

UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 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 attended: Monroe Dodd, Lyle Schoon, Gail Coombs, Ron Bain, Debbie Bain, Troy Rhudy, Kristin Rhudy, Jean Pouleur, Jessica Pouleur, Jennifer Roberts, John Swomley, Buck Buchholz, Bob Hunt, Kathy Hunt, Adele McCutcheon, Troy McCutcheon, Terry Langley, Reuben Sadowsky and Abby Stern.

Guests: Pitkin County Commissioner Francie Jacober

Cindy Huben from Pitkin County Community Development

- Cindy Huben from Pitkin County Community Development has retired after 37 years and came to say goodbye. Thank you Cindy for all of your hard work!
- The meeting was called to order at 7:05. The minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting were approved by motion from Jacque which was seconded by Pam and approved.
- Welcomed to the Caucus Jean & Jessica Pouluer (owners of Double Diamond) as well Troy & Adelle McCutcheon (new caretakers of the Norrie Colony).
- Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$9,071.10. Marilyn made motion to approve the report and Pam seconded the motion. The report was then approved.
- A member had reached out and wanted to know where donations to the Caucus could be sent. Pat confirmed caucus donations can be sent 22971 Frying Pan Rd, P.O. Box 10, Meredith, CO 81642.
- Francie Jacober discussed
 - o Committee Growth Advisory Committee applications deadline has passed and they are still reviewing applications.
 - They are looking at several different issues with the goal to find compromises and solutions addressing the effects of growth and the county's climate action objectives.
 - Are looking closely at TDRs to limit the building of homes with very large square footage. They are looking at reassessing the TDR program. Fractional TDRs? TDRs are so valuable now, that the last sold went for \$2 million dollars.

- One of Francie goals is to go to the state regarding Crystal River water issues.
- Short Term Rentals (STRs):
 - There have been some complaints about too many STRs in area and it is negatively impacting their communities. On the other hand, some are in favor.
 - The Board has made the decision and regulation that you can apply for a license (which you must have to operate a STR). You can only rent out your STR for 120 days a year. If you operated prior to May 2022, you will need an inspection.
 - Fees for the license will be used to for a position to monitor. Francie says the object is not for the county to make money on the fees but to be able to run the program. The fees will be .05% - .08% of the assessed value of the property with consideration for how many of the 120 days the STR is rented.
 - Areas zoned rural and remote will not be able to operate STRs.
 - Aspen has over 1,300 STRs.
- RAFTA:
 - Francie is also on the RAFTA committee.
 - Trying to get grants for the regional transportation center.
 - RAFTA is currently down 40 drivers leaving more people on fewer buses. It appears difficult to get drivers because there is low affordable housing available for drivers.
 - Still in the process of trying to convert to electric buses.
 - A Redstone route has been discussed; however, trying to work on the valley floor program now.
- Affordable Housing – Meeting on July 19th to discuss “all the irons we have in the fire right now”. Philips trailer park being looked at to build possibly 70 units. Francie will discuss more with the Caucus after her July 19th meeting.
- Wolves – Next meeting will be in Glenwood, last was in Durango.
 - They are looking at how to reimburse ranchers for loss of livestock due to the reintroduction of wolves.
 - Looking at ways to keep the wolves away from livestock (e.g. night riders on forest service land to discourage wolves from coming in).
 - Committee is composed of 6 advocates, 6 outfitters, 6 producers. Committee is very congenial considering they are on opposite sides.
 - They are trying to put a lot of the work in the hands of the CPW.
 - The wolves would only be released on the Western Slope. The writers of the bill were at the last meeting but did not shed any light on this restriction. Francie thinks the Western Slope was chosen because population density.
 - They have not decided yet where they will be introduced but may be in the White River National Forest.
 - Unknown how many will be reintroduced.
- Noise ordinance in the County would be referred to “quite enjoyment” if we want to look it up.
- Corn Boil Committee Report – Pat, Jacque, Lee, Rueben.
 - Ruben from Beyeul volunteered to host the corn boil this year for the same amount the Caucus spent in 2019 (\$889) on a Sunday, August 7th. Guests will also need to sign a liability waiver. Guests will be able to make donations directly to the Caucus while at the event. Beyeul must have a cash bar because

they have a liquor license to protect. John Crowley made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation for **Beyeul to host the 2022 Corn Boil on Sunday August 7th at 5:00pm**, the motion was seconded by Jean Dodd and approved. The corn boil committee will make sure to include an RSVP on the invitation.

- Regarding the Water Committee, John Swomley will review the committee members listed on the August 2021 Minutes and will contact them to schedule a meeting. Rueben is the co-chair of the committee and has reached out to Bureau of Reclamation. Jean has already reached out to have someone speak at the August meeting regarding a possible tour of Ruedi. Jean and Reuben will discuss to see if their separate communications with the Bureau of Reclamation are with the same people/person, etc.
- Dale advised he had spoken to US Forest Service representative, Kevin Warner, who said he will have a spokesman from the contractor and a representative from the forest service come and they will talk at our August meeting. If nothing else, we will be able to find out schedules when they may start hauling trees down the road. Kevin noted the harvesting may begin in early August prior to our meeting.
- Debbie Bain raised concerns regarding noise and music specific to Beyeul. Those concerns included what she described as the impact on Beyeul's neighbors as well as the wildlife in the area. Debbie read a letter written by Kathy Block (unable to attend the meeting) outlining her concerns regarding loud music. Buck Buchholz mentioned he had heard in the past the base from the music 2 miles away from Beyeul at this home in Thomasville. Debbie said the county has advised her the noise ordinance states sound is measured in decibels and should not register louder than 55-65 decibels. It is her understanding that 55-65 decibels is about the level of normal conversation. Reuben from Beyeul explained they have a self imposed policy of no amplified music after 10pm. Reuben expressed that he is willing to work with his closest neighbors to find a resolution. Reuben and Debbie agreed to discuss the noise/music concerns to see if they could resolve the issue.
- As a reminder, Monroe explained that large items should be taken to the dump and not placed into our dumpsters. The dump will provide you \$100 in credits to take your things to the dump.
- Buck brought up the issue of vehicles traffic and speeding through Meredith and Thomasville. Rueben suggested a committee be formed to address. Committee member volunteers include Reuben, Buck, John Swomley and Melanie. Discussed further as a Caucus and agreed we would have Brian Pette, (Director of Public Works which includes Roads and Bridges) come to our August meeting (Mel has invited) potentially along with a representative from the Sherriff's office.
- Heavy equipment is currently going up and down the Frying Pan Road to perform repairs to one of the diversion tunnels that had a collapse.
- Thanks was given to Pam and the Meredith General Store for providing the ice cream social that followed the July 4th festivities.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

The 2022 Corn Boil will be on Sunday August 7th at 5:00pm at Beyeul (f.k.a. The Diamond J).

The next and last Caucus meeting of summer 2022 will be Monday August 8th at 7:00pm at the Thomasville fire station.

The UFPV Caucus website is www.caucus@ufpv.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Buchholz