

MINUTES
PWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
August 18, 2022 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Conference Call due to Covid-19 concerns

ATTENDANCE.

Board Members: Janis Brady, Rich Cappello, Mike Corbin, Joe Cox, Jim Medlock, Jim Branch, Sean Orner, Mark Snyder, Bruce Williams, Jeanne Corbin, Jeff Randa

Board Members absent: Pete Ramirez, Karen Roth, Steve Musial, Matt Cowan (USFS Liaison)

Advisory Board Members: Fred Allen, Kevin Cannon, Alan Meyer, Karl Ritters, Celia Walker

PWV Members, Other:

Guests:

ESTABLISHING QUORUM AND MEETING GROUND RULES.

Bruce Williams welcomed everyone in attendance and confirmed we had a quorum present.

AGENDA.

The August 2022 agenda was adopted with no changes.

MINUTES.

The July 2022 meeting minutes were adopted with no changes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(A) CHAIR.

- Bruce Williams shared a reminder that the Strategic Planning workshop is set for 6pm on Wednesday, August 31. About 3-4 days ahead of the meeting, the agenda will be shared along with the slide pack, Strategic Themes summary, and the Zoom link. Bruce also reminded us that a quorum must be present since we will be voting on Strategic Initiatives for the next 3 years. We won't have more than 8-10 minutes to discuss each Theme; Bruce encourages everyone to read through the summary prior to the meeting to be prepared for discussion.

(B) CHAIR ELECT.

- Mark Snyder had nothing to report.

(C) IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR REPORT.

- Mike Corbin shared that the Rawahs were wet and green and beautiful, but not many people were encountered. Bruce added that it was a successful work weekend, to which Mike agreed.

(D) USFS STAFF REPORT.

- Kevin Cannon provided the USFS report on behalf of Matt Cowan, who is on vacation.
- Kevin shared that the Roaring Creek reroute contract has been finalized. They hope to start construction at the end of the month. Ideally it will be finished this fall and open to the public but it may not be finished until the spring. He added that for Roaring Creek, they have all the bridge parts, everything is cut and ready to go, and a one-ton is ready to be loaded up on Sunday and will head up on Monday morning. There's a YCC crew to help bring things up, but if anyone from PWV would like to help they are more than welcome. Kevin will have room for a few folks in the one-ton. Contact Kevin if you want to participate.
- The Americorps crew finished an 8-week river cleanup project last week. There's still more work to be done. They're taking house materials out and have filled 4 30-yard dumpsters. An event will be held for National Public Lands Day and they would love to have another big turnout from PWV. Another Americorps crew may be brought in to wrap things up next summer.
- The Rocky Mountain Conservancy crew finished their season last week after getting the main corridors in Rawah cut open as well as many side trails.
- The Larimer County Conservation Corp is still on until late September. They are now working on Roaring Creek and will move to Emmaline Lake soon. They may also help with some river cleanup.
- Matt is working planning on a large State trails grant to improve Margaret/Molly Moon trails in coordination with Wildland Restoration Volunteers including doing the ADA trail (the loop around Lady Moon meadow). This would include the boardwalks and getting some hardpack road base down to accommodate wheelchairs.
- Mike Corbin asked if the fire ban had been lifted. Kevin said he didn't know. Sean Orner shared that the Forest Service fire ban lift had been announced.
- Alan Meyer asked for the status of Crown Point Road. Kevin said it was open to his knowledge. He added that they finished the heli-mulching and moved up to Buckhorn Road. Buckhorn Creek Road had been washed out and he wasn't sure if it was fixed. He also said the road going up to Beaver Creek Trailhead has also been washed out, so likely not open.

(E) SECRETARY REPORT.

- Sean Orner had nothing to report.

(F) TREASURER.

- Jim Medlock explained that donations are still in-line with what we've seen in prior years. Expenses are up but are still in-line with the budget.
- On Tuesday, Jim and Sandy Sticken went to the First National Bank of Omaha in Loveland, and there are now 5 accounts open there. They will be in the process of closing the accounts at Independent Financial next month. Jim asked that if anyone has any checks dated before the 16th to please cash them so it does not affect the closing of the accounts.
- Jim received the balance of the Endowment Fund, which had dropped significantly (as expected) by about 14% during the first half of the year. We won't see the next update

until the end of October, but it's expected to go up now that the stock market has bounced back a bit.

- By the end of the month, Jim will distribute budget spreadsheets and planning documents to each of the Committee Chairs. He will also provide the committees with their Budget vs. Actuals reporting. He hopes to receive the committee budgets by November 1st so he can begin preparing the budget to discuss at the November BOD meeting.
- Jim will be sending out an email in September seeking suggestions for one-time budget items that we could use the Endowment Fund distribution for. We won't know what the distribution amount will be until the end of August. If anyone has an irregular spending opportunity like KIN did with the Smokey Bear costume, the request form will be available for that.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING COMMITTEE:

- Linda Reiter sent Bruce Williams an update to share. He shared that the Basic First Aid class is scheduled for Saturday, August 20th. They still have some spaces available in both the morning and afternoon classes.
 - Joe Cox confirmed that after checking this morning, there are 11 people registered for the morning class and 7 registered for the afternoon class.
- There will be a Pet First Aid on-the-trail class held sometime in September, possible on the 10th. It will be hosted by new member Stacy Mugge.
- Linda is working on the Wilderness First Aid class which is scheduled for September 17 & 18. That class is currently full with a short waiting list.
 - Joe Cox said he has communicated with Alan Meyer about how to communicate with folks who registered for one day but not both. They've been in touch with the two members affected by this, and it will work if they have 16 instead of 15 in attendance.
- Linda is looking to put together a birding field trip sometime in the fall (no specifics yet).
- Bruce shared that the Webteam has setup an automatic email reminder for class registrants.
 - Alan Meyer explained that there are two types of reminders. One is if not enough people have signed up for a class, a message can be sent out to members to let them know to sign up. The event organizer must contact the Webteam to request that this email to go out. The second type of reminder is for anyone who has signed up for a class that reminds them of their registration and encouraging members to cancel if they cannot attend so folks on the waitlist can attend instead. This will go out by default 7-days before the event. These reminders are only for events where registration is required. If an event organizer wants a more customized reminder, the Webteam can accommodate (such as two reminders instead of just the one).
- Bruce gave the reminder that while Linda Reiter has done a great job with the Supplemental Training committee, she is looking to step down as Chair and have someone else manage the committee. If anyone is interested in coming on to the role, or knows someone who may be, please contact Mark Snyder or Bruce Williams.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- **COMMITTEE CHAIR NOMINATION**

- Mark Snyder made a motion to approve Sean Orner as Chair of the Non Patrolling Committee. Jeff Randa seconded the motion.
 - Sean Orner shared that she was excited to learn more within the new role and get started working with the committee.
 - The motion was approved.
 - Bruce Williams thanked Sean for volunteering and wished her luck.

- **WRV/PWV RAWAH TRAIL WORK WEEKEND (SEPT 9-11)**

- Fred Alan explained that he has spent quite a bit of time this year in the Rawahs, as have other members, which is really welcomed. Stub Creek has been used by members approximately 180-200 nights, about double of last year. 4th of July weekend, 14 people and 10 horses stayed, so it's working out well. It's given folks the opportunity to get back to clear trails multiple times.
- Link Trail was cleared about 1.75 miles up trail over the 4th of July weekend, and then the week later there were 16 more trees that were down in that same stretch. It's now believed to be cleared in about 5 miles. McIntyre has been a bit easier to clear but a large double tree came across one of the bridges about 3 miles in was apparently cleared by somebody local with a chainsaw (which happens from time to time). They have packed in the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Youth Crew up to Rawah trail, which is where they discovered the amount of damage the trail has sustained over the last several years. Fred said that going up at mile 5 was like going up a riverbed. Fred notified Matt Cowan of this. He did some mapping and photo research and has planned it to be a major project to be tackled with the WLRV Work Weekend coming up in September. Fred noted that there's work to be done on ever trail, but this area at mile 5 is in especially bad shape. There's also an area up near mile 6 in the marshy area that needs work. A small puncheon has already been removed by Matt's request that was rotten and a hazard.
- As was discussed several months ago, the contract with WRV was setup for 30 people. The last Fred checked, there was about 3 openings. Ideally, we'd have about 10 people on the waitlist in case some people need to cancel. The plan is to go in on Friday afternoon to camp at 7-Mile Meadow, the same place our trail crews have used for years. Fred has already checked with the outfitters who are allowed to be in there and none plan to be there that weekend. Matt Cowan has given his blessing to exceed the heartbeat rule in that one location.
- The stock folks will be working in conjunction with CSU. Fred thinks we'll have some of their mules, several students, teaching assistant, and packing instructor to be packing in the kitchen, food, and tools for everyone. They will probably setup a cache about 5 miles in so folks won't need to be hauling their tools up that trail. Fred has a list of several people who will come up with their horses to help carry folks' gear.

- More help could be used in various ways. We have permission to use the bunk house at Stub Creek, which probably won't be used for sleeping unless weather encourages it, but it would be nice to have the shower available. It would also be helpful to cook and heat there, especially if it's cold.
 - A second pack trip with RMNC was planned, but unfortunately after getting up there with a few mules and horses on Tuesday night, Fred got word that one of their members tested positive for Covid. The group went on a nice ride on West Branch trail and cleared a few leaner trees.
 - Kevin Cannon shared that he spoke with Matt Cowan after he got back down, and they looked at what he had seen, so he's planning a lot more work for next year too. This could include grants, but there's probably 6-8 major locations that need to be worked on still. Fred said he's glad for the timing and hopes to be able to talk budget for next year to plan more work. Fred added that Matt's crew was supposed to be doing fire-related tasks but were able to be a bit flexible and opened up the Rawah trails by cutting a lot of trees, but hopefully next year with fewer trees down there will be more good trail maintenance done, too.
 - Kevin asked if Fred was able confirm that the water was turned on at the Stub Creek bunkhouse. He said it would be on through September because the Rangers Cabins are rented out.
- **BUDGET INCREASE FOR ARROWHEAD LODGE (\$200-\$300)**
 - Fred Allen made a motion to request that the Arrowhead Lodge budget be increased from \$200 to \$300 to facilitate the cleaning of the cabins in anticipation of renting them to the public. Mark Snyder seconded the motion.
 - Fred Allen explained that for about 15 years PWV has supported Arrowhead Lodge. It's not high on our list of things that we do. We've helped reroof cabins when shingles were donated to bringing up leftover coffee from Spring Training to make for visitors. Jim Casadevall began with cabin staining a few years ago, there are only a few left to go.
 - Fred shared that the Forest Supervisor recently said that the cabins should either be fixed up and become revenue-generating or should be torn down. Fred said that they do not appear to be on the National Historic Registry. After visiting the site a few weeks ago, Fred realized that more planning would need to be done before we can begin cleaning the cabins. He said that surprisingly there is not much rotten wood, though there is some carpentry work that will need to be done. There's a non-profit that got a grant to replace all the windows in October, so we should plan to have them cleaned and have the staining completed by then.
 - Fred explained that the \$200 annual budget is usually sufficient to cover a few buckets of stain, but he's proposing we purchase respirators, Tyvek suits, gloves, and high-quality shop vac filter bags, so that we can safely clean the cabins. There is rodent droppings everywhere and sanitizing needs to be done. The Forest Service has already arranged for a large roll-off dumpster so everything can be removed and disposed of. There is vinyl flooring that Fred will have tested for asbestos.

- Fred gave some historical background, explaining that the cabins were built in the 30's and 40's, the most recently built Pawnee cabin was built in 1946. The newest cabins will be worked on first, in the hopes that they can possibly be ready for renters next summer.
 - In the future, PWV may be able to use one of the cabins as our base for future work projects until the point that they are all complete and ready to be rented. We also have permission for the weekend of the 16th through the 18th to use Arrowhead Lodge.
 - For now, Fred is just requesting the additional \$100 to ensure we have adequate safety gear for everyone. Next year we'll see what kind of grants were received and what the plan is to proceed.
- Celia Walker said it may be good to involve someone from CSU to advise regarding the Hantavirus cleanup. She said she is curious about the liability for both the Forest Service and PWV. She pointed out that once it's cleaned up that's one thing, but there's nothing to stop the rodents from coming back. She agreed that it's a worthy cause; she had asked a few years ago about making one of the cabins a hostel with bunks that PWV could use, but the concern then was the Hantavirus. If PWV is doing the cleanup, and then someone contracts the virus, how does the liability work? Fred Allen said we have zero liability from that standpoint, and we are covered by the Forest Service's workers compensation insurance as we are with other work that we do. He added that part of the cleanup plan includes pressure washing the interior with pine sol or bleach; Fred provided an outline to the Rec staff at their request, which they approved. Regarding the flooring, we should be able to just roll it up in huge pieces and carry it out to the dumpster. He has no problem contacting CSU and has already spoken with the Larimer County Health Department. He wants the Forest Service to take on some of the responsibility with this, too, as they plan to follow the same plan with other properties in the area as well. Celia suggested possibly having CSU interns help folks out of the Tyvek suits once they have been contaminated, as that can be a bit tricky. Fred said that may be an option; his approach to using the Tyvek suits is they are cheap enough to be one-time use so everyone can have a fresh suit each day.
- Mike Corbin said the Forest Service is required to have an Environmental Health officer on-site somewhere who is responsible for hazard activity. Fred agreed and said that is who he spoke with regarding having the shop vac with the longer hose outside of the building so the air indoors is not stirred up. Fred reiterated that he appreciates the health concerns with this project, and that's why he didn't even bring a broom out when he went up to look at the site.
 - Mike Corbin said he's been in the cabins, and they really are all a wreck, but if the Forest Service wants to do this, more power to them, but he sees it as a challenge. Fred said he had heard that for years the Forest Service was concerned about rentals causing competition with the Rustic community, but Fred has spoken with about a dozen locals and they are in support of the idea, possibly hoping to attract more people to the area.
- Sean Orner shared that she was surprised that PWV was being asked to use budget funds to go towards a for-profit project. She also asked whether we should

expect an increase in budget for the project going forward. Fred Allen said that he has no idea, but there's no way PWV will fully finance the renovation of the cabins. The next step would be for the Forest Service to figure out funding, either through grants or from their budget.

- Kevin Cannon said he was up on-site with the Forest Supervisor, whose plan is to rent out anything possible. Kevin said that in his opinion, the mouse urine has soaked into the boards so far that we will blow through our cleaning budget pretty quickly. Overall, their plan is to concession everything out just like the campgrounds. He added that the one cabin that had all the nice old time things which are valuable, historically accurate, and should be saved.
- Bruce Williams shared that he supports the motion. We have heard the general concerns about the health and safety of the workers, as well as his primary concern regarding safe disposal of the asbestos, if there is any. He thanked Fred for his efforts on this project and reiterated that everyone's primary concern is health and safety.
 - Bruce verified with Kevin Cannon if the Forest Service would be prepared to safely handle the asbestos. Kevin said that if the Safety Officer went out and spoke with Fred about what needs to be on, the liability is on him. Fred confirmed that he has budgeted for the flooring to be tested for asbestos.
 - Celia Walker asked to ensure that anyone who volunteers for the project is fully-informed about the biosafety hazards. She wants to make sure people understand what they will be exposed to and how to properly use the safety gear.
- Bruce Williams asked Sean Orner to take a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSING

Joe Cox thanked Karl Ritters for his assistance and participation with the Wilderness First Aid class.

Bruce Williams thanked everyone in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Next Board Meeting: **September 15, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

S Orner, Secretary
9/9/2022