

# UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

## MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2022

Thomasville Firehouse

7:00 PM

Executive Board: Dale Coombs – Chairman; John Crowley – Vice Chairman;

Pat Crowley – Treasurer; Melanie Buchholz - Secretary – all present

Board Members: Marilyn Lee, Jean Dodd; Lea Vasten, Pam Wooley; Jacque Schoon – all present

Members attending: Monroe Dodd, Maggie Roth, Lyle Schoon, Gail Coombs, Ben Warning, Tommy Stewart, Barbie Stewart, Buck Buchholz, Matt Weeter, Danny Hundert, Laura Travis, Kyle Travis, Sarge Whalen, Mary Whalen, John Swamley, Reuben Sadowsky, Enrico Grigoletto, Dolores Nogaro, Bos Hunt, Kathryn Vagner, Todd Barker, Abby Stern, and Betty Lou Woolley.

Guests: Dave from Pathfinder Broadband;  
Kevin Warner, US Forest Service District Ranger

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03. The minutes of the August 2022 meeting were approved by motion from Jacque which was seconded and approved.
- Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$9,071.10. Marilyn made motion and Pam 2<sup>nd</sup>, report was then approved. The new AED was paid (\$1,990.00) for in December, 2021; however, the caucus has applied for a grant through Roaring Fork Fire & Rescue (RFFR) and we anticipate the cost of the AED will be reimbursed to the Caucus as soon as the grant is approved.
- Dale introduced Dave with Pathfinder who discussed available internet via "fixed wireless". The intent is to deliver high speed internet service to rural area. Pathfinder is primarily in the Roaring Fork and Eagle Valleys. Pathfinder has partnered with Pitkin County to provide public service from the Pitkin County towers. Due to height restrictions, they were unable to build the towers higher to be able to provide more service to more people. Line of sight to the towers is needed to be able to get Pathfinder service in your home. A repeater is possible in a location with line of sight to the tower and power, then would need to take a look at how many homes could be serviced to make a repeater worth the cost, grant, etc. Dave clarified that Pathfinder sells the internet service but they had no say in where or when the tower was built.
- Dale introduced the US Forest Service representative, Kevin Warner, District Ranger.
  - Peregrine Falcons are back in Lime Creek Canyon this year. Therefore, a closure in the Lime Creek area will be in effect until July 31<sup>st</sup>. Kevin provided copies of the Forest Service News Release to anyone who wanted one at the meeting. The closure order and maps are available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver>.

- The Eagle-Thomasville and Burnt Mountain roads will be open on the annual open date of June 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Burnt Mountain road is getting some pretty heavy maintenance this year which will begin June 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be bringing the majority of the road materials up from the Eagle side. The road will stay open but there are possibilities of 30 min. delays.
  - Please do not drive on the wet roads because it makes those ruts worse.
- Regarding hiking trails:
  - Wind this winter and spring has been heavy and continues to bring down a lot of trees. Most of Savage Lakes, Josephine Lake and Frying Pan Lakes trails were taken care of last summer but there are new downed trees from the recent wind.
  - South man trail – Kevin will follow up to see if it has been cleared. However, it was not cleared in the fall.
- Fire Restrictions/Forecast:
  - No fire restrictions yet. However, if the temperatures remain high without moisture; therefore, this may change. The dead fuel lying on the ground is more dried than normal due to drought.
  - Long term fire forecast is for below average precipitation and above normal temperatures. The good news it appears annual monsoons anticipated to occur.
- Reudi Reservoir:
  - Pitkin County sheriff will be patrolling Ruedi on weeks this summer.
- Timber sales:
  - Upper Frying Pan timber sale - intent is getting into the area around Seller this year and they will be bringing the harvest down the Frying Pan Road. Products The size of timber harvest area has been decreased. The timber will be taken to Gypsum.
  - The Burnt Mountain timber sale – Unknown when the buyer intends to harvest, but they could start this year. Generally, they will let the Forest Service know their intent to harvest at least a couple of months prior to starting. Dale asked Kevin if they had a representative that could speak to the Caucus. Kevin will reach out to and invite Chris McDonald of Colorado Mountain Resources to come to a Caucus meeting.
  - Coyote Park timber sale – Buyer has not yet let the Forest Service know their intent on when to begin harvesting, but they could start anytime.
- Horseshoe Bend Lodge (f.k.a. Frying Pan River Lodge at Nast):
  - Forest Service lease of the property with Dale & Gail Coombs completed.
  - Dale made a comment that Kevin and the Forest Service have been very helpful in working with he and Gail on the Horseshoe Bend Lodge lease.
- AED is now in the post office. Was paid for out of the Caucus budget but are awaiting approval of a grant which we anticipate covering the entire cost.
  - Ruben noted they have an AED in the Beyeul main lodge office as well.
- Mel discussed helicopter insurance options and looking into members own health insurance to see if they are covered if they are interested.
- Peter Boyet of the CPW wife had her twin boys early so he was unable to make it to the June meeting. Congratulations to the Boyet Family!
- Fishing and hunting licenses are available at the Meredith store if needed.

- Members discussed what we knew about the status of the wolf reintroductions. It sounds like wolf introduction is still in planning stages and collecting information. They have not yet decided where will be released. However, the wolf has hit the endangered list. Therefore, if the wolf stays on the endangered list, the Federal government would then be in charge of the reintroduction. MT, ID & WY (and maybe OR) are excluded from the endangered list because they have numbers there that would not be endangered. If the Feds are responsible for the reintroduction, it is anticipated they would need to do their own studies, collecting information and planning prior to the reintroduction. If the Feds take over, it appears unlikely that wolves would be reintroduced in 2023.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities – meeting at the Lime Kilns at 5:00pm.
- Marilyn, Ruben, Lea, Jack, and Pat volunteered to be on the Corn Boil committee. Rueben said that Beyuel has held onto Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> and can host the corn boil if that's what the committee decides to do. Agreed the Corn Boil committee would meet and discuss location and dates and let us know at the July meeting.
- Agreed all are okay with the caucus paying for the repairs to the Meredith town sign. All agreed to have Duane Vasten complete the repairs following a motion by Jacque for same which was seconded by multiple people. Melanie will tell Duane to contact Pam for a check once the repairs are complete.
- Pam let people know that things are posted on the Caucus website (<https://caucus.ufpv.net>).
- Ken & Karen Cameron Jammeron's son died. Pat used her personal credit card to send flowers. Pam made a motion to reimburse Pat. Marilyn seconded the motion. Caucus agreed to reimburse Pat for the flowers.
- Monroe Dodd reminded all to take larger items to the dump as not to fill the dumpsters. All in attendance thanked Monroe for all his hard work with the garbage and recycling.
- Ben from Norey noted Jim and Sheryl Cowden have retired from the Norey Coloney and are now in Sterling, CO. Troy & Adelle are new caretakers and hopefully they will come to the next meeting so members can meet them.

The next meetings will be July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The UFPV Caucus website is [www.caucus@ufpv.net](http://www.caucus@ufpv.net).

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Buchholz