

MINUTES
PWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
August 15, 2019 – 6:30 – 8:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Tom Adams, Janet Caille, Elaine Green, Bob Hansen, Randy Ratliff, Linda Reiter, Sandy Sticken, Celia Walker, Jim Zakely, and Kevin Cannon (USFS Liaison).

Board Members absent: Jeff Dean, Katina Mallon, Jack Morgan, and Mike Shearer.

Advisory Board Members: Fred Allen, Gerry Cashman, Jerry Hanley, Bob Meyer, Jacques Rieux, and Karl Riters.

PWV Members, Other: Tom Collins.

PWV Guests: Katie Donahue, Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD), District Ranger, and Laura Shaffer.

AGENDA. The agenda was adopted as amended.

MINUTES. The July minutes were approved.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A) CHAIR REPORT. Tom Adams reported that Jill Reynolds, Education Director for Larimer County Search and Rescue who was going to speak at Spring Training, passed away recently. Jackie Picard and Tom had met with her and were working on joint training opportunities. Her memorial service will be scheduled at a later time.

A Class at CSU for the Conservative Leadership Graduate program is looking for a service project for August 29th. Tom sent the request to Mike Corbin in hopes that he could schedule something for them potentially on Young Gulch.

PWV received a nice write-up in the United Way Volunteer Resource Guide. Julie Eastwick also had a write-up in the Compass Magazine featuring Tom and PWV.

B) PAST CHAIR REPORT. Randy Ratliff had no report.

C) CHAIR ELECT. Elaine Green had been tasked with who would be Chair for Spring Training in 2020. Elaine felt it was important to start with the 2019 Spring Training Leadership team. Elaine said three people from that group volunteered. Elaine talked to Holly Young yesterday and Holly is aware and very supportive of the following motion which Elaine made and was seconded.

Move that we appoint as Co Chairs Celia Walker and Janet Caille for next year's Spring Training.

Tom Adams said that Jeff Dean has officially resigned as Spring Training Chair. Elaine said that it's a little earlier than usual to appoint a Chair but feels it's good to get started. Janet and Celia have multi-year experience being AGLs together, and Janet has cultivated the Buckhorn relationship. The motion passed.

D) **USFS REPORT.** Tom officially welcomed CLRD District Ranger, Katie Donohue. Katie said her understanding is that PWV has fear and angst over **Kevin's departure** and would like to know if the USFS has a succession plan. The USFS is also concerned. It's a very difficult time to get people through the HR process and in the door as permanent employees. The USFS budget is not in great shape. As Kevin and others are retiring, there are tentative plans to restructure the recreation organization. Canyon Lakes has the largest volunteer program on the forest, the 2nd largest in the nation, with over 900 individual volunteers, of which PWV comprises one-third. Kevin manages most of PWV and Kristy Wumkes the other organizations. Katie doesn't have a current overall plan, but CLRD does have a temporary employee, Nathalie Woolworth, from the Washington office for 6 months, serving as Deputy District Ranger. Katie has asked Nathalie to take a look at the recreation business plan and sit down with Kevin, Kristy Wumkes, and Laura Shaffer; and also with the Boulder District who may be potentially sharing staff with us in the future. Katie has asked Nathalie to talk through to see how this might work. Nathalie will spend the next 2 months working on this task. Katie wants to set our expectations low. Laura and Katie are not moving and are here and available. Katie will be keeping in touch with PWV on this subject through the fall. Katie is hopeful that CLRD is at the front of the line for this position. One of the things Kevin has started to do is to lay out things that PWV is working on, so CLRD knows what we need to do to go forward. It's not going to be an easy year for any of us. We will probably see a slow-down of projects like Young Gulch – things that take a high level of coordination. Katie hopes that patrols and on-going projects will continue and also designated special projects.

When asked about the third Thursday meetings, and opening the meeting door for PWV meetings, Katie explained that it may not always be the same face, but CLRD will be committed to providing the after hour support; this support just might be delivered a little differently. Katie only lives 7 minutes away from the CLRD office and is on call at all times. PWV is the biggest concern in terms of Kevin leaving. PWV is the USFS public face, the first-line of communication with visitors. No one is going to fill Kevin's shoes. Katie said PWV should feel free to contact others, like Kristy Wumkes. Katie will be clear on who to contact before Kevin retires. When asked about speaking at preview and recruiting events, Katie is glad to come and welcome attendees. Kevin officially retires Dec. 31, 2019. Janet Caille thanked Katie for use of the Stub Creek Bunk House for PWV for Trailhead hosting over Labor Day.

Kevin Cannon talked about **Young Gulch**; he is trying to get a helicopter for the 3rd bridge I-beams. A week ago Tuesday the first three I-beams for the first bridge were taken up. WRV had a motorized donkey. The third I-beam took over 3 hours. Kevin knows now what to expect. He thinks we can have the major components at each bridge. The first bridge now has the abutments built and the I-beams on top. They are still drilling some holes into the I-beams. The second bridge is pretty much done for the decking but still needs the trail built out to the bridge. For the third bridge, nothing has been done. Kevin hopes to get the first two bridges open and done by the end of September, so that Young Gulch can then open to the public.

Kevin would like to do a soft opening and would also like to get all the volunteer organizations who have been involved (PWV, WRV, CATS, Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Odells Ninans, etc.) to try out the trail first. Everything is starting to grow back in so we need to get use on the trail to get it all tramped down. Kevin is going to try to use WRV's mechanical donkey to haul concrete to the third bridge; 60 bags in 4 trips. The first two bridges must be done first. I-beams are the main concern; other things can be brought in by the mechanical donkey or by people. The biggest things are the 3 x 12 x 10 foot decking boards that support the rail system. They are incredibly heavy, having been treated and soaked with water. The 6 x 6 beams are still to done for the crib. The third bridge is about a mile in. When asked about the

helicopter, Katie said the helicopter is a national fire asset, available to the whole country. Kevin will try to use a type 3, small helicopter, based out of Jeffco.

Kevin has been watching Steve Musial, Mike Shearer, Joan Kauth and others up in the Rawah who are out on the trail doing trail maintenance. Their progress as tracked via their 'I'm OK' messages has been amazing.

When asked about the status of the new PWV patrol-able trails, Kevin said Mike and Jeanne Corbin have been patrolling these trails, Donner and maybe Lookout Mountain, Twin Sisters, and are writing patrol descriptions. We still need Trimble data. Donner is a challenge.

E) TREASURER'S REPORT. Sandy Sticken presented the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Income and Expense. Sandy said we received \$987.62 this month from the King Sooper program which is the most we've ever received. We've received a couple of individual donations (\$350 and \$150) this month, which have helped our income. Sandy paid the Rocky Mountain Conservancy today, just under \$2000. Sandy made the following motion which was seconded and passed.

Move to approve the August 15th financial report as presented.

Celia Walker asked if it's possible to get a financial report displaying committee budget vs. actual expense. Sandy is working on this process and hopes to have for next month's report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

A) MID SUMMER EVENT. Janet Caille presented a few pictures of the Mid Summer Event held July 25th at the Hearthfire Pavilion. 75 members and guests attended and a good time was had by all. Attendees brought appetizers or desserts. Wine was provided by Craft 287 Spirits and also some beer. Avery also provided beer.

Janet also talked about the Labor Day Trailhead Hosting event August 30 – Sept. 2, with up to 10 participants staying at the Stub Creek Bunk House, which appears to be a great facility. The Bunk House had some winter snow damage that has been repaired except for a leak in one of the bedrooms. The Bunk House has a living area, large kitchen, 4 bedrooms, two large bathrooms, and should provide a great space for the Trailhead host crew. Janet had visited the Bunk House, thanks to Mike Smith, on August 14th, so was able to show pictures of the Bunk House. Janet has a list of 10-12 people who would like to stay in the Bunk House, plus the Corbins, Celia Walker and Mike Smith who will be backpacking or staying in other facilities.

Janet has reserved Link, McIntyre, Blue Lake and West Branch for Trailhead hosting on all those days. The intent is to have a trailhead host set up at Blue Lake and West Branch, and then send teams of 2 up the trails. Janet will coordinate the Patrol Reports, to avoid duplicate numbers of those contacted, etc. We know that last year there were 125 cars at the West Branch parking lot, meaning we have at least 250 folks on that trail. Lip balm will be given. Janet thanked Celia Walker for her part in getting Raining Rose to donate the lip balm so generously to PWV. Janet will be sending out a broadcast email very soon and hopes to get additional volunteers. Janet said there is plenty of additional space at Stub Creek for those who would want to camp and backpack there.

B) COMMUNICATION DEVICE UPDATE: Jerry Hanley and Gerry Cashman presented a report on this topic. Jerry explained that his presentation would be a continuation of discussion about replacing current SPOT units, with the intent to present an evaluation of

possible products. Four units were evaluated, two InReach products and two SPOT units. Jerry presented the decision matrix created in this process. The scores derived are basically a guideline that tells what unit best fills all the description criteria. Gerry Cashman did all the research on the units themselves. Kevin has been involved in the discussion also.

Jerry went over the decision criteria and how units were rated as follows:

Criteria	Weight
Minimize Purchase Cost	6
Minimize Annual Maintenance Cost	5
Ease of Use	10 – Very Important that PWV Members can easily use
Reliability	9
System info feedback (2-way communications)	7
#types of messages w/o penalty	5
Ability to Merge with cell phone	4
Battery type and life	4
Will it find Lat./Long.? (trees, fire rings, etc.)	4

A number of comments were received from PWV members, most of whom have an InReach. Jerry also talked to Kevin about how many units are assigned to PWV, and received information from the Office Crew on current number of units available, currently 8. A maximum of 5 Spot units have been requested on one day; PWV has experienced no shortages with 8 units. There are currently 11 radios available for use. Both Kevin and Liz Manes-Ruhl (Office Crew) believe a dozen units should cover our needs.

Jerry explained that if PWV were to purchase the units, PWV would then donate to the USFS, and the USFS would pay the maintenance fee. This effort is to replace our old units. Kevin will still keep some radios for trail crew but not 12.

Gerry Cashman said there are two companies who make these four units. InReach was bought by Garmin a couple of years ago. The difference in the two companies is what they do with their satellites and they use two different satellite systems. One gets the signal, goes up to the satellite system that is communicating with the unit. The other is a relay that is communicating with a geo-system, getting info to the nearest Search and Rescue to help you out. InReach is using an Iridium system, which has 66 satellites and their transmission is a 1.6 watt transmission. The SPOT system is only 24 satellites and they're in a different orbital plain with only a 4 watt transmission power. The real difference is the reliability of satellite system. If that were the only thing we were looking at, InReach would win this discussion. However, that's not the only factor being used. As mentioned, four units are being evaluated. The scores are fairly close. The SPOT Gen 3 has the least score, as it provides no communication, and only goes one way. One never knows if the communication was actually sent, although reliability is about 95%. The other three units are quite close in score.

Gerry downloaded all the user manuals. The Mini InReach is designed as a unit to marry with your cell phone, really light weight. It has interface with a cell phone and for the purpose of loaning to patrollers makes this impractical.

The SPOTX is basically a Blackberry married to a satellite communication system. It has a fairly functional keypad with an information screen. To send an SOS message from the SPOTX is fairly easy. If you do screw up, the message can be cancelled fairly easily.

The InReach SE has an internal keypad but it's very hard to use. This unit is more functional with your phone. As a patroller, one needs just to check-in, turn around, mark campsite, which can be accomplished by pressing buttons. Pressing the SOS button is also easy. If you have to communicate with Search and Rescue, and the unit isn't married to your phone, this is much more difficult.

The SPOTX and InReach come up higher on the evaluation matrix. SPOTX has a user friendly keypad, InReach has a higher reliability rating. When questioned about the number of preset messages available at no extra charge, the SEplus gives 3 on the lower subscription rate. There's a set of 10 messages that they will charge a minimal amount for. The SPOTX, per Fred Allen, has 20 possible preset messages. Further discussion ensued. Both units now have a chime/sound when a message is received. Both units can check Lat/Long position a couple of ways. Global Star, used by the SPOTX has a lower orbit, which may account for the fewer number of satellites. There is difference in coverage but not where PWV would notice. Celia Walker mentioned the one time she needed to use her InReach for an emergency, she received an immediate response, but the challenge was then to key in the problem, as it wasn't married with her cell phone at the time. Additionally cost was considered. The SPOTX costs about \$200, and the InReach SE about \$450.

Kevin proposed that we could split the initial cost with the USFS and potentially the USFS is looking at replacing all the SPOT gen 2 in the USFS. Adding our Gen 3 SPOTS may not be an issue. Because of the contract with SPOT, the USFS wouldn't see a monthly increase for maintenance costs. Jerry is recommending using the Endowment Fund to buy these units if the USFS does not do so. What Jerry suggested is for PWV to do a contingent vote, that could potentially change depending on actions of the USFS.

Based on all criteria, the SPOTX came out slightly ahead on the decision matrix. General consensus was that the SpotX makes more sense for ease of use. Some concern was expressed on reliability but Kevin said that per messages received the difference is slight (2% failure rate for SPOT, 1% for InReach). Most messages coming in are fine.

Jerry made the following motion which was seconded and passed:

Move that PWV acquire up to one dozen SPOTX units.

Kevin said he will rewrite the Memo of Understanding between PWV and the USFS.

C) ODELL BREWERY PARTNERSHIP. Fred Allen said Odell Brewery has selected PWV to be a fall Partnership Team. They are willing to help us market PWV and any special projects, such as something on National Public Land Day. This Sunday, August 18, they are show casing 11 different groups, including PWV. Fred said PWV will have a table there this Sunday from 11-5 (with setup at 10 a.m.). Fred will be there and invited others to help.

Odell's is willing to let PWV use their tap room for a Board Meeting. Additionally on Sept. 6th and 20th, Odell employees will be helping on a trail for PWV, likely Young Gulch. Fred Allen, Jim Zakely and Celia Walker met with Odell's a few weeks ago on how the partnership could work. In December, Odell's will present to PWV a check for \$10,000. PWV has been associated with Odell's for about 10 years. They've been extremely generous partner with us.

In 2012, after the High Park Fires, Odell's employees came up to help planted over 300 trees at the Narrows Campground. Fred took pictures to Odell's from this event. Celia mentioned that Odell's would like to have some presentations potentially made to their members

on such topics as local history, Leave no Trace, Ultra-Light Backpacking, etc. and potentially do a KIN hike for their employee families. Peter Skiba has a short 3 minute video that will be played at Odell's in a continuous loop. Odell's is an employee owned brewery.

D) SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING UPDATE. Linda Reiter explained that Jackie Picard is the Chair of this committee but is currently travelling. Two classes are scheduled. Gerry Cashman is going to do Front Range Geology for PWV, Sept. 16 and 21. This is on the calendar and registration opens on the 16th of August.

Wilderness First Aid by Susan Cruz and Dr. Janice Whiteselman will be held Oct. 19th and 20th. Our members would be joining Larimer County Search and Rescue people. So we will have good partners with a lot in common with PWV. This also helps take the pressure off of PWV to come up with a minimum number of class participants. There is a budget for Supplemental Training. Linda asked if we've ever offered a stipend to those who take this \$125 class. We've subsidized the First Aid class before. Karl Ritters said that if we have a budget, a motion isn't needed and Supplemental Training could use the budgeted money to offset class participant registrations. Susan provides snacks and lunch. Celia Walker said Susan teaches what members might actually experience in the field. Attendees completing the class receive a two-year certificate.

Jerry Hanley mentioned he needs an operational plan for Supplemental Training. He is willing to sit down with Jackie and committee members and help create one.

OLD BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS

A) WILD 55. Janet Caille mentioned that PWV is currently in the midst of our Wild 55 celebration (August 10-18). Janet also brought up the Wild 55 celebration to be held August 26th, 5:30 p.m. at New Belgium. New Belgium will provide a beer for each attendee and the Trail Patrolling Committee will furnish light finger food.

B) SPRING TRAINING OPTIONS. Fred Allen made the following motion that was not seconded:

Move that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to review and go over everything that's done at Spring Training, from recruiting through Spring Training.

Jerry Hanley said that Mike Corbin had volunteered at the July meeting to head the effort that Fred mentioned. Since the motion wasn't seconded it was left on the table. The decision was to check with Mike Corbin first on the effort he volunteered to lead.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Janet Caille, Secretary

Next Board Meeting: **September 19, 2019 6:30 p.m.**