

## **Board of Directors**

### **Conference Call Notes - Final**

**November 9, 2017**

On the call - Sam Foster, Ranotta McNair, Jim Golden, Mac Gramley, Jim Caswell, Steve Eubanks, Larry Payne, Jane Kollmeyer, Rich Stem, Hank Kashdan, Bill Timko, Ron Scott, Marlin Johnson, Lee Nightingale, Susan Giannettino, Tom Thompson, Mike Rogers and Pete Griffin

#### Administrative Update – Johnny Hodges

Our current membership is 621 members. We have 81 Lifetime and 147 Golden members.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Summary was sent to the Board members earlier this week. Our current balance is \$35,185.

Johnny has worked on integrating the revised succession document into our Bylaws, but it is not ready for final review yet.

#### Legislative Update – Bill Timko

There are 20 bills in the House and 20 bills in the Senate affecting the Forest Service. The Forest Service maintains a spreadsheet tracking the bills.

Bill discussed the current situation regarding Fire Funding. We have posted his analysis dated October 27 on our website.

#### Operations – Sam Foster

### **Priorities**

Sam gave a progress report on NAFSR priorities for 2017/18.

#### **1. Strategic**

- a. Keeping Public Lands Public
  - i. Position paper completed by Jack Troyer, posted on website, and distributed
- b. Funding Catastrophic Fire Suppression
  - i. Bill Timko is active with the Fire Coalition
  - ii. NAFSR signed on to letters of support to Congressional members
- c. Forestry Policy/Process Reform
  - i. NAFSR prepared and sent to Sec. Perdue and Chief Tooke a list of 9 recommendations toward the Exec. Order 13790 on Rural Prosperity.
- d. Establish Restoration Position

- i. Position paper completed by Rich Stem and Marlin Johnson, posted on website and distributed
  - e. Emerging Public Land Management Issues
    - i. NAFSR prepared and sent to Sec. Perdue and Chief Tooke a list of 9 recommendations toward the Exec. Order 13790 on Rural Prosperity.
  - f. Fire Recommendations
    - i.
  - g. Transition of New Administration
    - i. Recommendations for the New Administration developed and transmitted by NAFSR on 12/12/16.
- 2. **Operations**
  - a. Governance Guidelines
    - i.
  - b. Records Management
    - i.
  - c. Succession Planning
    - i. Jim Caswell and Jane Kollmeyer completed a new succession policy and Johnny Hodges is adding the policy into the NAFSR Constitution and Bylaws.
  - d. Management of Website
    - i. Johnny Hodges worked with Bill Disbrow, our webmaster, to update our website and keep it effective and attractive
  - e. Support 2018 Forest Service Reunion
    - i. Planning is advancing for the Forest Service Reunion to be held in Asheville, NC on Sept. 24-28, 2018  
(<http://2018.fsreunions.org/aboutUs.html>)
  - f. Forest Service MOU
    - i.
  - g. Coalitions
    - i. NAFSR is working closely with several coalitions including the Fire Funding Coalition, American Wildlife Conservation Partners, and Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition
    - ii. NAFSR is working currently on establishing connections to other organizations such as the Public Lands Foundation and National Forest Homeowners Association

Lee Nightingale asked if recreation will continue to see a budget decline? Jim Caswell said he told the Chief we should press the recreation industry for more support. Ranotta McNair said the Chief was very supportive of recreation when he worked in R-8.

## Accomplishments

Sam gave an update on our accomplishments since August 10 -

1. Johnny Hodges is ensuring that information and documents are posted on the NAFSR website so that they are easily accessible by members.
2. 8/2/17 – Sam Foster had a coordinating call with Marni Salmon, Pew Trusts
  - a. She is developing a position paper and plans for Pew regarding best forest management practices to achieve ecosystem resilience
  - b. They are working with NFS – Clearwater-Nez Perce; Helena-Lewis & Clark; and Nantahala
  - c. Pew is helping to update forest plans especially on Wilderness issues
  - d. Sam helped to connect her with some experts in the area of forest and ecosystem resilience
3. 8/15-18/17 – Sam Foster attended the American Wildlife Conservation Partners meeting in Boerne, TX
  - a. He formally represented NAFSR including giving a short statement to the Partners
  - b. The AWCP is working to improve the process for coordinating letters to decision makers
  - c. They are also focusing on providing input to the work on the upcoming Farm Bill
  - d. Other actions at the meeting can be read on the notes send out after the meeting (listed on the NAFSR website)
4. September – Johnny Hodges attended the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) meeting in Salt Lake City in which he represented NAFSR
  - a. He made contacts and promoted a stronger relationship between PLF and NAFSR given that we share many interests
5. 9/25/17 – Sam Foster had a coordinating call with Geoffrey Urbach and Mark Dedrick
  - a. They represent the National Forest Homeowners (NFH) association which is a very large national organization of people who own homes on NFS land
  - b. NFH wants to be more politically active
  - c. They reviewed our website and feel that our organizations have similar interests and positions including:
    - i. Funding for FS in general
    - ii. Wildfire funding
    - iii. Active forest management

- d. Sam reviewed NAFSR in general and our Priorities specifically with them
  - e. We agreed to stay in touch and to look for ways to work together
6. 10/3/17 – We sent completed letter and our 9 recommendations to USDA Sec. Perdue and to FS Chief Tony Tooke regarding the Executive Order to Sec. Perdue on Rural Prosperity
- a. Jim, Larry and Sam had a call on 10/27/17 with Chief Tooke and Tina Terrell, Assoc. Deputy Chief for Business Operations, to review the NAFSR input to Sec. Perdue and the Committee that works on addressing the EO
7. 10/5/17 - NAFSR signed on to the Fire Funding Support Letter to Congressional members
8. 10/25/17 – Bill Timko and Sam Foster joined the call-in for the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition
- a. Chief Tony Tooke joined the call also (refer to Sam’s notes on NAFSR website)
    - i. He demonstrated an excellent understanding of Farm Bill programs of value to the FS
    - ii. He also reviewed the main points from his personal agenda for the FS
  - b. 5 Working Group Chairs gave quick progress updates
  - c. Reps from the Western Governors Association (WGA) attended the call and they reviewed their interests in the Farm Bill issues and alignment with the goals of the Coalition
  - d. There is good apparent alignment among NAFSR, other NGO members of the Coalition, WGA, and the FS
9. 10/27/17 – Call with Chief Tony Tooke
- a. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> call for NAFSR to Chief Tooke since he took over as the new Chief
  - b. We introduced ourselves (Jim Caswell, Larry Payne, and Sam Foster attended) and briefly presented the NAFSR mission
  - c. We discussed how we had worked with previous Chiefs and how we would like to work with him and the agency; Chief Tooke enthusiastically talked about the value of a strong relationship between NAFSR and the agency and agreed to have frequent communications; we settled on at least quarterly calls
  - d. Jim invited him to attend our next meeting in Jan./Feb/ 2018 and he said he would like to attend
  - e. Notes from the call will be distributed

10. 10/31/17 – Letter of Support for Job Corps program sent to Sec. Perdue and Chief Tooke
  - a. The letter refers specifically to the Golconda Center in IL and the current proposal from the Dept. of Labor to close it
  - b. We indicated that many of our members have worked with JC and we want Sec. Perdue and Chief Tooke to know the great value to the FS that JC students have been historically, and we offered our help if needed
  
11. 10/26/17 – Jim Caswell attended the John McGuire Award Ceremony in Salida, CO; Tom Thompson from NAFSR was there and Brian Ferebee, Regional Forester, R2 attended; the award was given to Brett Beasley, deceased, with his wife receiving the award.

Jim Caswell – Sam is doing great job. The 4 of us (Jim, Sam, Larry and Johnny) are working well together.

#### Next Board Meeting – Jim Caswell

We have canceled the next Board Meeting scheduled in Albuquerque later this month because of projected low attendance.

We will re-schedule the Board meeting for 2 days in January or February. Johnny will send out a Doodle poll to the Board members to choose the exact dates.

The format of the next meeting will be a workshop. Jim has formed a committee to plan the workshop. The committee members are Jim Golden, Susan Giannettino, Jane Kollmeyer, Jack Troyer and Rich Stem.

#### Workshop Questions –

Do we have the capability we need to function?

Do we have the right business model? Are we organized correctly?

How should we operate?

How should we communicate? Can we be more nimble?

Are we taking on the right issues?

How do we sort the issues and how do we communicate better with the Board?

How do we communicate with our members?

Larry Payne will send the workshop committee the draft agenda from the Albuquerque meeting to get started.

## Open Forum

Mac gave an update on the Forest Service reunion in Asheville, NC which is scheduled for next September.

There are 165 people signed up so far.

When you register, your contact information will be provided to the hotel. The hotel will contact you for room reservations.

There is a need for silent auction items.

Is the Board of Directors still meeting at the reunion? The organizing committee needs to know in the next couple of months.

END