

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

February 06, 2024

Online – Zoom

Chestnut Carbon / FCW Staff Present: Kyle Holland, Briana Capra, Sarah Ford, Alani Worden, Rachel Richmond, Laura St. Peter, Ana Dávila

Facilitator: Lauren Hickey, C&R Associates

Stakeholders at Large: List of attendees kept confidential.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and introductions
- 2) Project Overview
- 3) Gold Standard and Chestnut Carbon
- 4) Phase 1 Restoration (2022/2023)
- 5) Project Areas (2023/2024)
- 6) Phase 2 Restoration Plans (2023/2024)
- 7) Stakeholder Questions and Comments
- 8) Mitigation Strategies
- 9) Landowner Concerns
- 10) Breakout Group Discussions

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm CST
- Lauren Hickey provided guidelines for the meeting and introduced the project team; Rachel Richmond and Sarah Ford.

2. Project Overview

- Sarah Ford, presented the project overview: What does successful forest restoration look like? Phase I restored properties (2022-2023), 2023/2024 Project areas and Phase II restoration plans (2023-2024), Getting trees in the ground, seedling procurement, planting plan design & mapping, site preparation, Forest Stewardship Council certification, tree planting operations, stocking and survival surveys, ongoing monitoring, repeated inventories, and verifications.
- Rachel Richmond presented Chestnut Conserve – The Partner Project to Chestnut Restore. Regarding the Restore program, Rachel how to maximize positive impacts and how to minimize adverse impacts. Provided feedback from the last meeting, what was said, what we are doing about it, as well as mitigation strategies. Rachel then covered a summary of new strategies based on stakeholder feedback. Addressed Key Monitoring Steps; how do we really know what's happening? What can communities and other stakeholders do to make sure the project happens as intended, and is well-monitored?
 - List of actions in response to stakeholder feedback that Chestnut Carbon discussed:
 - Chestnut Carbon will be seeking to work with public partners and community members to crowdsource tree growth and seedling viability surveys when feasible.
 - Chestnut Carbon intends to conduct periodic stakeholder surveys.
 - At present, regular third-party verification of the project is required.
 - Finally, stakeholder input is always welcomed.
 - Along with stakeholders' feedback, we will also regularly monitor impacts of the project and stakeholders.
 - An Advisory Committee of expert stakeholders are consulted on a regular and ad hoc basis.
- Laura Hickey checking in: What resonates? Are there areas that need more explanation & discussion? Did we miss an issue or concern you shared? Do you have additional ideas to promote benefits and mitigate concerns? Asked for feedback regarding summary of new strategies based on stakeholder feedback.
- Questions on the chat:
 - This property manager's role and responsibility.
 - Elaborate a little more on management of the plantations including thinning.
 - Would a shift in demographics be linked back to the project, and how would you expect demographics to change?
- Rachel Richmond on what's next: What will happen with info gathered from this meeting; and next steps? How else to be heard and influence the project process going forward? When and how you'll hear from us next? How to contact us.
- Laura Hickey thanked the participants and ended the meeting.

Resources provided during the meeting:

- 1 Facilitator from CDR Associates
- Closed captions by Zoom
- 1 Spanish interpreter

Stakeholder Online Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm CST.

