UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 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, Carolyn Shell – all present
	Betty Lou Woolley - absent
Members attending:	32 Guests: 3

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. The minutes of the July 2021 meeting were approved.

Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$8,543.48. It was approved. This amount reflects the partial cost of the election. Pat will contact Pitkin County to request the usual contribution for Caucus expenses. Dick Shell moved and Jacque Schoon seconded that the Caucus should donate \$300 to the Fire Department for use of the building. Tommy Stewart offered to make that donation and many thanks to Tommy for doing so. There was a question about the Caucus bank accounts regarding who are the signers on the account. Jacque Schoon noted that per bank standards there should be 2 signers which we believe there are. John Crowley moved and Lea Vasten seconded that the Treasurer should check on that and report back and that the Secretary should be the second signer. The motion passed. Jacque offered to do an informal audit which she will do in coordination with Pat Crowley.

Dale introduced the US Forest Service representative Jennifer Schuller, Deputy District Ranger. She mentioned that the I-70 closure has created impacts for the forest as people are trying various routes around the closure. There is still a car stuck on Hagerman, a Lexus from Utah that should not have been on that road. Jennifer asked for reports of things we notice that should not be in the forest such as permanent campers, etc. She said that Pitkin County and the Sherriff's Dept. are asking Google and Apple to change their maps and GPS.

Jennifer said that the large number visitors to the forest is similar to 2020 which was a very high year. Trail crews are still working on clearing avalanche damage from 2018 and they will next work on the blowdowns of trees from Fall 2020 in various locations.

The timber sales deadline for bids has passed. Work may begin in summer 2022.

There was a problem with a bear in Chapman Campground breaking into campers, vehicles and tents, causing a closure of the campground to tents and soft-sided campers for a few weeks. The bear was trapped and euthanized.

Pitkin County Commissioner Francie Jacober addressed the Caucus and reported on the stakeholders meetings regarding reintroduction of wolves in Colorado. Many in Moffat County are very opposed and very emotional. It is not yet known if wolves will be released in Pitkin or Eagle Counties.

Francie mentioned the Transportation Committee on which she serves. There is overcrowding everywhere in the valley which is made worse with the I-70 closure.

Francie said that Broadband is coming. The 80 foot tower was installed at Ruedi and work is now being done at the Thomasville site. There was a question about why the 80 foot tower was installed when a 120 foot tower is needed to serve Meredith and Thomasville. Francie said the Forest Service would not approve a 120 foot tower. Francie recommended that we talk to staff member Jeff Krueger at Pitkin County.

There was a question about speed signs like the lighted one installed in 2019. It has helped a lot and it would help to have another one for the downvalley side. Francie said to talk to Brian Pettit at Pitkin County.

Pitkin County Director of Community Development Cindy Houben addressed the Caucus regarding Mobile Home Parks. They have recently red-tagged one in the area and therefore she cannot talk about it. Both the Master Plan and the Code address Mobile Home Parks but the Code is that which must be followed. There is no Mobile Home Park zone in the Frying Pan area where it is zoned AR2. The parks are non-conforming uses which can continue until it stops such use, meaning that if trailers are moved out for 1 year they can't be replaced. A red tag stops anything that needs a permit, such as electric. Repair is OK

John Swomley wanted to discuss setting a committee to study ways to maintain and keep water in the upper FP valley. Rueben Sadowsky moved and Dick Shell seconded that we should form a committee to study water conservation. The vote passed unanimously. Volunteers include John Swomley, Rueben Sadowski as Chairman, Jacque Schoon, and Dick Shell.

John Swomley moved that a standing committee be formed to address US Forest Service issues and report back to the Caucus. Rueben seconded. The motion was approved with 4 members opposed. Volunteers include John Swomley as Chairman, Bruce Barker, John Crowley, Kyle Travis and Rueben Sadowsky.

John Swomley reported that his lawsuit against the USFS logging project will be heard in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on 9/20.

Rueben Sadowsky announced that he is offering a Community Dinner at Beyul Retreat on Sunday August 29, at 7:00 pm. There will be a cash bar and everyone could bring a salad, appetizer or dessert.

There will be a concert at Beyul Retreat on September 1 featuring the band Birds of Play from Telluride. Everyone is invited. Check their website: Beyul Retreat.com.

Dick Shell announced that their daughter Dr. Karen Shell, Associate Professor of Climate Science at Oregon State University, is offering to provide an air quality sensor to be placed in the upper Frying Pan area to monitor air quality. It would need to be at a location with wifi. Rueben Sadowsky offered that it could be installed at Beyul Retreat. When installed it will report readings at www.purpleair.com/map which is accessible to everyone.

The Tabulation Committee reported on the election of Officers and Board members. There was an excellent response this year with 114 ballots returned which is a 33% response. There were 92 ballots from Pitkin County for a 54% response rate and 22 from Eagle County for a 12% rate.

Those elected are:

Dale Coombs	
John Crowley	
Melanie Buchholz	
Pat Crowley	
Board Members are:	
Jean Dodd	
Marilyn Lee	
Jacque Schoon	
Lea Vasten	
Pam Woolley	

A special thank you to the Tabulation Committee for all their work. They acquired up-to-date records of all property owners in the 2-county Caucus area and did an excellent job conducting the election.

There was a brief discussion about whether we should consider changing the boundaries of the Caucus since Eagle County does not recognize our Caucus and we have very little participation from anyone west of the Pitkin County line. Pam Woolley moved and Jean Dodd seconded and the motion passed to form committee to study data and report to the Caucus in June 2022. The committee will be Pan Woolley as Chairperson, Monroe Dodd, Abby Stern and Debbie Bain.

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

Dick Shell moved and Jean Dodd seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. All agreed.

Thank you to Teresa Lee for selecting and delivering books from the Pitkin County Library to the Meredith Little Library. And thank you to Lucy and John Stephenson for starting the Little Library.

The next meetings will be June 13, July 11 and August 8, 2022, second Monday of each month.

The website is <u>www.caucus@ufpv.net</u>.

Respectfully submitted for the final time,

Marilyn Lee