

**Draft Meeting Minutes Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative**  
**November 21, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Board Meeting Boundary County Annex Building**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Bob Blanford, Business & Industry  
Chuck Roady, Landowner/Industry  
Dan Dinning, Boundary County, KVRI Co-Chair  
Gary Aitken, Jr., KVRI Co-Chair  
Ed Atkins, Corp. Ag/Landowner  
Eric Olson, Soil/Conservation

**Agency/Others in Attendance:**

Austin Terrell, Office of Species Conservation  
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League  
Caleb Davis, U. S. Representative Fulcher  
Carson Watkins, Idaho Fish & Game  
Christy Johnson-Hughes, U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Darren Parker, Office of Senator Risch  
Dave Gray, Social/Cultural/Historical  
Dave Wattenbarger, Private Citizen  
Emily Barnes, Private Citizen  
Hilary Whitcomb, USFWS  
Jake Garringer, Governor Little's Office  
Karen Roetter, Office of Senator Crapo  
Karen Schumacher, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
arlee Ostheimer, National Forest Foundation  
Mary Dinning, Private Citizen  
Matt Roetter, City of Hayden  
Mitch Silvers, Office of Senator Crapo  
Scott Soult, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Shelby Therrian, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Theresa Wheat, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, KVRI Facilitator  
Tim Bertling, Boundary County  
Wally Cossairt, Boundary County  
William Barquin, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

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Gary Aitken Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and explained that this would be the last KVRI meeting for Dan Dinning and Karen Roetter and that following introductions, he welcomed any comments that attendees would like to direct to Dan and Karen and explained that cake would follow from there. Gary called for introductions in the room and Theresa Wheat facilitated Zoom attendees in their introductions.

Gary proceeded to open the floor to anyone who wanted to say a few words in honor of Dan or Karen. He then explained that he would follow with a few words and welcomed anyone online to say a few words if they would like to as well.

Karen Roetter stated that they have something special for Dan, but not really a surprise to him tonight since it was presented earlier in the day at a gathering with the County in his honor. She stated that it is a Congressional Record Statement and explained that Caleb Davis would read the first half and she would read the second half of the statement. Senator Crapo had taken this to the floor of the Senate and it will forever be recorded in the history of the United States. They then proceeded to read the Congressional Record Statement to the KVRI attendees, which highlighted Dan's more than twenty years of service and that he has been the longest serving commissioner in Idaho. He has also served on multiple committees and subcommittees throughout his tenure. His work to establish KVRI positively changed the tone of collaboration within natural resources. The statement concluded with thanking Dan for all of his contributions. The Congressional Record Statement was signed by Senators Crapo, Risch and Congressman Fulcher. Karen ended by stating that it has been a privilege to work with Dan Dinning.

Dan thanked everyone and stated that without all of you, it would not be possible, he asked that the representatives express to the Senators and Congressman his appreciation for their support and guidance during his tenure.

Brad Smith thanked Dan and stated that he learned collaboration from Dan through working with him over the years and it had really inspired him in his work.

Gary asked if anyone online would to say a few words. Darren Parker asked Dan if he would write a book on how to be an elected official in the state of Idaho, and also mentioned that he had been collecting sayings or he referred to them as 'Danisms' over the years of working with him. He stated that he would look forward to working with Dan in the future on the Idaho Roadless Rule Commission.

Tim Bertling said that he was hoping to have a couple more years with Dan to learn from him, its been a great experience to work and learn from Dan, how to work with people and commitment to serve the community.

Gary Aitken Jr. explained his background with Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) and that growing up, he heard of many issues from his Dad, Gary Aitken Sr. , since he was Chairperson of Tribal Council for Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Gary Aitken Sr. encouraged working and getting things done together rather than the struggle and fighting that were so prevalent at the time. Gary Aitken Jr. was on the Tribal

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Council growing up, then moved to working with the Burbot crew at Hatchery 2 where he learned from that experience. He then went back to Tribal Council, learned all about KVRI and is very proud of all of our accomplishments. As Co-Chair of KVRI in 2013, he stated that he still has so much to learn and thanked Karen Roetter and Dan Dinning for their dedication and accomplishments.

Cake was then served and enjoyed by in-person attendees.

**Farm Bill 2023 Presentation – Darren Parker.** Darren walked through his slides and presented the following related to this bill:

Call to Action: Asking for feedback on: CFLRP, Good Neighbor Authority, Stewardship contracting authority, healthy forest restoration Act, environmental quality incentives program.

General Feedback:

- CFLRP – it works. We need more of it.
- GNA – we have to fix the problem of retained receipts for tribes and county
  - Tribes and counties uniquely positioned to use GNA
- Technical assistance and capacity funding
- Written feedback will be submitted by Dec. 1

Billy Barquin apologized that he could not be there in person, and thanked Karen for being so wonderful to work with. Billy stated that he wanted to raise CFLRP. It works, expand and fund it, create more opportunities to continue that work since KVRI CFLRP has been successful in treating many acres in Idaho Panhandle National Forest and Bonners Ferry Ranger District.

Billy also explained that, Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), and in the states of Idaho and Montana it has worked successfully really well. However, the tribes and counties are uniquely set up to use GNA, but would need to retain receipts to help pay for that. Also, add technical assistance and capacity building, so we can move quickly and get people out on the ground. If there is a way to provide a mechanism to build that capacity and it can be built for KVRI.

Darren thanked Billy for his comments and stated that Marlee from National Forest Foundation is taking notes of this presentation, and there is a survey form that National Forest Collaboration will be collecting and tallying comments.

Dan asked Darren for clarification on individual versus KVRI comments as a whole. Darren stated that they were after collective KVRI comments. It was decided that Co-Chairs will send comments to Theresa Wheat to submit and would let Darren know if KVRI had difficulty with the quick turnaround given the holiday week.

Christy Johnson-Hughes stated that she has many years as a general federal employee, and has dealt with capacity issues in various ways, like inter-agency agreements with tribes and agencies, to help fulfill

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capacity needs. She also did that in West Virginia with mining issues, so she would be happy to provide any assistance needed as described by Billy with GNA.

**Sub-Committee Updates:**

*Forestry- Nothing to report*

**Congressional Updates:**

*Karen Roetter of Senator Crapo's office: Nothing to report*

*Darren Parker of Senator Risch's office: Last week Senators Risch and Crapo and Congressmen Fulcher and Simpson sent a letter to Fish and Wildlife Service talking about the grizzly bear issues in Idaho and highlighting the fact that the state had sent a petition to de-list the grizzly bear and a letter was recently sent from the Idaho delegation asking why there has been no response, since we are now well past the deadline of 90 days. The letter also asked if they could commit to making a decision. A question was asked if Darren was aware of any follow-up by Montana and Wyoming, Darren responded that he was not aware of that.*

*Caleb Davis of Representative Fulcher's office thanked Darren for the update and would have been asking about the information he shared, since it is our last KVRI meeting for the year. The entire delegation has been working behind the scenes and is anxious to have this completed.*

**Agency Updates:**

*U.S. Forest Service – Nothing to report*

*Christy Johnson-Hughes, U.S. Fish & Wildlife discussed upcoming subcommittee meetings that would include topics such as strategies, actions and the work ahead. She also invited anyone interested to attend. Dan asked about the funding and was there any update. Christy explained the budget and steps taken and that Fish & Wildlife want to continue supporting the program. They do not get grizzly bear specific funding, so any money that is provided is out of their base funding budget, which is one reason why they need to wait for their budget approval before they can work on those funds. Section 6 funding was asked about, Christy explained that it goes to the state but is not specific to grizzly bear, which is a separate source of funding.*

*Dan thanked Mitch Silvers for all his work behind the scenes and collaboration with KVRI. He congratulated Mitch on his retirement and Gary Aitken, Jr. did the same.*

Next meeting will be January 23, 2023.

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Before the close of the meeting, Gary asked if there were any corrections or comments for October 17, 2022 Draft minutes. Karen Schumacher stated that there had been a couple of edits that had been made and the edited minutes passed by consensus.

There were no further questions and the meeting was called at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Theresa Wheat.