

MINUTES
PWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
September 15, 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, Pete Ramirez, Karen Roth, Steve Musial, Matt Cowan (USFS Liaison)

Board Members absent:

Advisory Board Members: Tom Adams, Chuck Bell, Fred Allen, Janet Caille, Kevin Cannon, Dave Cantrell, Jerry Hanley, Alan Meyer

PWV Members, Other: Ramon Ajero, Paul Burns, Anne Yakos

Guests:

ESTABLISHING QUORUM AND MEETING GROUND RULES.

Bruce Williams welcomed everyone in attendance and asked guests to introduce themselves. Ramon Ajero shared that he is a new member and was invited to attend by Mark Snyder. Sean Orner confirmed that a quorum was present.

AGENDA.

The September 2022 agenda was adopted after adding Alan Meyer's agenda item discussing satellite communication devices.

MINUTES.

The August 2022 meeting minutes were adopted with no changes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(A) CHAIR.

- Bruce Williams shared that the Year End Event will be held on Sunday, October 16th, from 2-5pm. Like last year, it will be held outdoors, but at a new venue, Fossil Creek Park. Bruce and Mark Snyder will be sending out an email next week to invite all members to the event and will be working with Member Relations to plan member recognitions for the event. Bruce thanked Jeanne Corbin for including the event announcement in the monthly newsletter.
- Bruce also provided an update on the possibility of holding hybrid meetings. We're about 2 ½ years in on holding our meetings via Zoom. Many people like the convenience of remote meetings, and there continues to be a lingering concern about Covid. But other members do miss some of the benefits of meeting in-person. A hybrid option would give people the choice to meet face-to-face or remotely. A small team is being put together to

explore how a remote option could work. Bruce explained that the USFS conference room does have hybrid meeting capabilities, so they will be looking into this option over the next month or two, then will report back.

- Matt Cowan shared that if the Board wants to resume in-person meetings, he is in support and the USFS office can be used as long as we keep attendance below 50. He added that they do have a good A/V setup, and he's participated in a few hybrid meetings where he was at home participating, and he felt the audio was quite good. He thinks this is a solid option and something we should at least try out.
- Bruce explained that this isn't something we will jump into, but they will present what they find to the Board in the next month or two. Alan Meyer shared that he's had mixed experiences with hybrid meeting setups. He asked if Matt could clarify if internet access while at the USFS building would be available. Matt said it should not be an issue, and he's invited a team to come do a test run to see how the meeting works.

(B) CHAIR ELECT.

- Mark Snyder said he is looking to form a team to help with food for the YEE. They are considering different options, including preparing the food ourselves or ordering from a restaurant. Since the event will be earlier in the day, it doesn't need to be a full meal, but they would like to have some substantial appetizers or a light meal for people who attend. Anyone who is interested in helping, please contact Mark.
- Mark shared that the Nominating Committee has met and is evaluating possible candidates. If anyone would like to join the Board, or if anyone from the Board would like to move up to an Executive Committee position, please contact Mark.

(C) IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR REPORT.

- Mike Corbin shared that he's been doing trail work all week (about 140 trees taken down), and does not have an update.

(D) USFS STAFF REPORT.

- Matt Cowan shared that he's down to the last 2 weeks with the Larimer County Youth Corp, who have been working on Emmaline Lake trail to remove some of the hazardous rebar that are on the old turnpikes, as well as building some new turnpikes out of better materials. They have also been working on the Roaring Creek trail to prepare for the contractor. The contractor is planning to get started at the end of October and probably will have to stop work once the snow falls, then finish up in the spring. The contract says they will finish no later than June 30th. He gave kudos to Kevin Cannon for getting the nice big bridge there rebuild, so once the reroute is done the trail will be open to the public no later than June 30th. That will be the last trail to reopen after the Cameron Peak fire.
- Matt said they decided not to have an event for National Public Lands Day this year. They may do a river cleanup in mid-October. An email will go out to get PWV support if they do decide to have a work day.

(E) SECRETARY REPORT.

- Sean Orner had nothing to report.

(F) TREASURER.

- Jim Medlock shared that he and Sandy Sticken visited the First National Bank of Omaha to open 4 new accounts. They are preparing to close the accounts at Independent Financial, hopefully to be complete by the end of the month. Jim asks that if anyone has any pending checks from PWV to please cash/deposit them to make the closing of the accounts easier.
- Donations are running in-line as they have in the past. We haven't had any restricted donations this year, so the amount that we have in the restricted accounts remains what we have seen designated for Trail Restoration. Our expenses have increased this year over last year, tied directly to our increased activities and are in-line with what we budgeted.
- Jim distributed budget spreadsheets for committees to complete and submit for next year. He encourages committees to consider inflation with their planning. He shared that he was helping the Gear Committee with their budget, and we will see a pretty significant increase in their budget due to the increase in costs, particularly uniform shirts. He would appreciate receiving the budgets no later than November 1st.
- Bruce Williams thanked Jim for putting together his monthly written summary, to help us review the financials line-by-line. He said that Jim highlights the big issues in his write up, which really helps people understand how to interpret where we're at. Bruce added that while our donations are ahead of last year, our restricted donations last year were very significant and we haven't received any this year. We should be aware of where our donations are at when we consider our budget for the upcoming year.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PATROL COMMITTEE:

- Jeanne Corbin shared that September 30th is our last day to patrol, and October 7th will be the last day to submit a patrol report.
- She explained that she puts together the monthly email, and she usually asks Matt Cowan and the committee Chairs if they have anything to include. If anyone has anything they would like included, please let her know. She tries to plan the email to go out shortly after the monthly Board meeting, to highlight points of significance like new committee Chairs. She tries to keep the email short and concise.
- New PWV business cards have been printed and are with the Office Crew. They now have a QR code to direct people to the USFS website. They are donated (and have been for about 5 years) by one of our PWV members.
 - Alan Meyer asked to confirm if the QR code goes to the Canyon Lakes website or to the PWV website. Jeanne said it goes to the Canyon Lakes website, and our web address is so short and easy that it's not hard to get people there. It could be added the next time cards are printed.
- Chuck Bell asked if Jeanne has a sense of how the patrolling has gone so far this year in terms of coverage, particularly in the back country. Jeanne said she hasn't reviewed the statistics for this year, but she does know that we have overall had more patrols this year than last year. With the Wild 58 program and Labor Day push, we had quite a lot in the

Wilderness areas, but she doesn't know the specific numbers yet. Jeanne added that a lot of our new members are backpackers and younger, so many of them are getting out to the backcountry.

- Janis Brady asked where members can get the new business cards. Jeanne said they should be requested from the Office Crew.
- Bruce Williams thanked Jeanne for putting the monthly email together. He said they are very useful and often provide reminders of things that are sometimes forgotten or overlooked.

STOCK COMMITTEE:

- Rich Cappello shared that they initiated a Stock Pack program this year, which is moving forward successfully, and has accomplished some things he would like to highlight.
 - Rich explained that he hasn't been able to participate in the program as fully as he would have liked to, due to a variety of reasons, but he was able to chip in with his horse a few times. Other committee members were active in the program when they could be, including Fred Allen, Tim Van Donselaar, Leigh Cooper, Dan Schultejann, and Kasey Konkey. Rich said they worked hard to get their horses in shape and work together.
 - One member, Tim Van Donselaar, was able to complete the requirements of the PWV Packer Certification. Rich shared that Tim has impressed him with the work that he has put into the hitches, which require a lot of work and dedication. Rich would like to see the certification become a recognition category, to encourage others to strive to achieve this accomplishment.
 - Rich shared that the Spring Stock Clinic was really successful with a lot of information, despite a small turnout. Rich would like this clinic to be planned right after Spring Training. Another could possibly happen in October. He hopes more people will attend if it is held during a cooler season.
 - Rich explained that Fred Allen was instrumental with managing coordination and communication from his van with internet and phone access through Starlink while they were working remotely for the WRV Rawah work week. He spent time building a relationship with the Rawah Ranch managers, and also provided high-quality food.
 - Tim Van Donselaar and Leigh Cooper took the first pack trip in to the conservation crew of college kids staying at the bunk house to bring them supplies. Tim advised the crew to clear the trees wider to 6 feet wherever possible in order to accommodate the pack horses. The crew did cut the trail wider on their way out, which really helped the packers. When the work week was finished, Kasey Konkey and Leigh Cooper went in to retrieve the orange pack panniers that the crew had used to store food.
 - Rich worked with Tim to load the horses and was able to see the value of the different hitches that he had learned.
 - Rawah Ranch were generous in supplying several riding and pack horses along with a wrangler named Erin. The team was able to pack in 650 pounds of tools and supplies, including food for 20+ workers.
 - Video and photos were shared, that were explained and detailed by Fred Allen and Rich Cappello.

- Alan Meyer asked if the equipment belonged to WRV or PWV. Fred explained that the equipment was WRV's. Alan followed up to ask if the stock equipment including the orange panniers are PWV's. Fred said that PWV has had the panniers for several years now, and the pack saddles are ours as well.
- Chuck Bell asked if Chuck Peterson is still around, adding that he has a lot of gear. Fred said that he's still around, and he said Jim Brink is as well. Chuck Bell added that he thought they could be good sources of donated equipment, but Fred said they are still active. Rich noted that he got his horse, Big Jake, from Chuck Peterson. Chuck Bell shared that Chuck Peterson was on the first PWV Board of Directors in 1995. Chuck and George Wallace were the ones who made the case for including a horse contingent in PWV.
- Fred Allen explained that he took inventory of all the tools and equipment and prepared a spreadsheet to track the weight of everything to help with planning future projects.
- Rich Cappello explained that it's not always easy to know how much work you'll be able to complete in a work project, and you can't always just look at a cost and equate it to a certain outcome, but at the end of the day you'll get work done that you wouldn't have been able to do otherwise.
- Jim Branch asked for clarification if the Certified Packer achievement is an outside recognition or within PWV. Rich explained that the certification is something he prepared and had presented for Board approval last spring. Fred Allen added that it's similar to the Backcountry Horsemen's guidebook, so PWV is mirroring what they have done.
- Joe Cox thanked the committee for being so careful in ensuring the safety of both the horses and the riders.
- Janet Caille thanked them for their report. She shared that she helped with the Stock Clinic and had learned a lot that day.
- Ramon Ajero shared that he was one of the trail crew volunteers, and he thought it was fascinating to watch the stock team in action. He mentioned that numerous times during the weekend he heard people commenting that the project would not have been possible without having the stock support to haul the tools and other gear. He added that he hopes the team can do more in the future to facilitate more backcountry work.
- Alan Meyer asked if WRV would have been able to take on the project if PWV did not have the horses to pack in the supplies. Fred said that what they do in those cases is rent llamas, which could have easily cost thousands of dollars, and they cannot bring up some of the heavier items that the horses can.
- Matt Cowan gave a big thank you to Fred Allen, Rich Cappello, and everyone on the stock crew. He said just getting the Rawahs cut open so that work projects like this one can be possible really requires a stock program. He explained that almost every ranger district in the country used to have their own stock program, but they have disappeared through the years due to costs and other factors. It is an invaluable resource to the

program, and he really supports anything we can do to keep it going. A big goal of his is to get more backcountry areas in shape, accessible for everyone, and the stock program makes that planning much more possible.

- Fred Allen shared that he appreciates the trust of the Forest Service to be able to use the bunkhouse.
- In closing, Bruce Williams thanked Fred and Rich for their hard work.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATION:

- Alan Meyer started out by reiterating that the management of satellite communication devices is not currently designated to any committee.
- Alan shared that Apple will be directly competing with InReach and Garmin with their new iPhone 14 that will have satellite capability. They will have SOS functions and possibly two-way text communication. The functionality will be initially free, then likely become an additional monthly subscription. Apple is using the GlobalStar satellite system which is what Spot uses. He said this is something to keep an eye on—it would be great to have the opportunity to only need to carry one device.
 - Fred Allen asked if Alan has seen the news about TMobile partnering with SpaceX. He added that he wouldn't recommend that anyone purchase a new satellite device right now and wait to see what consolidated tech opportunities become available in the next few years.

OLD BUSINESS

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING METRICS & STATUS UPDATE:**
 - Bruce Williams thanked everyone who attended the Strategic Planning Workshop last month. He felt it was a good outcome with four selected themes that will become Strategic Initiatives. Today, the committee wants to offer a follow up and some next steps for the process, including draft Strategic Metrics. We won't discuss or vote on any for a couple of months.
 - Bruce reminded us that we have 4 themes that have been assigned to accountable committees and BOD sponsors.
 - Member Retention will be managed by the Member Retention Committee with Bruce Williams as BOD sponsor.
 - Leadership Training will be managed by the Executive Committee with Mark Snyder as BOD sponsor.
 - Establish Fundraising Goals will be managed by Jim Medlock & Tom Collins as Co-Leaders, with Jim Medlock as the BOD sponsor.
 - Coordinated/Planned PWV message will be managed by Jeff Randa, who will also be the BOD sponsor.
 - Bruce explained that they will be sending the Accountable Persons or Committees some background information and some guidance of how to proceed to get things kicked off.
 - Bruce presented the Proposed Metrics for Board consideration. He reminded us that we already have Strategic Metrics in place, including: Members with 6+ Patrols, Volunteer Hours, and Member Retention. These three metrics will stay in

place, with one minor adjustment to Volunteer Hours. The Proposed Metrics are as follows:

- Membership: Total number of members and recruits
- Activity: Total # of patrols, total # of contacts, contacts per patrol
- Financial: 3 year history of spend, revenue, and assets
 - Bruce explained that most of the tracking for these metrics are already in place, but by reviewing them regularly, we can identify places that may require some attention.
- The committee reviewed the draft reports that were prepared:
 - Member Patrols: Jim explains that this report shows new and returning members separately, then consolidates all membership to a third graph line. 2020's Covid effect is very visible on the report, with a significant decline in members completing 6 or more patrols.
 - Volunteer Hours: Jim explains that this report also shows a significant decline in hours completed in 2020. We can see hours reported per member, as well as patrol hours, off-trail hours, and total hours consolidated to a third line.
 - Jeff Randa noted that graphs are being used so trends are quickly and easily visible.
 - Member Retention: Jeff explained that this report shows the retention rate over years 1, 2, and 3. This graph also shows a decline in member retention going into 2020.
 - Membership: Jeff explained that this report shows recruits, returning members, and total membership consolidated in a third line. Again, there was a decline in 2020.
 - Activity: Jerry Hanley explained that this report shows the number of patrols and the number of contracts, with a bar graph showing the number of contacts per patrol. We can see that our contacts per patrol has been trending up.
 - Financial: Jerry explained that this is a report prepared by Jim Medlock showing Income, Expenses, and Assets year over year. We can see that our Income and Assets have trended higher each year.
- Jerry Hanley shared that the committee's recommendation for the Board is that they review the Initiatives on a semi-annual basis for the next 3 years, with a final review taking place at the end of each year. The metrics should be reviewed on an annual basis, with the dates determined by the Executive Committee.
 - Alan Meyer shared that he had a number of questions but he could reserve them for a later date when discussion is planned. Jerry Hanley asked if he had questions about the data or the metrics themselves. Alan said the metrics themselves are fine, but he has questions about how to make them happen.
 - Bruce Williams said not to scrutinize the data in the graphs at this point, they were meant to be illustrative and may not be fully accurate. He said that the Strategic Planning committee would love to hear from anyone who has questions, comments, or suggestions, and encourages people to email the committee.

- In conclusion, Bruce explained that the Strategic Metrics should be a basic dashboard for us to evaluate where we are doing well and where we have places that may need intervention. Each metric individually is not necessarily all that informative, but we can review them overall to evaluate progress and as an indication of the organization's health.

CLOSING

Bruce Williams reminded everyone that the October and November meetings are really important. Next month, we will be voting for new Board and Advisory Board members. The budget meeting in November will have a lot of data to review. Bruce reminded everyone to please get their budgets in to Jim Medlock by November 1st at the latest. Bruce thanked everyone in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Next Board Meeting: **October 20th, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

S Orner, Secretary
10/17/2022