

Old Smokeys Meeting Notes

August 29, 2014

Approved September 26, 2014

In attendance: Al Matecko, Linda Goodman, Jim Rice, Deb Warren, Dick Bennett, Don Nearhood, Phil Hirl, Bev Pratt, Mike Ash, Bob Devlin, Les Joslin, Vern Clapp, Ranotta McNair

1. Minutes of the July Meeting: Linda Goodman for Susan Triplett
 - Moved** by Jim Rice: Accept the minutes as submitted.
 - Seconded** by Dick Bennett.
 - Vote:** Passed Unanimously.

2. Monthly Review of Treasurer's Reconciliation: Susan Triplett (via email)
 - The July reconciliation looks good and the format issues have been resolved.

3. Treasurer's Report: Dick Bennett
 - The Statement of Financial Position is attached (Attachment A).
 - Our Vanguard accounts were down a little in July which is reflected in a decline in the Lifetime fund balance.
 - During the month we made the following payments from the Moyer Memorial Fund: \$500 each to employees Dave Hopkins and Charlie McCarthy and \$100 to Katie Webber, a state employee working on a Forest Service project, for the loss of their residences in the Carlton Complex fire.
 - We also paid for the annual picnic, \$171 of which came from the Raffle/Auction fund to cover the excess cost.
 - Vern answered the question about members who reach 90 and become lifetime members, they are counted when calculating how much money is needed.
 - Vern suggested it may be time to look at how much money we have in bonds.
 - Followup:** A committee of Al, Dick, Vern, and Bill will consider whether it is time to shift funds around.

4. Secretary's Report: Debra Warren
 - August 8 Picnic: We had 124 people attend.
 - We received a nice Thank You call from Dave Hopkins indicating how grateful he was for the \$500.
 - We received a royalty payment from Lulu Press for \$22.

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5. Old Business:

a. Update from Endowment Committee: Al Matecko

- Our brochure is a "work in progress" right now.

b. Amendment of June meeting minutes: Linda Goodman for Sue Triplett

- At the June meeting under "New Business - Old Smokey Newsletter Editor," we discussed how valuable the work is that Les and Pat Joslin put into the newsletter. What we "omitted" from the minutes was the motion to thank them at the picnic with a \$100 gift card. We did this because we wanted it to be a surprise at the picnic for them.
- So now we need to add to the minutes that we want to thank Les and Pat Joslin for their continued efforts on the Old Smokeys' newsletter by giving them a \$100 gift card at the picnic.

Moved by Linda Goodman: Amend the June meeting minutes to add: "To thank Les and Pat Joslin for their continued outstanding efforts on the Old Smokey's newsletter, we will give them a \$100 gift card at the picnic."

Seconded by Mike Ash.

Vote: Passed Unanimously.

Followup: Linda Goodman will purchase the gift card and will be reimbursed by the Treasurer. (Gift card was given, Linda was reimbursed, all done!)

c. 2018 Forest Service Reunion: Mike Ash

- Bob Williams, Bob Tokarczyk, Bob Devlin, and Mike Ash met to do scoping for another FS Retirees' reunion in R-6. Mike presented information about the time and energy it takes to put together a reunion. Some in PNWFSA are suggesting we volunteer for the reunion after the 2015 reunion in R-3 and others expressed caution. Previous reunions have been held in R-2 (Glenwood Springs & Vail), R-4 (Park City), R-6 (Portland), and R-1 (Missoula). R5, R8, and R9 have never done one.
- Mike highlighted the opportunities: money maker and funding opportunities for work we'd like to see done. It also helps bridge culture gap and makes connection with newer generation and brings in new members.
- He also highlighted the concerns - tremendous planning and execution effort and some things that really have to come together like getting a facility and ensuring the NLT will attend.
- After discussion it was agreed we should make contacts with R-5 to see if they need any assistance. Bob Tokarczyk suggested if they are not willing, we should consider stepping up.

Followup: Mike volunteered to contact Jim Golden to ask him to work with R-5; and Kent Connaughton, Jim Pena, and Linda Goodman agreed to contact Randy Moore (if needed) to promote the opportunity. Al Matecko will contact his counterparts in R-5.

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6. New Business:

a. High Desert Proposal: Les Joslin

- Les gave us a handout about what he feels is the next step to implement the master plan moving the ranger station from the parking lot, construct an exhibit garage for the fire truck, build the fire weather station, and develop a multiple use trail.
- Since Old Smokeys helped fund the moving of the ranger station to the museum, Les wanted to share the next steps.
- Right now there isn't any follow-up except to continue to work with the museum and Les and Linda will keep the Old Smokeys posted.
- We still need a place to put the fire truck in the interim so if anyone has suggestions for that, please let Linda or Les know.

b. A Proposal: Al Matecko

- In looking for ways to reach out to the current Forest Service employees, especially the ones "on the ground," Al would like to work on a proposal to recognize Ranger Districts that do good work to accomplish the Forest Service goals while recognizing the value of our heritage and history.
- Al, Linda, and Jim met and have a rough draft a proposal but it still needs a little work

Follow-up: Al will make some modifications to the current proposal and send it out to the Board with a discussion in September.

c. NAFSR: Ranotta McNair

- (1) McGuire Award for 2014 - Jicarilla Ranger District receives prestigious award, Bloomfield, N.M., July 17, 2014— The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) awarded its prestigious John R. McGuire Award to the Jicarilla Ranger District in Bloomfield, N.M., the most western district of the Carson National Forest. The Chief of the Forest Service, Tom Tidwell, flew into Farmington to present the Award to district employees, in recognition of the extraordinary and unprecedented accomplishments and innovations in performing the district's oil and gas mission in the Four Corners region.

The nomination states that the Jicarilla Ranger District is unique because of the heavy workload caused by oil and gas development. The ranger district is one of the busiest oil and gas producers in the nation. More than 1,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled, 835 wells are active and 198 have been plugged. The oldest well was drilled in 1951 and still produces natural gas.

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6. New Business (Continued):

c. NAFSR: Ranotta McNair

(1) McGuire Award for 2014 (Continued)

"...(District employees have) a challenging work environment and they have stepped up to the challenge with both quality work and keeping costs down through innovative means," the nomination says.

Nomination: Forest Service employees or members of NAFSR may nominate candidates for the John R. McGuire Award. The nomination must identify the responsible Forest Service employee(s) or organizational unit. The nomination must describe the nature of the accomplishment, how it relates to the Forest Service mission, and why it should be recognized as outstanding.

Encourage Old Smokeys to submit potential candidates for the 2015 award as it will be presented during the Forest Service Retiree 7th National Reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

(2) National Legislation NAFSR has been working on:

Hank Kashdan, NAFSR Legislative Director reported the Fire Funding Partners, 230 organizations, continue their educational work with Members of Congress on why passage in 2014 of the Wildfire Disaster Act is essential.

Fire borrowing is a dangerous practice that can be resolved via the bipartisan Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.

Each year, the federal government attempts to fund ever-increasing fire suppression costs through the regular appropriations process, but enough dollars are never available to cover those costs. When the money runs out, the Forest Service is forced to borrow from other, non-fire accounts to pay for fire suppression. A considerable portion of this money often comes from wildfire prevention accounts, damaging our ability to take a proactive approach to reducing the risk of wildfires.

The strongly bipartisan Wildfire Disaster Funding Act would permit the Forest Service to utilize federal disaster dollars to pay for catastrophic fire costs, thereby ending the practice of fire borrowing and freeing up hundreds of millions of dollars each year for their congressionally intended purposes.

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6. New Business (Continued):

c. NAFSR: Ranotta McNair

(2) National Legislation NAFSR has been working on (Continued)

The current budget approach for funding fire suppression is seriously disrupting the essential programs of the Forest Service, including management of the National Forest System, Research, State and Private Forestry, and International Forestry. It is reducing the capacity for cooperative programs with other agencies. The costs of suppressing wildfires should be separated from the regular budgets of the Forest Service and other land management agencies. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act will have a significantly positive effect to stop this from happening by moving the cost of large fire events under natural catastrophies.

NAFSR encourages retirees to visit or write your local Congressional office staff and Members in support of this bill. - Wildfire Disaster Act Legislation-SB 1875 & HB 3992

For more information Ranotta encourage folks to go to the www.fsxx.org NAFSR Annual Meeting - October, 2014 NAFSR Board and General Membership ..Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, NV

7. Other Business:

a. Old Smokey Application Form - What is the status?: Linda Goodman

- o Deb is receiving many on-line copies of new member applications from Dennis Dietrich.
- o There is now an electronic version on our website - thank you, Don!

Follow-up: Need to test it a little more. Jim Rice and Linda Goodman agreed to try sending test applications to see how well it works.

b. Next year's picnic: Linda Goodman

- o Linda has contacted Job Corps and they are willing to have their culinary department provide the meal next year on August 14. Cost will be less than \$10 per person but we will need to handle the wine and beer.

Follow-up: Need to notify Dave Dalton why it is important for us to make the connection with Job Corps and want him to continue with the banquet. Al Matecko will contact Dave Dalton and Rick Larson. We will ask Rick to continue to coordinate Wildwood and be on a committee to work with Job Corps along with Linda Goodman and Bev Pratt.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:55am

Attachments (Attached to e-mail): A - Statement of Financial Position