

Friends of the Clearwater Board Meeting Minutes 05-13-2026

(5:30-6:45, Moscow Chamber of Commerce meeting room)

Participants

Board Members: Beth Hoots (Zoom), Annette Bridges, Chris Irlam, Harry Jageman, Nils Peterson, Lynne Nelson, Chris Norden, Rick Rupp; Observer: Rhia Kumar; Staff: Kyran Kunkel, Paul Busch, Jeff Juel (Zoom), Krystal Starkey

1. Previous (03-03-2026) board meeting minutes approved, with correction to include Beth Hoots as having been present via Zoom (Rick moved, Harry seconded).
2. Financial report: Nils shared documents and noted that we are behind in fundraising/grants but on track with payroll expenditures. Kyran stated that contract has been signed for outcomes-based 75K grant from Philanthropy Northwest; money to be received in stages as milestones met. Krystal noted that FOC received 5.5K during Idaho Gives, of which about 3K were non-board/staff contributions; Paul mentioned that Defender was well-timed, as it came out the week prior.
3. Big Wild: Kyran reported receiving positive feedback on Big Wild materials.
 - Salmon sanctuary: Linwood Laughy currently working on Phase 2, developing timelines and budgets (group includes Gary, Rick, Beth, as well as outside experts Steve Hawley, Nick Gerhardt, Bob Reese and Katherine Thompson). Group has defined project area, informally declared it a sanctuary, and will tie in with formal designations such as Wild and Scenic Rivers.
 - Wildlife corridors: Kyran and Lynne have spoken with outside experts like Louisa Wilcox and UI Law Professor Kristi Running and have sent a draft initiative description to Jeff and Gary for review. Kyran was asked about Lochsa Land Exchange and stated that Land and Water Conservation Fund has designated funds to purchase 80% of checkerboard lands from Western Timber; Nez Perce Tribe received no response to inquiry about purchasing remaining 20%.
 - Forest/climate: Al Poplowsky has agreed to be involved.
4. Paul shared a detailed communications plan for 2026 and noted that he and Krystal have met with marketing pros and feel they have a realistic plan; questions remains about how best to measure success/improve responses (based on open/click rates, testing of A/B alternatives, etc.). An online merchandise shop is in the works.
5. Jeff described current forest watch reality: scoping notices not being sent out, CE's being used as much as possible, changes being made to NEPA and objecting processes, USFS being rapidly privatized (example: plan for chainsaw use by private company in River of No Return Wilderness). It is now hard to track new developments (example: Wepah salvage sale in Palouse RD – paper letter to office was only notification); in this context, Jeff mentioned Adam Rissien's (Wild Earth Guardians) discussion about using AI to detect changes to projects. Bitterroot Front project and Amendment 40 (concerning road densities and specifically area needed to ensure grizzly security) have been approved. There have been few new project proposals.

Annette moved to adjourn, Nils seconded.