

FINAL NOTES
NAFSR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CONFERENCE CALL
MAY 11, 2017

Introductions

ALL

The following Board Members were on the call: Jim Caswell, Corbin Newman, Larry Payne, Mike Rogers, Rich Stem, Darrel Kenops, Jane Kollmeyer, Ranotta McNair, Marlin Johnson, Jack Troyer, Pete Griffin, Mac Gramley, Tom Thompson, Ron Scott and Bill Timko.

Administrative Updates and Status Checks

Corbin/Larry

Membership: Johnny is having concerns about the loss of membership. Some are dropping off with no explanation.

Finances: We are doing well. Refer to Johnny's Report. Our current balance is approximately \$34,000.

Investment Proposal: Johnny Hodges put forth a proposal for moving some of the NAFSR funds into an account that would generate additional revenue. It was proposed and seconded that a small group be put together to develop a proposal to bring back to the Board. Jim will send out Johnny's write-up so we can all be on the same page. It was moved and seconded the Board move forward with assigning a task group to develop some good alternatives.

Executive Director Replacement (The Hunt)

Larry

Larry reported that he divided his task into two categories for Corbin's replacement - 1) Current Board Members, are "not interested, already too busy"; and 2) Board Members suggestions, for possible candidates for Corbin's replacement. This process generated 26 prospects and 3 of these looks very promising. In this process Larry also identified many potential and very interested Board Candidates. Corbin indicated he was

willing to talk with interested candidates. He has already talked to several and they are still interested. Jim pointed out we need to get a list of these potential Board Member candidates and follow up with them while they still have interest. It was agreed to do this (no assignment of this task was identified). Either Jim or Larry indicated we would be seeing names coming out for consideration by present Board Members for additional appointments to the Board.

Legislative Update

Bill

The big news is the Executive Order that the President sent out several weeks ago which involves the Ag Agencies and will be headed up by the recently appointed Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue. There is an opportunity for comments and suggestions. Focus will be on revitalizing Rural Communities.

The link to this new EO follows, courtesy of Bill Timko:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/25/presidential-executive-order-promoting-agriculture-and-rural-prosperity>

Three objectives relate directly to the USFS -

- 1) Removing barriers to economic prosperity and quality of life in Rural America.**
- 2) Address hurdles associated with access to resources on public lands for the rural communities that rely on cattle grazing, timber harvest, mining, recreation, and other multiple uses.**
- 3) Further the nation's energy security by advancing traditional and renewable energy production in the rural landscape.**

USFS is asking for help with the impacts of the Cottonwood Decision. Even though a project has been approved after going through extensive studies and collaborative processes, the 9th Circuit Court decision now requires entering a new Consultation each time something new is brought to light. USFS is seeking relief and needs help from outside interest groups like NAFSR. There are several grassroots initiatives

underway to get this decision changed. NAFSR signed on to a letter regarding support for this legislation and the question was brought up if we should now send a separate support letter of our own. Bill Timko was asked to check out that question.

The Secretary of Agriculture sent out a letter to all employees this morning (05/11/2017) that he will be overseeing a re-organization of the Department. The USFS will be left alone. NRCS will be pulled out of NRE. He will be creating a new Agency dealing with trade. On a positive note his letter referenced Forestry issues 5 times. Consensus is Perdue's appointment will be very good for the USFS.

Operations Updates and Status

Reimbursement Policy

Corbin/Johnny

The well written and developed Reimbursement Policy Paper was adopted as a working guideline.

2017/2018 Priorities Paper

Corbin

The paper was adopted as a working guideline as written. Jim indicated it is very helpful to have a "road map" and complimented the efforts in putting this document together.

Governance Project

Daryl, Pete, Mike, Larry

Larry reported the assigned Governance Committee has handed off the Governance Document to him for final formatting and posting on the NAFSR website. Larry thanked Al West, Darrel Kenops, Pete Griffin and Mike Rogers for all their work on this project.

Keep Public Lands Public (Position Paper)

Jack

Has not started yet, is glad to hear we have a Position Paper Guideline, likes one-pagers and wants to start from the perspective of Theodore Roosevelt, "Public Lands will always be Public". Our challenge in this Policy Statement is to continue to help the public and their elected

representatives understand and appreciate the rich legacy this country enjoys.

Restoration (Position Paper)

Rich/Marlin

Rich & Marlin's paper was sent out last night and it looks very good. The Board's assignment is to review this DRAFT document. Marlin and Rich are looking for the Board's comments within 3 weeks (comment back by May 25). Larry suggested format-wise that all of our Position Papers should look alike in the way they are organized.

Board Member Succession Policy (Decision)

Jim/Jane

Good work by Jim and Jane; there are a few minor things to clean up. Should this be an attachment to the By-Laws or embedded within the By-Laws? This DRAFT Policy should be a stand-alone as an Amendment to the By-Laws making it easier to locate. Implementation is another challenge and the suggestion was that this will take place over time.

2018 Reunion

Mac/Corbin

Registration is now open and initially had a flurry of signups. Mac is looking for help from NAFSR in getting the word out. Corbin asked about the current count. Mac did not have that information, but will get it so the information can be sent out. Jim Caswell asked about RV accommodations. Hotel is working with the Committee on this.

AWCP Summer Meeting (need a Rep)

Corbin/Jim

The next meeting is scheduled for August in Texas. This is one of our more important meetings. Corbin would not be available to attend this meeting. It would be a great meeting for the new Executive Director; however, in any case we do need a representative. Jim Caswell is unavailable. Mac indicated he attended the last Meeting for Corbin and volunteered to go if the Executive Director has not been identified. Jim would like additional volunteers to make sure we have this covered.

OPEN FORUM

All

Corbin mentioned the need to get moving on tying down the Fall Board Meeting dates which will be held in conjunction with the SAF Convention 11/15-19/2017. The 2018 Board Meeting will be aligned with the 2018 Reunion dates in North Carolina.

Jim announced we have developed a new partnership with a number of other advocacy groups, (the NPS retirees, the USFWLS retirees and the BLM retirees). Jim indicated this will become a productive alliance. He also mentioned the NPS retirees are not always aligned with the other three groups on issues, which can be challenging. Jim mentioned we are continually sought out and asked for our endorsement on many resolutions. He reiterated NAFSR is a willing signatory unless the issue is “not in”, or “runs counter” to NAFSR’s/USFS interests.

Tom Thompson announced many openings and events at the National USFS History Museum and indicated strong community support.

WRAP UP and CLOSE

Jim

Next Conference Call is August 8. Jim will not be on it because of his prescheduled River Trip.

Notes taken by Mike Rogers.