea worth pursuing for a future grant opportunity.

Follow-up/Action Item: Parking lot idea for potential future ideas: To provide technical assistance to small, rural communities on how to incorporate actions (to projects) that address fire, forest health, or other (FAP) issues.

FY14 Competitive and Western Fire Managers Grant Process – Dave Stephenson

Dave provided an introduction to Western Competitive Grant (CG) and Western Fire Managers Grant (WFG) programs and how IDL operates them. Dave noted IDL is trying to get these two grant programs to coordinate better and, if the

opportunity permits, to link projects to both grant programs. This may provide additional funding for projects and leverage more resources for a bigger impact on the landscape.

For both grant programs, the maximum individual grant proposal limit is \$300K of which IDL takes a portion for indirect and administrative costs to oversee the awarded project. This year, IDL will submit 4 grant proposals for each grant program for FY14 funding; a total of 8 submissions. All proposals must address FAP issues and strategies. Though they are national (grant) programs, Idaho only competes against 17 western states and 5 Pacific Islands.

Dave explained that the 2012 Big Bear Creek project funding award will be delayed until this year. Dave reported the four FY13 projects submitted by Idaho for the Western Competitive Grant Program ranked as follows:

- 1st—Valley County project;
- 2nd—Clear Creek Restoration project in Idaho County;
- 8th—SE Idaho Canopy Assessment project; and
- 11th—Island Park Sustainable Fire Community Project

While these projects all ranked high enough to be funded, individual western states can receive no more than 15% of the maximum (western states) allocation. Dave explained Idaho reached this cap, meaning one or more may not receive full funding. Should any of these 2013 projects not be funded, we will likely resubmit these for consideration next year.

A linked Island Park proposal was also selected for funding through the Western Fire Managers Grant Program. Complimentary project proposals for Idaho and Valley County were also submitted for Western Fire Manager Grants but were not selected for funding. These will be resubmitted for FY14 funding, meaning that ILRCC will be commenting and making recommendations to move ahead with pre-proposals for only 2 WFG project submissions and 3 or 4 CG submissions.

Dave explained the process IDL used to request project pre-proposals, summarized the 11 pre-proposals received and the comment form members will use. Along with today's discussion, the comment form will assist IDL to select projects for further development and grant submission later this year. IDL will provide feedback based on ILRCC input to those who submitted pre-proposals.

Members should be looking for solid projects, not concepts or ideas. Pre-proposals should have clear goals, objectives, outcomes, and deliverables. Collaboration is very important in order to leverage local resources, time and money. Pre-proposals should reflect FAP issues and strategies. Applicants must have the ability to implement a project should it be funded (i.e. have resources and partnerships in place).

It was the consensus of council members that if they have a vested interest in any project pre-proposal, they will abstain or recuse themselves from discussion on that proposal and this will be reflected in the meeting notes. As pre-proposal documents are not protected under the Idaho Public Record Law, they may be shared with others.

Though the deadline for IDL to submit applications for national (western states) competition is later in the year, our timeline for completing grant applications is early to mid-June due to the likelihood of a busy summer fire season. IDL will make a decision on the pre-proposals quickly in order to accommodate this schedule for applicants.

FY13 Western Fire Managers Grant Pre-proposals Discussion – Craig Glazier

Mike Wolcott and Robyn Miller recused themselves from discussion of the WFG pre-proposals.

Discussion followed regarding the pre-proposal focus list. Craig explained that a shaded fuel break is an area where ladder fuels are removed and lower branches pruned, resulting in areas where wildland fire drops to the forest floor. It was also clarified that any commercial component of a project must be separated out from the grant project proposal.

Discussion followed and ILRCC comments were received on the following WFG pre-proposals:

1. Boundary County
2. Kootenai County
3. Shoshone County
4. Benewah County
5. Boise County

FY13 Competitive Grant Pre-proposal Discussion – Mary Fritz

Mike Wolcott reminded the council he has recused himself from the CG pre-proposal discussion. Patti Best recused herself from the Treasure Valley pre-proposal discussion. Elaine Clegg recused herself from the Treasure Valley pre-proposal discussion. Robyn Miller recused herself from the Boundary County pre-proposal discussion.

Mary outlined some examples of integrated restoration criteria for project proposals. Discussion followed and ILRCC comments were received for the following CG project pre-proposals:

1. Treasure Valley WCP
2. NE Coeur d'Alene
3. Benewah County
4. Valley County
5. Forest Cooperative
6. Boundary County Lower Kootenai River

Project Feature: Valley County – Craig Glazier, Cabin Creek Enterprises

Craig introduced Stephanie Johnston and Ken Postma, with Cabin Creek Enterprises, who work with the Valley County Fire Plan Working Group. Also introduced at this time was Elt Housbrouck with the Valley County Board of Commissioners.

Stephanie provided a brief history of the Cabin Creek Enterprises and the Valley County CWPP, 2004 to present. She explained that every county in Idaho is mandated to have a County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). In 2004, the Valley County CWPP was newly minted and adopted. It's Stephanie's perspective that at the time the CWPP was put on a shelf and not looked at again; at that time, there was no formal Fire Working Group. A county employee was charged with filing annual CWPP addendums which was done with very little fire community collaboration or input.

Following a 2007 meeting of the groups named in the original CWPP, Cabin Creek was invited by the County Commissioners to assist this group. After Cabin Creek identified the need for a group facilitator, and helped identify a strong leader, they began working with this group to facilitate the CWPP update. Four committees were identified and assembled: 1) Lands, 2) Legislative, 3) Education, and 4) General.

Each committee has specific tasks that together, helped Cabin Creek and the County develop a new template for fire mitigation proposals. They also understand that success comes from community leaders going out and getting landowner support for project ideas and proposals.

In 2012, Cabin Creek worked closely with Mary Fritz and Dave Stephenson to pursue a CG proposal which, as mentioned earlier, was the top ranked proposal in the west this year. Question from the Council: How do other communities find people like Cabin Creek to come help them? Response from Cabin Creek representatives: It helps not to be a member of a particular group, but to be (or find) a facilitator or organizer instead. Just tell people in the leadership role they don't have to do anything but just come to the meeting and lend their expertise to rally others. It also helps to approach questions from the layman's perspective and ask 'dumb' questions. Also, ask how you can expand the project to make it better. The model of having a facilitator works in Valley County, rather than having a county staff person. Leadership through experience, as Cabin Creek has demonstrated, is very beneficial and desirable but can be different from county to county. County staff may have the necessary skill-set, but not the time.

Margie Ewing commented the Forest Service has a network of practitioners developing a model and a guide for collaboration that would benefit from Cabin Creek's success story.

Ken commented that private property rights and taking away rights from landowners are important issues. They require leaders and facilitators to take the time to consider all of the potential issues and formulate responses. Ken shared that you can't be clueless when meeting with the public. Cabin Creek has a process to ferret out these questions and get feedback on how to approach with an answer or solution. They've also found it's important to partner with fire departments as they have a positive association and interface well with the public and landowners.

Forest Legacy Sub-Committee: Process and Membership – Dave Stephenson

Dave provided a brief summary of the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). He summarized the functions of the FLP subcommittee—to review score and rank project applications, and review/recommend procedures for FLP program implementation. Dave reported that project applications are due to IDL in May, and the subcommittee work will occur likely in June and constitute a commitment of 2-3 days. Meetings will occur via conference call. Dave reported that due to this year's limited FLP budget and Karen Sjoquist's work hour limitations and two pending CE closings, project field trips will likely not take place for this year's applications. However, the land trusts associated with this year's projects will be invited to provide project information to ILRCC at the June 20th meeting.

With this now being a subcommittee of the ILRCC, Dave is looking for the Council's help in identifying subcommittee members for the coming year.

Last year, Kirk David (representing IFOA), Frank Gariglio (representing NRCS), Greg Johnson (private landowner/program participant/IF&G), Gordon Harnasch (representing Kootenai County forestry & agricultural tax), and Sister Carol Ann Wassmuth (Monastery of St. Gertrude forestry program) served on the FLP sub-committee. Additionally, ILRCC members Fred Ebel, Janet Funk, Gregg Servheen, and Bob Reggear participated as observers last year.

Today, the group will be looking for 5 to 7 individuals to participate on the sub-committee. If members under consideration have a conflict of interest, they likely should not participate in ranking and scoring of project application. Dave explained that various perspectives would be beneficial when serving on the sub-committee including private forest landowner, land trust representative, fish & wildlife, endangered species, past FLP participant, industrial forester, and tribal forestry representative.

Questions by members: Will there be a new sub-committee selected every year? This has not been a concern in years past. There's been great value during the FLP's early years for those interested in participating to know what the program was looking for, how to rank applications, etc. Have past sub-committee members been asked to continue to serve in order to keep continuity along with any new members?

Response: All those serving in the past have indicated their willingness to continue to serve on the sub-committee. However, with formation of ILRCC, there's now a need to honor the council's desire as it relates to FLP sub-committee participation. Robyn provided her perspective of land trusts and the value of their perspective and participation in the project ranking process. Because of her participation on the recipient end of the FLP, Robyn has not been active on the sub-committee, but is happy to put forward a request for others from Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts (ICOLT) to participate. It is important to have this valuable perspective to the ranking side of the FLP and the benefit of having various groups participate on ILRCC is to provide a range of perspectives on the FLP sub-committee. The intent of today's discussion is not to exclude past participants.

By consensus of the Council, the FLP sub-committee will maintain membership of members Kirk David, Frank Gariglio, Greg Johnson, Gordon Harnasch, and Sister Carol Ann Wassmuth, land trust participation and additional ILRCC members Janet Funk, Gregg Servheen, and Ken Knoch. Janet Funk reported her participation will be limited this year and she will 'shadow' the sub-committee's efforts.

Meeting Feedback, Wrap Up, Next Meeting

The next ILRCC meeting will be held the week of June 17, 2013. The 2-day meeting in Idaho Falls will include a field trip on Wednesday, June 19th, and a full-day indoor meeting on Thursday, June 20th. The field trip will view an example of the Cohesive Strategy in action through a demonstration project in Island Park. James Hubbard, US Forest Service Deputy Chief of State & Private Forestry in the Washington DC office will participate during the tour/meeting. Also this year, the Above Base Fire Grants meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 18th, also in Idaho Falls. Janet Funk will not be able to attend the meetings, but will find an alternate to attend for Idaho Tree Farm. Per Craig Foss, Gregg Servheen has also reported a conflict that week and is working to find an IF&G alternate to attend.

Susan Cleverley reported she's a member of Silver Jackets coordinated by the Army Corps of Engineers and others that address flood mitigation, mapping, and resource duplication. The Silver Jackets would like to connect with ILRCC member groups to partner and collaborate (preferably before the fire season) with hydrologists, GIS contacts, NRCS emergency staff.

Follow-up item (for members): Please provide Susan with point of contact information, if applicable, for ILRCC member groups.

Craig Foss asked members to provide feedback on how well the ILRCC grants pre-proposals review worked.

Brad Cramer clarified he did not fully understand pre-proposal review process in that further information would be forthcoming from applicants. If he had understood this, he would have changed his approach to providing feedback.

Dave Stephenson commented there were lots of good ideas suggested by members. Are there opportunities by various member constituencies to contact applicants and assist through collaboration?

Frank commented through this process, it may be a way to identify and target higher resource needs and this may be a good discussion to have with NRCS leadership.

Craig summarized that in future, IDL needs to be clear when sending out pre-proposals to potential applicants what exactly is being requested. Also, when sending instructions to ILRCC members to prepare for this meeting, to be clear as to what IDL is requesting members evaluate pre-proposals against. IDL will communicate with all pre-proposal applicants, even those not selected, to share ILRCC (and IDL) comments.

Craig asked members to keep IDL advised of any upcoming meetings or events where ILRCC information can be presented. Craig will post online his presentation for the Restoration Partnership meeting.

Margie reported she serves on the Interagency Team for the Crown of the Continent/America's Great Outdoors effort. She reported that if there are links between a project proposal and the NRCS, there's the potential to collaborate on budgeting. This can be brought to the attention of the State Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Suzie Jude

Summary of Action/Follow-up Items:

- Future IDL correspondence to members will include both PDF attachments AND the appropriate web link along with instruction for accessing documents on the terrasummit webpage or, alternatively, the Google Docs webpage.
- Brad requested assistance from ILRCC and IDL on potential presentations during their 2013 conference (October 9-11 in Idaho Falls).
- Gina emphasized the importance of promoting success stories and how ILRCC participates with on-the-ground actions. This is information that can be highlighted in handouts and newsletters.
- A one-page information sheet about FAP was developed in conjunction with the recent Forest Landowner Conference. This information sheet will be sent out with the minutes—any suggestions or changes recommended by Council members are appreciated.
- A one-page information sheet about FAP was developed in conjunction with the recent Forest Landowner Conference. This information sheet is the first draft and council member feedback is requested.
- Parking lot idea for potential future ideas: To provide technical assistance to small, rural communities on how to incorporate actions (to projects) that address fire, forest health, or other (FAP) issues.
- Council members will provide to Susan Cleverley, point of contact information for ILRCC membership groups as applicable for interaction with Silver Jackets group (see description above)
- Craig F asked members to keep IDL advised of any upcoming meetings or events where ILRCC information can be presented.
- Craig F will post online his presentation for the Restoration Partnership meeting.