

SWCC Executive Committee
Meeting Notes
November 8, 2011

Present: Scott Brennan*, Megan Birzell, Debbie Austin*, Anne Dahl*, Cory Davis, Amber Kamps*, Sandy Mack, Gary Burnett*

**Indicates voting member.*

Action Items:

- Sandy will distribute a copy of the draft FY 2011 Annual Report to SWCC voting members to collect their comments.
 - Sandy will track SWCC projects and accomplishments better in 2012 and assure they are accurately reflected in FS databases.
 - Debbie will set up a short presentation to the SWCC on roads, definitions, and effects of different kinds of roads and decommissioning.
 - Megan will collect all the suggested edits to the SWCC Charter and share them with the SWCC voting members.
 - Sandy will try to find an answer to the question of differences in liability between stewardship agreements and partnership agreements by the December meeting.
- I. Review/approve notes from last meeting
- a. The notes from the October 11, 2011 SWCC Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved.
- II. Updates/New Information
- a. The Helmville Face aerial weed spraying has been completed for this year.
 - b. America's Great Outdoors update
 - i. The FS continues to work with agency partners to move forward with the ideas presented and generated in early October. They are currently working on the following five topics:
 1. Changes in NRCS and FS policies for assistance programs and contracts
 2. Consistent Ecological Site Description (ESD) mapping
 3. Expanding markets for biomass
 4. Multi-Agency Integrated Restoration Strategy (MAIRS)
 5. Increased coordination in agency alignment of opportunities for connectivity.
 - c. 2011 Annual Report
 - i. Sandy, with help from Cory, Megan, and Keith, has prepared a draft of our FY 2011 Annual Report, which is due to the Washington Office on November 15th. The Regional Office is currently reviewing it.
 1. ACTION ITEM: Sandy will distribute a copy of the draft to SWCC voting members to collect their comments as well.

- ii. There has been some challenge in translating our landscape strategy goals to metrics reported in FS accomplishment databases.
 - 1. ACTION ITEM: Sandy will track SWCC projects and accomplishments better in 2012 and assure they are accurately reflected in FS databases.
 - iii. Debbie and Sandy clarified for the group that work done via a contract is reported as “accomplished” when the contract is awarded. However, work done via force account or an agreement is reported as “accomplished” when work is completed on the ground.
 - d. Glacier Loon
 - i. Rich and the Glacier Loon ID Team led a well-attended tour of the Glacier Loon project on Monday, October 31st.
 - ii. TWS visited the project area again on Thursday, November 3rd and submitted a comment letter on the scoping notice to Rich. This is not unprecedented for TWS.
 - iii. There continues to be confusion regarding the relationship of the SWCC’s landscape strategy and prioritization to the forest plans.
 - 1. The Forest Plan is the guiding document for the affected Forest. It is permissive, not prescriptive. It provides parameters within which to work. Every action on the Forest must be done within the parameters set by the Forest Plan.
 - 2. The SWCC prioritization process helps us figure out where on the Forest we want to engage in active restoration. Once those locations are identified, the agency uses the Forest Plan to guide what type of activity they perform in those areas. The prioritization process helps the agency determine where they want to implement the Forest Plan.
 - e. Roads
 - i. The group requested a short presentation to the SWCC on roads, the various definitions of roads, and the effects of different kinds of roads and decommissioning in order to enhance our understanding of roads issues and to ensure that all members are equally informed.
 - 1. ACTION ITEM: Debbie will set up a short presentation to the SWCC on roads, definitions, and effects of different kinds of roads and decommissioning.

III. Committee Structure/Charter Revisions

- a. The group agreed that we want to ensure our governing documents continually improve and are informed by public input. Therefore, we want to revisit how we’re structured, how our charter is structured, and entertain ideas/suggestions for potential revisions to charter.
 - i. Several clarifying edits were suggested, such as clarifying what is and is not considered an official SWCC document and clarifying that the SWCC

has no decision-making authority regarding the management of public lands.

- ii. ACTION ITEM: Megan will collect all the suggested edits and share them with the SWCC voting members.
- iii. The group agreed that we should review our governance once a year, potentially at the October meeting to coincide with the beginning of the new fiscal year.

IV. Discussion of stewardship authority and liabilities associated with stewardship contracts versus stewardship agreements

- a. The group raised the following question: What is the difference between stewardship agreements and partnership agreements with respect to liability?
 - i. The answer to this question is unclear.
 - ii. ACTION ITEM: Sandy will try to find an answer to this question by the December meeting.