

Final Notes
Board of Directors Conference Call
August 8, 2019

On the Call – Larry Payne, Tom Thompson, Jack Troyer, Dale Bosworth, Phil Aune, Rich Guldin, Bill Timko, Rich Stem, Dale Robertson, Don Howlett, Ed Shepard, Ranotta McNair, Becki Heath, Johnny Hodges, and Ed Shepard (PLF)

Administrative Updates

Johnny Hodges reported our current membership is 678 members. We purged 25 members for non-payment of 2019 dues. This compares to a purge of 13 members in 2018 and 21 members in 2017.

Our current cash balance is \$20,225 and our balance in Vanguard mutual fund is about \$6,500 for a total balance of \$26,725.

Our website is up to date. We are posting our correspondence under “Advocacy” and showing letters from the previous 12 months. Older letters are archived under “Advocacy Archive” at the top of our home page.

We currently have 71 followers on Twitter. Joe Carbone is managing our Twitter account. You can follow our account - @FSRetireesNat

NEPA Regulations

Rich Stem reviewed the process that led to our report on proposed changes to the NEPA regulations. Our comments are included in the August 5 letter posted on our website.

CEQ Regulations

Ranotta McNair discussed gearing up to comment on the proposed changes to CEQ regulations. Her plans –

- Tag on to Rich Stem’s NEPA report
- Partner with SAF
- Ask for help from Joe Carbone
- Plan to form a team

There is no firm date to provide input.

Dale Robertson said CEQ has stopped working on this project.

Capacity Study

Larry Payne and Rich Stem reviewed the Forest Service Workforce Capacity Study which we completed. We sent the study to Secretary Perdue on July 26 with a cover letter. Both the letter and the study are posted on our website under “Advocacy”.

SAF plans to feature the study in a future issue of the Forestry Source.

Forest Climate Working Group

Rich Guldin and Bill Timko led a discussion of the Forest Climate Working Group.

Rich prepared a briefing paper on this topic which Larry sent to the Board. There are 4 entry principles at the bottom of the first page which must be agreed to before joining the group. No one objected to the principles.

Phil Aune said their website is out of date and questioned the advantage of joining the group.

The group currently has 47 members.

Reforestation is one of the issues they are addressing.

Jack Troyer felt we could have a positive influence on the group.

A question was asked about whether we could use Dave Cleaves as our representative on the group. Since Dave is a leader of the group, it might not be a good idea for him to be our representative. Bill Timko and Rich Guldin will be our representatives for now.

Rich has drafted a letter applying for membership in the group. The Board was in general agreement that NAFSR should join this working group.

BLM Reorganization

Ed Shepard of the Public Lands Foundation led a discussion on the proposed BLM reorganization. Jack Troyer has prepared a letter on this issue to be sent from NAFSR. Ed said that he liked Jack's letter. Ed hopes to testify at a Congressional hearing on September 11.

There are two issues in Jack's letter – the first is the move of the BLM headquarters from Washington, DC to various locations in the West. The second issue is the lack of Senate confirmation of the BLM director.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that the two issues should probably be separated into two different letters. Jack will prepare new drafts.

Forest Service Fleet

The FS has been directed to reduce their fleet of vehicles. Larry sent a Briefing Paper to the Board prior to the call and pointed out some of the specific details of this direction.

The FS reduced their fleet by 315 vehicles by the end of FY2018. They are being asked for additional reductions of 1,500 vehicles in 2020 and 1,500+ in 2021. This would result in an approximately 21.4% reduction since 2017.

There was discussion on whether NAFSR should write a letter on this issue. The Board agreed with Larry that he would discuss with Jim about drafting a letter to the Secretary urging him to reconsider the decision.

Awards

Phil Aune led a discussion on the status of Awards. The Awards Committee wrote a letter to the Chief on May 2 asking for a lead person to help on awards. They received no reply. He then suggested sending letters to the Regional Foresters to search for candidates.

Tom Thompson suggested that we do not make this a FS program. We should spend time as a Board to network and find nominations. Each Regional Representative on the Board should come with a nomination at the next Board meeting. This was agreed to by the Board.

Phil followed up with an email to Board members. The Regional Representatives on the Board will gather nominations. If anyone has potential nominees, they should send them to the Regional Reps.

2021 Reunion

Phil Aune gave an update on the 2021 National Reunion. It will be held at Harrah's at Lake Tahoe on September 13-17, 2021. Nancy Gibson is leading the organization putting the reunion together. She hopes to have her team completed by the end of the year. She would like to meet with NAFSR at our next in-person Board meeting tentatively scheduled for February 2020.

Johnny Hodges
Secretary
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