

UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 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: Betty Wooley, Paul Bregoli, Renee Baer, George Baer, Karen Speros, Alex Speros, Kyle Travis, Alex Speros, Kyle Travis, Laura Travis, Mary Whalen, Sarge Whalen, Tommy Stewart, Chuck King, Katheryn Vagneur, Monroe Dodd, Lyle Schoon, Gail Coombs, Ron Bain, John Swomley, Bob Hunt, Kathy Hunt, Julie Vance and Reuben Sadowsky.

Guests: Pitkin County Commissioner Francie Jacober

Cindy Huben from Pitkin County Community Development

- The meeting was called to order at 7:06. The minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting were approved by motion from Dale which was seconded by Kyle and approved.
- Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$8,673.19. A total of \$890 in donations were received at the corn boil. Marilyn made a motion to approve the report and Pam seconded the motion. The report was then approved.
- Brian Pettet from Pitkin County and Undersheriff Alex Burchetta discussed traffic and speeding concerns:
 - o 3 years ago the speed indicator light was installed in Thomasville. It does record data and Brian noted:
 - Average number of cars to pass the sign: 50-100/day in winter and 250-300/day in summer.
 - Brian will include additional signs/speed indicators in his yearly budget which he is currently working on. He will try to get 2 more speed indicator lights, 1 for Thomasville and 1 for Meredith.
 - o Karen Toth noted at her end of town (near the lime kilns) people coming down the road averaging about 50mph.
 - o Pam Woolley noted higher speeds on the Frying Pan Road, but there is also a lot more aggressive behavior with road rage and the worry is this aggressive behavior will escalate.

- Alex said he can commit to having a deputy up here on the days/times where the traffic is the highest and will work with Brian to determine.
 - John Swomley brought up having a speed camera. Speed humps/bumps as well as a dummy sheriff's vehicle were also brought up. Brian Pettet recommended starting with the additional signs as a deterrent and to gather more data. We can go from there.
 - Alex said they are in the process of assigning Rural Deputies with 1-2 for each rural area hoping to make a presence and impact. This includes snowmobiles 1-2 times/week (started in January 2022) and a boat on Ruedi on Sundays.
 - Dale requested contact for Sheriff's office to field questions and concerns. Obtained cell numbers for both Alex Burchetta (970-309-2317) and Parker Lathrop (970-379-3453).
 - Kevin contacted Eagle and Pitkin County to work with both Apple and Google to get Eagle-Thomasville route off the maps.
 - Brian confirmed the Traffic and Speeding Committee can follow up with him for status of the signs as well as patrols by Pitkin County.
- Kevin and Chris from U.S. Forest Service.
- Wildlife biologist wanted Kevin to let us know the Perrigin falcons raised a chick that fledged and took off. This was the second time there was a closure and the 5th time the pair has nested in lime canyon since 2016. The climbing community has been very respectful and helpful with the closure. The closure has now been lifted and climbers can get back into the canyon.
 - Savage lakes trail has been cleared. There are a couple of small logs on the ground right before you get to Savage. They have also been working on the Frying Pan Lakes trail. The south fork trail has been scouted and confirmed a lot of the downed trees was from the avalanche cycle 3 years ago. It will take many days to clear but now they know what they're dealing with so they can schedule. Work on Granite Lakes Trail has not been completed.
 - Burnt mountain road has been improved. Pat Crowley said her daughter road her bike up there this week and it is really nice. They have laid gravel in some places as well.
 - Laura said the Eagle-Thomasville road has gotten bad. Kevin is aware but will be a little while before they can get to work on that road.
 - Chuck brought up the beetle kill and asked for status. Kevin said most of the trees we are seeing turning red are Douglas Firs and are the Douglas Fir beetle (not the pine beetle). This beetle doesn't get outside of Douglas Fir trees very often. The Douglas Fir is not as prolific so hopefully they won't kill more than just pockets of these trees. You will see large pockets on the north slopes.
 - Marilyn said friends in Gunnison were using pheromones in their trees. Kevin said these can be obtained from the Colorado State Forest Service and provided Kami's email address if people would like to request (Kamie.Long@colostate.edu). Chris noted that the pheromones hung in trees can make the situation worse so you need to work closely with the state forester to make sure you are using in the best way for your situation.
 - Chris said felling of trees will be starting soon:
 - Road work into the seller area was unable to be completed so the area to be harvested is smaller (Dimer lake area was dropped).
 - The chipping will start in the next couple of weeks and is anticipated to last 2-3 months. Termination date on this project is the end of this year. At this point,

they do not believe there will be an extension filed, but all depends on the interstate (I-70) and how often it gets shut down.

- They will be chipping onsite so will see box trucks coming down the Frying Pan Road. They are looking at 5-10 loads a day. It is anticipated that trucks will be in early in the morning and out early in the day.
- They will not be pulling the trees out by the roots. This will primarily be going to Gypsum to be burned.
- Although we are charged by the County when building for trucks coming up the road, the land being harvested is federal and there will be no charge from the County to the trucks hauling the wood.

- Ed Perco, General Manager of the Busk-Ivanhoe Water Authority. Chair of the Authority, Alan Ward, was also here and they provided, in part, the following information:
 - History: After railroad went bankrupt, tunnel was purchased by Mr. Carlton to move water from Ivanhoe Creek through the tunnel. There was also vehicle traffic. The road was shut down right before World War II. In the early 70's, half of the water rights were sold to Pueblo. In the 80's, Aurora bought the other half.
 - Current project: Last restoration was 64 years ago and life of wood timbers is about 20 years. The amount of flow has reduced significantly to 20-25 cubic feet per second so can to conclusion that there was a cave-in reducing the water flow. Can only work repairs to the cave-in July-October. They started this year putting steel sets inside and replacing the wood. Not sure at this point if this will be a 1 year or multiple year project. They will need to get past some of the cave-ins before they can see how extensive the damage may be.
 - Before the cave-in, they were getting approximately 70 cubic feet per second.
 - Water rights: 5,000 acre feet/year allowed to take out of the system.
 - They currently have an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (FRARC) to carry their water for them though a different tunnel until they can get their tunnel restored.
 - Cwebb.gov or Water Education Colorado are resources to find out more information and see maps for the tunnels.
 - Dwr.state.co.us has every stream gage in the state. Roaring Fork River Conservancy has a great map.
 - They do pay a road impact fee to Pitkin County for the trucks while completing the repairs.
 - Ed Perko provided his contact phone for anyone who would like to get in touch with him: 719-569-2237.
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- CO House District 57, State Representative Perry Will. Currently running in new districts after re-districting which includes Pitkin County. Representative Will discussed, in part, the following:
 - Wildfire matters committee; Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee; Energy & Environment Interim Committee.
 - Spent over 40 years with DOW as a wildlife biologist.
 - Habit Partnership program passed last year and it's one that he is most proud of.
 - Representative Will provided his contact information if anyone would like to reach him: 970-948-8409, REPWillhd57@gmail.com.
- Corn Boil Committee Report – Pat, Jacque, Lee, Rueben.

- Corn boil was held at Beyeul on Sunday August 7th at 5:30pm. Thank you to Beyeul for hosting!
- Jean announced AED training will be held on August 25th at 7:00pm at the Firehouse and she will be in contact with those who have signed up. Jaimie Crowley will lead the AED training.
- Wednesday September 14, 2022 at 12:00 at the Pitkin County Commissioners will be a public meeting regarding special permit for Horseshoe Bend Ranch for anyone who would like to attend.
***Note: An email was sent on 8/23/22 for anyone who would like to submit comments via email and can send their email to Leslie.lamont@pitkincounty.com
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:17.

The next and last Caucus meeting will be Monday June 12, 2023.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Buchholz