UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2020

Outdoors behind Thomasville Firehouse

6:00 PM

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

John Crowley – Vice Chairman, Pat Crowley – Treasurer, - absent.

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

Carolyn Shell - absent

Members attending: 15 Guests: 2

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 pm. The minutes of the June 2020 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report was not available as Pat Crowley was absent.

Pitkin County Commissioner George Newman was absent. Dale reminded everyone that the August meeting will probably be the last meeting with George as he will be term-limited out. The next election will replace him. We'll hope to see George in August.

Dale introduced the new Forest Service District Ranger Kevin Warner. Kevin gave us information about his background including his first USFS job in Carbondale in 2001. He discussed that there are so very many people in the forest now, camping and recreating. All the campgrounds are much busier than usual. It may be necessary to go to Stage 2 fire restrictions in a few weeks. Elk Wallow campground is closed for this year at least until hunting season. A question was asked about camping at Twin Meadows. There is no plan to make it a campground as it is busy only 3-4 days per week and then nothing so it is not viable as a campground. Lime Canyon near Lime Park is busy with campers, especially climbers. The area is closed until end of July to protect a Peregrine Falcon pair and their one chick who are nesting in the area. The Aquatic Nuisance program is busy checking boats at Ruedi marina. Last year they found 5 contaminated boats and they have found 13 so far this year. All were decontaminated. There is a barbed wire removal project in Lime Creek next week. Volunteers with Wilderness Workshop will do the work. There are two timber sales out for bid now, on Burnt Mountain and Coyote Park. They will probably mobilize next year. There is still litigation regarding the Frying Pan Vegetation project so he couldn't discuss that.

Tom Cardamone, former Director of ACES, spoke regarding a project he is doing with CSU to study biodiversity in White River National Forest to improve conditions for deer and elk. They will study various species of plants and animals in the Frying Pan, Roaring Fork and Crystal valleys as well as Fools' Peak, Grizzly, Treasury Peak and the Glenwood springs areas. There was a question regarding

the former Timmer Fish Hatchery property on Lime Creek that belonged to ACES. He said that ACES had decided to focus more on their properties in the Roaring Fork valley and therefore it has been sold to an individual who is interested in making it a summer camp for kids.

Dale reported that Monroe Dodd said the recycle bin in Meredith is going well so far. He acquired a 20 yard dumpster for single stream recyclables (paper, glass, aluminum, tin cans, flat cardboard). It is labelled as RECYCLE ONLY and we ask everyone to send only clean recyclables. Please flatten the cardboard and dump the recyclables out of the bags into the bin. There will be no additional charge and the next 3 months will be a test period. Call Monroe for the combo – 927-0339.

The check was issued to Roaring Fork Conservancy in memory of our dearly departed members. RFC was very grateful and surprised. They await the list of names. Also, we need to set the list of names at the next meeting and determine a location for a plaque honoring those members.

There was a reminder that the 2020 Corn Boil has been cancelled due to the Covid19 virus pandemic

There was a discussion of the Election of Officers and Board of the Caucus. One member of the Board, Martin Batts, has left the area so he will need to be replaced. The current officers and Board are willing to serve 2 more years if we wish to avoid an election which might be a good idea considering the Covid19 issues of having committees meet and work to do the election. Lea Vasten moved to keep the current Board and Officers; Larry Straight seconded and the vote passed. Dale asked for volunteers to take the Board position which was vacated by Martin Batts. Melanie Buckholtz volunteered. Lea Vasten moved and Frankie Straight seconded that Melanie should be on the Board and the vote passed.

Remember to do your share of the Frying Pan Cleanup along the road. Lea Vasten has the list of those who have signed up to clean up a specific mile of the road above the dam. And, as always, we hope if you see trash you will pick it up and dispose of it properly.

The next meeting is set for Monday, August 10, 6 PM, probably outside again in the meadow behind the Fire House. Thanks to John, Pat, and Bill Crowley for hosting us in their meadow.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Lee