## UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

## **MEETING MINUTES**

July 12, 2021

## Thomasville Firehouse

## 7:00 PM

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

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

Board Members: Jacque Schoon, Lea Vasten, Mel Buccholz – all present

Carolyn Shell, Betty Lou Woolley - absent

Members attending: 30 Guests: 1

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. The minutes of the June 2021 meeting were approved.

Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$8,510.26. It was approved.

Dale introduced the US Forest Service representative Kevin Warner. Kevin stated that the Sylvan Lake Fire is now at about 4,000 acres and expected to stay at that number. It is being contained within that perimeter and probably won't spread further. Ecologically, the effect of the fire was a pretty good thing for the forest. The Eagle Thomasville road is now open. Kevin said the website called inciweb.com is a good place to learn current information on all fires. The smoke we are experiencing comes from fires in lots of states west of Colorado. Dale commented that all of us are very grateful for all the work of the fire fighters.

There was a discussion of the blow-down of trees last fall. USFS has a crew of 3 doing cutting of trees to clear trails. They are about half way up the Savage trail. It's going to take a long time to remove the trees as USFS doesn't have funds for more workers. Volunteers would be appreciated but it is difficult to find people who are certified to do the saw work. It would be helpful if hikers would inform USFS of areas, including GPS coordinates, where there is blowdown damage on a trail.

There was a question about the sign on the Eagle road prohibiting ATVs. Kevin said that sign was put there by Pitkin county. They have asserted jurisdiction on the road to the old fish hatchery location. Dale will bring up that discussion with Commissioner Francie Jacober..

There was a question about the logging project. Kevin said because of Covid delays the bid period has been extended to July 20 for 2 sales. All those hauls will go out the Eagle road to Eagle. Regarding the logging at Diemer and Sellar, the hauls will go out the Frying Pan road. It will probably happen in 2 to 3 years.

Kevin discussed the bear problem in Chapman campground. There was a report of a bear breaking into campers. There are fines for improper storage of food. There may have to be closures at Chapman if the problem continues.

Kevin discussed the Frying Pan River Ranch. USFS is trying to coordinate an in-person meeting with the owner. The current owner may have interest in redevelopment.

Dale reported on info from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. There is a meeting regarding wolf reintroduction in Colorado on Wednesday at Basalt Library for stakeholders. Dale will attend and will report back.

There were no representatives from Pitkin County at the meeting. A representative from Community Development came to Thomasville to check on the work being done at the Bear's trailer park. They were to report to the Caucus but nothing seems to have been done. It is reported that there are up to 9 new trailer sites being set up.

Monroe Dodd reported that they had contacted Pitkin County about work being done at the Ruedi site for broadband. He was referred to Pathfinder who told him that the Ruedi site doesn't "beam" up valley at this time. The 80 foot tower only beams down valley. Work will start on August 3 on the Thomasville site near the Eagle road. Installers will replace equipment to enhance emergency communications, TV transmission, internet possibilities.

The Tabulation Committee reported on their work on the upcoming election. Lists of property owners have been updated for both Pitkin and Eagle counties. Ballots were printed, numbered, and addressed. Ballots will go out this week by July 15 and should be returned by August 1. Late ballots can be brought to the August meeting but it is much more helpful to mail your ballot to PO Box 10, Meredith, CO 81642. Please vote early.

The Corn Boil was discussed. Rueben Sadowski reported on his plan to host the event at Beyul Retreat (formerly the Diamond J). He said they could do the event for \$2,400 or \$20 per person for about 120 people which is the number we had in 2019. Their Chef would prepare brisket or pulled pork, corn and a couple of sides. We would still bring pot luck dishes. Their Chef would need to reheat hot dishes to keep with Health Dept. requirements for safety as they are trying to keep strict compliance of health department rules. There was discussion of how it could work since in 2019 the Caucus spent only \$899 on the event. There were concerns about Covid issues and that some are hearing about increases in cases and deaths at the local hospitals. Some expressed concerns that if we plan on 120 people and many won't come due to Covid concerns. Finally, John Crowley moved and Monroe Dodd seconded, that we not have the Corn Boil in 2021. A vote was taken and it was agreed that we should wait until 2022 so we can be better organized and more certain of public health.

Pam Woolley reported on the new website she has set up and is still working on. It now contains agendas, minutes back to 2020, Bylaws, Master Plan, organizational documents and photos. The website is <a href="https://www.caucus.ufpv.net">www.caucus.ufpv.net</a>. It includes a contact form so everyone can contact Pam with comments or problems.

Dale invited all the candidates who are up for election to introduce themselves and tell everyone a bit about why they would like to hold office.

There will be no Valley Girl Luncheon this year.

Pat Crowley reported that there will be services at the Methodist Church on July 18 and August 15 at 6pm. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you to Pam Woolley and the Meredith General Store for supplying the ice cream for the impromptu ice cream social on July 4. Everyone enjoyed it.

John Crowley moved that the meeting be adjourned. Lyle Schoon seconded. The meeting was adjourned at  $9:08~\mathrm{pm}$ .

The next meeting will be at 7pm on August 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Lee

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