UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2020

Outdoors behind Thomasville Firehouse

6:00 PM

Executive Board: Dale Coombs – Chairman, Marilyn Lee, Secretary

John Crowley – Vice Chairman, Pat Crowley – Treasurer, - all present

Board Members: Jacque Schoon, Lea Vasten, Betty Lou Woolley – all present

Carolyn Shell, Melanie Buckholtz - absent

Members attending: 25 Guests: 2

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 pm. The minutes of the July 2020 meeting were approved.

Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$9,825.69.

Dale introduced the US Forest Service representative Jennifer Schuller, the Deputy District Ranger of the Aspen Sopris District. Jennifer is new to the job and lives on the lower Frying Pan Road. She discussed the large fire north of Grand Junction and the new fire in Glenwood Canyon at Grizzly Creek. There was a small fire high on Smith Creek above Ruedi that was extinguished quickly by 7 smoke jumpers and 1 helicopter. The plan this year in the time of Covid 19 is to attack fires quickly rather than to allow any small fires to burn. Stage 1 fire restrictions are in effect now and it is expected to go to Stage 2 soon. Elk Wallow campground is expected to open by 8/15/20. Jennifer mentioned that the Ruedi communications tower will proceed with work through September. It is being rebuilt and the Thomasville site will be rebuilt in 2021. She was unable to answer questions about the scoping for any timber sales in the Frying Pan due to litigation.

Peter Boyatt, the representative from Colorado Parks and Wildlife spoke to the group. He lives on the Frying Pan road at Toner Creek. Peter reminded us of new regulations that all users of CPW sites must have a hunting or fishing license, not a habitat stamp. The purpose is to fund State wildlife areas that were purchased for hunting or fishing. It is a pay-to-play plan rather that increase taxes or fees for everyone. The areas include Coke Ovens, Toner Creek, Lake Christine, Beaver Lane, pull-offs on the Frying Pan road, Sam Caudill area and many others across the state. The licenses include a \$.25 fee to pay for rescue. Fines are up to \$139.50 for use without a license. The inspectors of watercraft at Ruedi found lots of contaminated boats at the beginning of the season, most coming from Lake Powell. All watercraft should "Clean, Drain and Dry" to be sure to get rid of invasive mussels.

Pitkin County Commissioner George Newman joined us for the final time as he will be term limited out this November. George reviewed the many things he has worked on during his term and said

that he has enjoyed attending our very informational meetings. He discussed the Communications site at Ruedi as mentioned above. A special Thank You goes to George Newman for his services as the County Commissioner representing our area. A gift card was presented to George in appreciation. The Pitkin County response to the Covid 19 pandemic is moving back the limit for gatherings from 50 to 10 people after a small flareup in the county. In Aspen masks are required inside and outside. George mentioned that there is a good candidate to replace him as County Commissioner – Francine Jacober who was a teacher in Aspen and Carbondale. She and her family own Crystal Valley Meats and Fat Belly Burgers in Carbondale. Other candidates may also come forward later. George mentioned that he will mention to the Road and Bridge department our request for another lighted speed sign at Meredith.

(At the July meeting it was approved by vote that a \$100 gift card be given to George in thanks and appreciation.)

Pam Woolley reported on the Meredith General Store, saying that sadly it will not be open this summer due to Covid 19. She also reported that the coin telephone on the front of the store has been most welcome and successful. The Fire Department paid to set it up, the Caucus pays the annual fees and the General Store pays the long-distance charges. The fees collected go the pay the ongoing costs. The phone works during power outages, which have happened often this year. Calls require \$.50 in coin and you can be called back at that number. Remember to dial 1 first for an out of area/long distance call. Pam plans that next year the Store will sell fishing and hunting licenses.

Pam Woolley has taken over the websites for the Caucus after John Swomley has had his staff person handle it for us for many years. Thank you to John for doing that service all these years. John paid for many domain names which should take you to the website: upperfryingpanvalleycaucus.org, ufpvc.org, etc. Pam is in the process of rebuilding the site and it will be ready soon. Pam requested any information and pictures you can share should be sent to her at pam@meredithgeneralstore.com.

There was a discussion again about delaying the election of officers for 2 years. It was suggested that we could do an election next year instead of waiting 2 years. Some thought our Bylaws might not allow that. We will get a copy of the Bylaws to everyone who receives the minutes. There was an extensive discussion of the Bylaws so it will be good for everyone to review them. Some issues mentioned were related to the Master Plan rather than the Bylaws so it will be important to review.

NOTE: Upon review of the Bylaws we find that we should be having elections in the oddnumbered years so it will be perfect to have an election next year. Plan your nominations for next June.

The committee to create a memorial plaque to honor members who have passed away will proceed with the names of those members to be put on a plaque at the firehouse. If there are other names please contact Secretary Marilyn Lee. The list follows these minutes.

Thanks to John and Patrowley for hosting us in their meadow/driveway during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Lee

UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

Members who have passed on:

Jim Crowley

Betty LaMont

Woody Block

Richard Neal

Nadine Neal

Charlie Sledge

DC and Roberta Caulfield

Jean Schreier

Jean Goldstein

Bill Linscott

Margie Swomley

John Swomley

Darol Woolley