

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2007
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Christine Laws called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 15 members and 1 guests present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved as presented.

GUESTS

Our guest was our program speaker Annie Connor, with the Clearwater National Forest Watershed Restoration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

McLaughlin Logging caught fire this morning. Nancy Butler just received word that the fire is now contained.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There will be a Board of Director's meeting next Friday with our new Board Members.

Last month 5 Relocation and 1 Tourism packets were mailed out and several email and telephone requests for information were fielded.

Newsletters were emailed out. There was a new trivia section and the question was, "Who was the President of the Orofino Chamber of Commerce in 1995?" Nancy Butler was the first to answer correctly. The correct answer was Lin Chamberlin, who was President in both 1995 and 1996. Lin spent many years on the Board of Directors and is now "retiring" from that position.

President Laws presented Chamberlin with a certificate of appreciation for all of her years of service on the Board of Directors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- Public Affairs Legislative Policy Position Statements have been mailed.

Promotional- No Report

Special Events- The Chamber Auction will be the first fundraiser of the year and work will soon begin on planning.

Welcome and Membership- No Report.

Economic Development- No Report.

GEM- The Gem Committee will meet on January 25th at noon at the Ponderosa Banquet Room.

PROGRAM

Programs – Vice President Robison asked the membership to let her know if they had any ideas for programs in 2007.

Lin Chamberlin introduced our program speaker, Annie Connor, Civil Engineer for the Clearwater National Forest who works on the Watershed Restoration Program. Connor has been an employee of the U.S. Forest Service since 1987 and took over the Watershed Program after the floods in 1996. Connor has received national awards for her work on the program.

Connor presented and narrated a PowerPoint presentation to the membership. She reported that the Watershed Program is a partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe, which places high value on their fisheries. Most roads in the Clearwater National Forest were built in the 60's and 70's and were jammer logging roads. Today, we have line machines and don't need that kind of road density. The steep landscape and precipitation and the density of roads contributed to landslides starting from roads at the top of a mountain and cascading down to streams below and affecting fish habitat.

According to Connor, prior to the floods, the belief was that vegetation would stabilize old roads. Instead, they discovered that sixty percent of landslides during that time were associated with old roads, wiping out much of the forest transportation infrastructure.

Conner continued that they started decommissioning roads in 1997. The process for decommissioning involves locating the roads, assessing their condition, excavating, and transplanting of brush. The goal of decommissioning stemmed from an emphasis on protecting transportation and included reducing the risk of failure and reducing erosion while protecting fish habitat and also eliminating unnecessary roads. Since that time 550 miles of old roads have been decommissioned and over 70 miles have been placed in "storage". The costs have been shared 50/50 between the Clearwater National Forest and the Tribe. From 2000-200633 barrier culverts have been replaced, 8 barrier culverts have been removed, and over 80 miles of habitat have been restored.

Connor emphasized that monitoring their progress is very important. They need to make sure that what they are doing is working. They measure in quarter mile segments and if it is working they continue; if not, they change what they are doing.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Laws adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Christine Laws, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director