

TTC Advisory Team Meeting 2/6/2026 Summary

Meeting Participants: Tessa Axelson, Bob Christensen, Mike Cooney, Dan Kirkwood, Brian Kleinhenz, Anthony Mallot, Priscilla Morris, Julia Nave, Greg Palmieri, Andrew Thoms, Robert Venables, Jill Weitz, Ralph Wolfe. Staff: Connie Lewis

TTC Organizational Mission, Structure and Procedures

Feedback and suggestions on the draft mission statement:

- It was noted that in the draft mission statement there is no reference to the transition to young growth, which was the core reason the original Tongass Advisory Committee was created and was also the primary focus of the Tongass Transition Collaborative, which preceded The Tongass Collaborative. The response from another member was that the hope is that today's TTC will be forward looking and have a more expansive mission.
- Achieving long term sustainability should be explicit in the mission statement.
- The current draft statement lacks any reference to the cultural part of TTC's mission – it needs to be included, and without fear of any negative reactions to a strong statement. A take-away was to consult with the Tribal members of the Advisory Team about clear, strong wording.

Feedback and suggestions on TTCs's organizational structure and protocols:

- We need an executive group within the TTC that can get work done. The Advisory Team seems well positioned to fulfill this function.
- The Advisory Team needs to add a couple of additional "seats" to more fully represent the sectors/interests that should be engaged in our work, specifically a spot for lodge owners/guided fishing, and a spot for a small mill owner/operator. (It was noted that a mill owner was recently added to the overall member list, but to date has not been part of the Advisory Team).

On-going and Proposed TTC Activities and Updates

Draft Community Alternative (Bob Christensen) - Val Massie from Spruce Root was also in attendance to provide additional information and context. Bob is continuing to work on the draft community alternative, which includes a technical guide that details proposed standards and guides and a proposed management map. Updates are being made to the draft to reflect initial vetting by the Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP). Once edits are complete Bob will be soliciting on-line feedback and would like to present the draft in other venues. He welcomes suggestions about other places and gatherings where the draft can be reviewed and discussed. There will be a mass appeal to the SSP mailing list asking for help setting up community meetings and finding other opportunities to get feedback.

One of the purposes of the outreach is to find out what parts of the community alternative are supported and what are not. A second purpose is to prepare for the round of public engagement meetings that will be conducted by the Forest Service in April to solicit feedback on the draft Tongass Management Plan revision. Bob clarified that the proposed community alternative is limited to those aspects of the Plan that

are most relevant to Southeast AK, so, for example, his alternative does not deal with wild and scenic rivers or mining, which are important in other regions, but not so much in SE AK.

There was a concern expressed about the lack of attention within the draft community alternative to the Forest Service's multiple use mandate.

Workforce Training (Mike Cooney) – A working group is meeting monthly to discuss how the workforce training program will operate. Connie Lewis has been hired to help facilitate and document the group's meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th. The working group is coordinating with Sealaska's training initiative, which is primarily focused on restoration. Scott Leorna, who is leading the Sealaska effort, is part of Mike's working group.

Timber Sales in the Pipeline (USFS and State) – Priscilla Morris and Jeremy Douse listed sales in the pipeline [*need some help here as to what the list includes*] and Jeremy mentioned having receive a grant for wood utilization. In response to a question about the status of the Shared Stewardship Agreement it was clarified that the Agreement needs the governor's signature, anticipated within the next couple of weeks, before it will be finalized.

Future Timber Harvest Scenarios – The lack of volume was again referenced as a concern leading to potential mill closures, exacerbated by staffing issues within the Forest Service that is hampering the Agency's ability to put up sales.

There is a lot of interest in understanding and developing markets for young growth, and the transportation infrastructure that will be required to get young growth products to where they can be utilized. The Pacific Northwest offers some potential lessons and market opportunities.

A workshop is under consideration to examine volume assessments for both young and old growth for the next few hundred years, and what could be harvested under different management scenarios along with implications, opportunities, constraints, and infrastructure requirements of those scenarios. Connie will follow up to see who might be interested in such workshop, possible dates and agenda.

SEC Website Update – Connie is working with SEC to reorganize and update the TTC website (akttc.org). Requests for documents and links to be posted along with Information about progress on the site will be forthcoming.

Next Steps

- The next Advisory Team meeting will take place **Friday, March 6th at 2:00 pm**.
- Connie will work with current members to recruit individuals to fill the seats suggested during today's meeting.
- Connie will incorporate input on the draft organizational mission, structure and procedures document; reach out to Advisory Team members for their help in strengthening the mission statement; and circulate another draft for review prior to the next Advisory Team meeting.
- Connie will work with interested Advisory Team members on details for a possible workshop on timber harvest volume assessments and future management scenarios.
- Connie will continue working with SEC on the TTC website overhaul.