

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**PRINCE OF WALES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**LOCATION: Prince of Wales Vocational & Technical Education Center, Klawock**

**Chairman Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Those present were: Coffman Cove, Craig, Craig Tribal Association, Kasaan, Organized Village of Kasaan, Klawock, Klawock Cooperative Association, Naukati Bay, Thorne Bay, Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Wayne Benner, Millie Schoonoer, Jon Bolling, Tyler Gunn, Cheryl Fecko, Jim Gould, Harvey McDonald, Leslie Isaacs, Matt Anderson, Brandy Prefontaine, Misty Fitzpatrick, McKinley, Lynette Logan, Delilah Brigham, Lawrence Armour, Lucy Maldonado, Dennis Nickerson, Sharon Brosamle, Sharilyn Zellhuber, Quinn Aboudara, Sarah Campen, Jim McFarland, Kasey Smith, Karen Cleary, Erich Greener, Stan McCoy, David Albert, Michael Kampnich, Norman Cohen, Erin Steinkruger, Peter Chaille, Bryce Dahlstrom, Robert Gurt, Andy Hughes, Shelly Wright, Patrick Tyler & Chris Maisch

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Fitzpatrick gave a brief about why this meeting was scheduled, she stated that each member was encouraged to send a representative to attend to hopefully decide to form some sort of local collaborative group and take on some portion of the effort of the proposed landscape assessment, she then opened the floor up for the membership to ask any questions or make comments.

Bolling asked Matt Anderson to describe what a landscape assessment is and why he thinks there is an advantage to working one here on Prince of Wales. Anderson responded and explained that what it is, is looking at a large geographical area, in this case Prince of Wales Island, look at everything they want to do, it's been kind of narrowed down to three themes, economic stability, recreation tourism, watershed and forest health. Everything they want to do under those program themes for 10 or 15 years.

Instead of the Forest Service coming to the public saying what they think people want, they are asking for a group to be formed so that the public will be a part of deciding. Anderson stated that the Forest Service doesn't have anything in the works as far as a specific outcome for this group and that if the group had the right balance of interests and the recommendations, staying within the forest plan regulation policy then he thinks the agency would take those recommendations seriously. The way he sees this working is first the group would form and come up with objectives, recommendations, or a full flushed alternative that would feed into the EIS alternative then they would analyze it. Anderson stated that he does know that from many discussions there has been emphasis

on local engagements, so he thinks there is a lot of support for the communities to have a strong say in the process. With that being said when it comes time to sign the EIS, they do have to do what is in policy regulations.

There was some further discussion of whether a collaborative group like this has been done before, some comments made about how this is going to help the Forest Service and the need for POWCAC to be supportive and helpful to get this process up and going.

Lucy Maldonado elaborated on a question that was asked about what the role of the group would be. She stated that behind the scenes when the Forest Service develops a proposal they look at what the existing conditions are and what they call the desired future condition and if there is a disparity then there is an opportunity to look for alternatives, different ways to get from what is existing to where you want to get. The Forest Service looks at some opportunities to get to this desired future condition and the public pays the Forest Service to use their skills and training to get to that and evaluate what they think is the best way and so they come up with a proposal that they think would be the best way to get to that future condition, at that point they go out to the public with a proposed action and say what do you think, did we miss something, are there issues, do we need to develop alternatives? That is the behind the scenes that has been going on, and what they are hearing now and what they intend to do in this process, what they are out there trying to get data on is areas where they anticipate they are going to have some activities, she said they are going to have some young growth hardwoods, some old growth hardwoods, some roads, some wildlife habitat, etc., so they're out in anticipation of where the collaborative group, where the public, where their own people think that they may need to do some actions, they're out trying to get what is the existing condition right now so that they can display it and instead of waiting and coming up with a proposed action deciding what the desired future is, that would be the role of a collaborative group and anybody who wants to participate would be weighing in on it. She said they are asking this group, whoever would like to participate to help them come up with what those desired future conditions are and look at what are some opportunities to go from existing conditions to that. So first its defining what are the desired future conditions and then start looking at some opportunities to get there and hopefully by this fall they will be able to come up with a proposed action that identifies roles, objectives, and general proposed action that they could go out with a notice of intent and the thread will register to publish an EIS for that. That is the difference that they've done in the background and the public, the TAC across the nation people are saying they want to be involved earlier to make sure the Forest Service got the right desired condition, and the right alternatives developed to get from A to B.

Isaacs asked Anderson that if the Forest Service is looking at a 15 year plan, when they would want the final draft of the plan and how often would the group meet, how much time involvement is the group looking at? Anderson stated that the group can meet as often or as infrequent as the group wants. If they come up with a notice of intent by the fall then he thinks they have about a year from then to develop a full rank of alternatives and get a draft final of that statement out for the EIS. He stated that two to three years from this fall is probably the fastest they could do it. It would also depend on the level of

detail the group wants to put into it that would determine how long it would take and how often the group would meet. The group can be as formal or as informal as they want it to be. There was a comment made that we should keep it as formal as possible.

Bolling asked Anderson if he has direction to complete a landscape assessment on Prince of Wales. Anderson stated that the Forest Supervisor wants it done, and a number of other groups see the benefit in it, he feels that there is a lot of support to get this process going.

Bolling asked Anderson what would happen to other projects in the meantime, do projects get put on hold, how do the ongoing projects figure into this landscape assessment plan? Anderson stated that if a project has already cleared and they have money in hand then they will proceed with it. An EIS takes 2-3 years regardless of what it is so they haven't initiated any other EIS's or any other projects because they are trying to roll into this effort.

Chris Maisch from the Division of Forestry explained what the State is going to try and do with their timber program in Southeast Alaska to help while the Forest Service is resetting and heading in this newer direction. He stated that they have about 117 million feet that they plan to bring forward through the State Forest program over the next 16-18 months roughly, depending on how things play out for them, that's in 7 different projects all throughout Southeast but most of those are in Southern Southeast, a couple of these projects are on Prince of Wales and he thinks they will have some volume available that should help with the short fall that we are going to see in the Forest Service program here over the next year or two. It's about the maximum amount that the State can do under their sustained program. He also talked about the Tongass Advisory Committee and the recommendations they made for the plan amendment and this process that the Forest Service is kicking off here is really the implementation part of the process, how things are actually going to happen on the ground, kind of a different approach in the planning process, the TAC was really concerned about that piece of it because about a third of what they recommended was able to go in the plan amendment, about two thirds of what they were recommending had to be done via implementation, actually how things were going to be carried out in the process and there is a lot of interest in making sure they do everything on the State side to make sure they support the Forest Service.

The focus is really trying to have the communities and the residents in the area benefit as much as possible from this transition as it unfolds. He stated that it isn't the Forest Service convening this process that Anderson is talking about because if they do that then they get stuck with a formal advisory committee process potentially, it has got to be the community and the collaborative people that come together to talk about what they want, what they need, what they'd like the agencies to do and that is real different so the Forest Service is not the convener.

There was a question asked about the Transitional Collaborative group and if they could potentially be the group for POW and if that group is doing what this collaborative group is being asked to do. Maisch stated that the Transitional Collaborative group hasn't really

stood up yet, it has a draft charter and they are looking for some funding to help stand it up, one of the big things collaborative groups actually need based on their experience is someone that is paid to actually keep it organized and do the behind the scenes work to keep it all together. They don't have any paid people that are in the Transitional Collaborative group, everyone is volunteering their time but they are trying to find some funding. They are working Southeast region wide but this is really the first process to potentially get kicked off that would do this different approach for how the Forest Service is going to plan projects. If they were asked they would be very willing to help volunteer and to help hopefully find some money that would help support someone that could be of assistance if the group wanted something like that. He stated that they don't want to come in and tell the group how to do this process but help the group out along the way if asked and as the communities gain more experience, mature and understand how to use these tools and this process, it is something that could be ran right here.

Erin Steinkruger who was a part of the TAC group stated that she is here to help and will answer any questions that she can or call someone if needed, who she thinks can help answer if she cannot, and she will do whatever she can to support this group but she also has a full time job so will have to find the balance with it.

Mayor Gould stated that he thinks for this committee to be successful that it needs to be an independent group verses a sub-committee of POWCAC because an independent group would not be forced to report back to POWCAC and POWCAC would not need to reach an agreement with that group.

Isaacs stated that he thinks this group would need to have some sort of frame work, when you look at everything this entails, he sees it as being bigger than anything even POWCAC has attacked. He believes that it needs to have some structure such as Roberts Rules to get through the content in a timely matter. He said he agrees with Mayor Gould that it needs to be an independent group but at the same time it needs to be and entity of the committee with some structure in order for us to get through it. Isaacs thinks it should be a sub-committee of POWCAC.

There were some public comments made about how to get the communities involved and working with the Forest Service on doing research, there were some concerns about how we are going to find the right people to take this on seeing as it is a huge job and very time consuming and doesn't believe POWCAC should be the group to take this on. There was a question asked to Maisch about his mention of a draft charter and if it is a Governments document and if so, would the structure of that help at all in what is being asked to be formulated here. Maisch replied yes, he thinks that the same thing that they're doing with the TTC, draft charter, some basic Governments, how we make decisions, agendas, and a lot of things that have been discussed, they are generic enough, they could be a template that could be used and they can provide those documents in word and fine tune them for what the group might want to do with them or adopt them outright since they are fairly generic and have been written for that reason, they had hoped that other groups who've formed throughout Southeast would do something like this and they could help them shortcut the whole organization process and could get the business

faster instead of spending a couple months trying to figure out how to get the business. Anderson replied to a question stating that right now the Forest Service is litigated, appealed or objected for every recreation, every timber sale, young growth, old growth, every restoration project, what they are trying to get is a social license to actually do real work instead of spending all of Lucy's planning shop time responding to gestures, they're going to come regardless but the collaborative efforts in the past, when it comes to the decision point, if there is that united voice, it goes a long way, either with the Forest Service agencies or with the courts.

There were some other comments from the public. Fitzpatrick steered the conversation to answering the question of whether or not the POWAC membership would like to get engaged or no. Logan stated that she thinks the sub-committee is really something the membership should really think about and should go back to our communities and bring it back at the next meeting to decide, she sees it as just too overwhelming to decide right now.

Schoonover stated that she did take this back to the Craig Tribal Association and they feel it's a great idea to involve the whole island but it is a huge undertaking. She feels that the POWCAC membership is all spread out really thin and it is really concerning because this is important for the entire island.

Bolling stated that there is a lot of the structure he still doesn't understand in terms of what the collaborative is that has been talked about, at least two collaborative groups he's heard about having to do with Tongass management and he doesn't really feel he has a good handle on how those two collaborative groups tie in to a landscape assessment that might be done for POW so that does give him a bit of a pause but on the other hand he hasn't heard anybody say this is not a good idea or we shouldn't do it at all. He agrees with everyone about the concern of the volume of work but if a group does form, it can only do what it can do, and since Anderson's supervisor did tell him to get a landscape assessment done that it is better for us as island residents to be part of that process going in as opposed to coming in later on and he does agree that if it is done it should be done as a POWCAC type group but he doesn't think it should be part of POWCAC and agrees with Jim Gould on that point. He suggested that the membership should agree to direct Fitzpatrick to send a note to the POWCAC membership saying this ad hoc group is going to meet and such and such date and time and have the first meeting. In the meantime we can help gather charter data from Chris or Erin or whomever that might be able to help set up a structure on how the group can proceed from its first meeting on. He would rather be involved early on and feels it is critical that the group is made up of island residents with all different kinds of backgrounds to give the Forest Service the direction that they are asking for. He encourages POWCAC to participate in this process to get information to the Forest Service so they can develop a landscape assessment that at least has a chance to have an alternative that's to our liking.

Armour stated that he has thought about how awesome this could be if we could figure out how to form it and that was one of his concerns bringing it to POWCAC, if we did a

sub-committee of the efficiency POWCAC would be able to do, he worries that it won't be able to be done quickly enough if POWCAC were to take it on.

Zellhuber said that she was hoping that someone would jump up and take the lead at this meeting, because we need that leader and so even if we set another date it's going to be all of the same people again sitting at the same table and all probably going to be in the same position of wanting to be a part of it but not being able to take the lead. She stated that the City of Thorne Bay had applied for a grant for a facilitator and is wondering if a committee would be able to form if a facilitator was in place first. Benner stated that it should be around the first part of June that they will make a decision on the grant and the last grant that went through, the funds basically became available imminently.

There was some concern on the timeline not being realistic. Anderson clarified on the timeline that he needs between now and October to get this group stood up, and from then until October 2017 would be the bulk of the work.

There was a comment made that if there is not a paid coordinator that a project of this scope will not be doable and that there needs to be someone to drive this thing and keep track of all of the pieces and make sure that the correct entities are invited, she feels that there are many entities that need to be a part of this for it to have an acceptable outcome. Anderson stated that if the group forms, money will come and funding isn't the biggest hurdle here but rather getting the group formed and finding a facilitator.

Maisch said that the State can probably set some money aside through the challenge cost share agreement if POWCAC wants to have some seed money to get this thing started. He concurs with Anderson that if something does get started there is going to be a lot of interest in continuing to support what gets started, he also agrees that there will need to be someone paid to keep this thing organized and have the time to put into it and that he will get back to Misty on seeing if they can get some money set aside. Zellhuber asked Maisch if they would also be able to help with a job description for what we would be hiring for or if that is something that POWCAC is taking on. Maisch responded saying that he thinks the TTC can help with that as well, he said one way to think of it, is the TTC is kind of this umbrella group that is working in DC and other areas to push things down and get funding and support for these more local efforts, he stated that they are trying to be the catalyst to help get things like this started. He believes that they have heard enough of what POWCAC needs and will go back and touch base with the rest of the steering committee that they have on this TTC group and will get back with POWCAC on what they can do to support this.

Prefontaine recommended that everyone take a little bit of time and visit the staneycreek.org website that was used for Staney Creek collaborative formation because it could possibly be a model for this and help some put a perspective on what this will be like.

Bolling made a motion that the POWCAC membership, direct Fitzpatrick to advertise an organizational meeting for an island based group to begin work on providing an alternative to the Forest Service for a landscape assessment three weeks from today, May

10<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 1:00p.m., at the Vocational building. Isaacs seconded the motion. Bolling clarified that he isn't motioning that POWCAC meet but that it is advertised so that the public can know about it as an organizational meeting. There was further discussion on the date that was chosen for this organizational meeting, more was said about this group being a sub-committee of POWCAC. Logan suggested that POWCAC can possibly write a grant proposal to First Bank. Schoonoer suggested that this upcoming meeting be advertised in the island post and each community should post it at their local Post Office. It was also suggested to post on the Facebook page, POW Buy and Sale and Trade. Fitzpatrick called for the question in motion. The motion passed with no opposition. Isaacs moved to adjourn the meeting. Schoonoer seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

1:00 p.m. on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Vocational & Technical Education Center, Klawock

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.