



**4FRI Stakeholder Group Meeting
Minutes**

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 9:00 – Noon
Zoom Meeting

MEETING WAS RECORDED

ZOOM meeting protocols:

- PLEASE ANNOUNCE YOURSELF IN CHAT BOX OR ON THE PHONE
- Co-chairs will manage participant engagement
- No video please
- Keep speaker on MUTE
- Use chat box to communicate your questions or comments to the group.
- Please refrain from private messaging as it becomes part of the official transcript.

In Attendance: Amy Waltz, Adam Livermore, Ali San Gil, Alicyn Gitlin, Allen Reidhead, Anne Mottek, Brad Gent, Bob Seilder, Brad Worsley, Brett Crary, Cerissa Hoglander, Christine Mares, Devon Suarez, Diane Taliaferro, Eli Jensen, Elvy Barton, George Stedeford, Greg Smith, Jason Whiting, Jay smith, John Richardson, John Souther, Justin Schofer, Kara Kirkpatrick-Kreitinger, Mark Nigrelli, Matt McGrath, Melanie Colavito, Michele Ralston, Michelle Paduani, Mike Hannemann, Neil Chapman, Pascal Berlioux, Patrice Horstman, Paul Chapman, Randy Fuller, Rob Nelson, Russell Benford, Tabi Bolton, Tami Conner, Todd Schulke, Tracy Bazleman, Travis Woolley

Approve Minutes from the November 17, 2021 Stakeholder Group Meeting: Neil Chapman stated that he had one edit regarding steep slope, changing it to complete. Minutes were approved with the correction stated by Neil.

Review action items from the October 27, 2021 Stakeholder Group meeting:

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Innovations in Fire Management briefing for SHG, Select date and content	Tami Conner, Neil Chapman, Steering Committee	Ongoing
2. USFS indicated they would review NEPA to determine if mechanical thinning is allowed on steep slopes – report at Nov. SHG meeting	Tami Conner	Complete

Neil Chapman indicated that item 2 is complete. Tami Conner stated that she provided the status of this in the November meeting update.

Neil Chapman stated that they are working on Item 1 trying to get it together for the February meeting to focus on fire management.

Call to the Public: There was no public comments.

2022 Meeting Admin Plans: Neil indicated that he spoke with Pascal regarding E side meeting plans and that the meetings are still to be determined. He stated that the meeting is by Zoom for January and that February is still to be determined. Pascal stated that there are no changes in the meeting plans due to COVID, that they made the decision to do Zoom for now and they will reassess in March. Neil stated that it will be Zoom for February and then they will revisit it for March. Neil advised that Navajo County would continue to do minutes for now and that they will continue to review options. Pascal stated that Navajo County has been set up on Base Camp and that there is a solution in place for time being.

USFS updates: Tami Conner provided a Forest Service update. A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

- She reviewed highlights from Secretary Vilsack and Chief Moore's visit in January. She stated that they highlighted the 10-year strategy including the Shared Stewardship MOA with the State of Arizona; the 4FRI restoration strategy and other efforts with a range of partners. She indicated that some of the key projects were *the Museum Fire Sediment Reduction Project, that a GNA Agreement was recently signed for 3.5 million going toward the Museum Fire Work and that it should start in summer of 2022; *the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project in the to implement thinning in FY22, and *the MOU's for the Coconino and Tonto.
- She talked about the funding for the 4FRI Restoration Strategy indicating that 54 million was approved by the Chief for the next 5 years, beginning this year, and then the forests will review their project and identify a specific list of work for FY22 to apply the funds. She advised that in December the Regional Forester approved the funding for FY22 and that ten million will be for road and bridge work and that the highest priorities for roads and bridges have been identified for this year. She stated that the Region has set up an IDIQ Contract to be finalized by end of March for all the forests across Arizona and New Mexico to use the funds to get the work done in 4FRI.
- She addressed the list of 4FRI High Priority Partner Projects indicating that some agreements still need to be drafted and signed so there are some changes that can still occur. She stated that in Coconino they have four planned projects: FWPP; REPI, Innovations and Cragin; the Kaibab has the Bill Williams project; the Tonto will have four projects: P. pine Treatment, Woodland, Woodland Flying V&H/Dead Man Mesa and Pine Canyon. She addressed the totals for all projects in the three forests. She stated that each Forest in preparing briefing paperwork for the high priority partnerships projects. She indicated that if any partners would like to review the briefing papers for accuracy related to partner representation, she can share them and gather input. She stated that they plan to put them on the website and share internally to help answer questions.
- She talked about the acres planned for FY22 for 4FRI and provided an overview for the rest of the work that the forest is doing outside of the high priority partner projects.
- She addressed reformatting of the monthly report, indicating that they are reviewing the content and format, what information may be better on a quarterly basis or monthly basis, additional information that they would like to add and to provide more clarify/ information on work that has been accomplished.
- She addressed the status of the Rim Country FEIS and advised that the release has been delayed, that the Forest Service is reviewing and will be sending comments this week and that the next step is to receive BO from Fish and Wildlife Service but that the next steps depend on when the

BO is received. She stated that they hope to put the Draft FEIS and ROD out for objection by the end of February and that if they are on schedule the release of the final FEIS decision would be late June.

- She provided an overview of the next steps, indicating that the big focus for the forest is implementing FY22 program of work; updating the monthly report format and the 5-year plan that goes with it; starting the rapid assessment and optimization work in the Coconino and Kaibab – that they will be working with the Stakeholder Group for that; they will continue to look for solutions to enabling conditions of the Biomass disposal and Rim County next steps.

Neil reviewed questions in the chat. He indicated that he would reach out to Allison to address her questions after the meeting. Tami addressed Michele Ralston's question on capacity issues stating that they are working on an analysis for staff and additional salary needs.

Melanie thanked Tami for update and inquired how the IDIQ contract will work and if it is just for roads and bridges.

Tami indicated that they could have some follow up from Regional Roads Director but stated that the IDIQ contract gives them a mechanism to spend funds helps to put contracts out and get done in a more efficient manner. She stated that it is just for roads and bridges. She stated that they can do some more follow-up in there are some more specific questions.

A discussion was held regarding the IDIQ process.

Jay Smith thanked Tami for her report and inquired about high priority partners, what the process will look like and if they will see more details on funding? He inquired as to the timing.

Tami stated that there is not much more for details on funding but that they have an overview of work proposed and where it is at. She indicated that there is not a specific deadline but that she thinks within a month they can get them on website, and they can give updates over time. She stated that if partners would like to review and see how they contributed she can send specific documents for the specific partners to provide feedback.

Pascal inquired if the PowerPoint will be available and posted to Basecamp. Tami indicated that she could put it on Basecamp or attach it to the minutes.

Alicyn stated that they have heard that staffing seems to be an issue and that they hope staff can be increased when these projects are ready to go.

Tami indicated that the Forest Service is reviewing staffing needs and proposing to get additional help where there are gaps.

Neil indicated that he would like to talk more, outside of the meeting, on the fire reporting with Tami and have a better understanding of how prescribed fires align with treatments.

Optimization Work Group Next Steps: Neil thanked Pascal for sending out the email to the original list and indicated that if anyone is interested in participating in the Optimization Work Group and didn't receive an email to contact Pascal since he is organizing a meeting. He indicated that they have talked to the West side on plans for the meeting. He stated that Pascal set out terms in the email for the meeting.

John Richardson indicated that he would like to be part of group, that Christine Mares would be their contact and he will have her reach out to Pascal.

Neil stated that at the meeting they will go through the Working Group process within the Charter and that the framework is in place. He indicated that the discussion he's had with the West side is that the focus will be on transparency and make sure discussions are open. He stated that received feedback is that Working Group Chairs and Co-Chairs represent organizations that are neutral third parties, not Cities, Counties, or Watershed based groups that have a potential financial interest in the outcome of work. Neil stated he has received Stakeholders express interest in a third-party to facilitate the process.

He indicated that they have also had comments on the Forest Service providing a representative that can speak for the organization but be able to bring additional staff resources to help facilitate the analysis. He stated that when the meeting is held to make sure those topics are a part of the meeting. He indicated that he would like to get some feedback from Amy but that they need to focus on Charter based items at the Working Group meeting and keep the discussions based around the optimization process.

Amy indicated that they want to open this up for discussion and hear thoughts on this process. She indicated that she would like to see a doodle to make sure they get everyone there and not have the dates put out. She talked about the Stakeholder and Forest Services roll in the process.

A discussion was held on having a doodle and the process.

Neil indicated that they need to do a doodle and requested that Pascal give more options on dates and to create a doodle.

Pascal indicated that he would create a doodle and set a meeting in three to four weeks.

Travis addressed having more transparency and having a thought process for what this looks like. He indicated that they have had 3 months to look at this and that he agrees with doodle. He indicated that they need to determine the scope of the work that will drive what process and chair(s) should look like, that they need to move forward with a doodle and get everyone involved.

Jay Smith indicated that they are still trying to figure out what scope will be and the roll of the Forest Service.

A discussion was held on the Stakeholder and Forest Services involvement in the group and involvement from individuals in the Payson area.

Amy indicated that they appreciate hearing everyone's option and that they like the idea of getting together and setting objectives. She indicated that it is a Stakeholder driven group, that they will send out the doodle and include the Forest Service. She indicated that she would be happy to be one of the Co-Chairs, that it is a discussion for the first meeting and that she looks forward to the first meeting and having further discussions.

Neil indicated that Travis stated he would be happy to co-chair as well.

Elvy inquired that if it's a Stakeholder led group, is the work group allowing interested Stakeholders/Member of Public to participate?

Pascal indicated that anyone who is a member of 4FRI can share in the Work Group and that anyone can volunteer to Co-Chair. He talked about who the doodle should be sent to, if it's the entire group or just those who have expressed interest in the group?

A discussion was held, and they indicated that anyone interested can send an email to Pascal, Travis and Amy so they can be included in the Group.

Industry Updates:

Brad Gent, with Lignetics, introduced himself to the group and indicated that he will be based in Show Low.

Tabi Bolton indicated that the market outlook appears to be strong for 2022, that they have completed over 4270 acres in over 2 years, that they have employed two separate logging contracts and two chipping contracts. He advised that the Clover Spa in the footprint of Bill Williams Mountain is almost complete. He indicated that they are struggling with winter conditions right now in that area.

Brad Worsley indicated that they have had a significant turn over in staff. He stated that they invested over a million dollars in capital last year and that they have another half million that needs to be addressed. He indicated that with their remaining time being unknown it is hard to spend money. He indicated that there are at 10 days of inventory compared to 50 days last year, that some of it is contributed to working well and some is due to a reduction in inventory.

George Stedeford, with New Life Forest, introduced self. He indicated that the last part of 2021 has been good for them, that they have contractors on the west side and that they did over 1000 acres in November and December. He stated that he is excited to be a part of this.

Allen Reidhead, with Tri-Star/Novo Star, indicated that they have had a decent year, that they are recovering from stuff in the past years but that it has been a profitable year. He talked about the different projects they are working on and indicated that they are trying to move as much as possible. He stated that they are in the process of finalizing the consolidation and that it should be done in the next six months and that people will start seeing the new name. He advised that they are in the process of starting work on CC Cragin and they expect to start in the Spring. He stated that they hope Novo Powers PPA gets renewed to help facilitate the project material removal. He indicated that they are getting logs from a couple different contractors and that they have a good relationship with New Life. He further indicated that as to the Optimization Work Group, from an industry standpoint, it's important to get as many involved but they can't wait too long to get input from the Forest Service to focus on areas that need to be addressed.

Working Group Updates:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement WG – Amy Waltz/Rob Nelson:
Amy stated that they got their update from Tami and that they are on standby.
- Industry/Biomass WG - Brad Worsley/Adam Cooley: No update.
- Communication WG - Tayloe Dubay: No update.
- Multi-Party Monitoring Board WG – Bryce Esch/Cerissa Hoglander:
Cerissa indicated that projects are ongoing and that they are expecting results in next week on the ground plot data. She indicated that the pilot projects are in the works and that they could have a small part implemented in the Spring. She addressed the projects that NAU is working on.
John Southerland advised that they have an analysis from the Center for Adaptable Western Land Landscape and that they plan on once connecting with them to review the results will be doing a presentation to walk the Stakeholder Group through those.
- Stakeholder Engagement WG - Melanie Colavito, Pascal Berlioux:
Melanie indicated that she addressed this with the Steering Committee and that in March 2021 Steve Rosenstock and her gave presentation to summarize the work being done to determine how other big collaboratives were continuing to engage in the process following the completion of planning and going into implementation. She stated that following that they had recommended that an assessment be done on 4FRI to understand things moving forward, lessons learned, priorities, stakeholder capacity, and what is the Forest Service decision space and how it may affect future processes. She indicated that she proposed to do a short in person live survey assessment with Stakeholders at a meeting. She advised that she wanted to circle back and just share the idea with group today.
Neil indicated that he would get in contact and determine plans on finalizing this.
- Comprehensive Implementation WG – Hannah Griscom:
Cerissa talked about the group meetings and indicated that they will bring it back to the larger group once the subgroups have developed the proposals. She stated that the Comprehensive Implementation work group will meet again on March 8.

Stakeholder Disclosures: Amy Waltz talked about the 2020 cross boundary workshop and indicated that the same organization is working on scheduling one from this March, that they have postponed it due to COVID. She indicated that this could possibly come together next fall.

Review Action Items:

Action Item	Lead	Status
1. Send Doodle Poll for Optimization Workgroup with additional dates	Pascal, Amy, Tami, Travis	Ongoing
2. Follow up with Allison with FWPP	Neil	Ongoing
3. Get in touch with Tami regarding Chat Questions.	Neil	Ongoing
4. Follow Up with Melanie on doing a live survey.	Neil	Ongoing

Adjourn: 10:36 a.m. meeting adjourned.

2022 Stakeholder Group Meeting Schedule – these dates are posted on the 4FRI website.

- Zoom - 1/26/2022, 2/23/2022, 3/23/2022, 4/27/2022, 5/25/2022, 6/22/2022, 7/27/2022, 8/24/2022, 9/28/2022, 10/26/2022, 11/16/2022
- Coconino NF Supervisor’s office – none until further notice

2022		
	Hot Chair	Cold Chair
February	N Chapman	J Whiting
March	N Chapman	J Whiting
April	J Whiting	B Worsley
May	J Whiting	B Worsley
June	J Whiting	B Worsley
July	B Worsley	G Smith
August	B Worsley	G Smith
September	B Worsley	G Smith
October	G Smith	
November	G Smith	
December	NO SHG MTG	NO SHG MTG