

Final Notes

NAFSR Board of Directors Zoom Meeting

August 5, 2021

In Attendance - Becky Heath, Greg Griffith, Steve Ellis, Doug Crandall, Lynn Sprague, Bill Disbrow, Mike Rogers, Jim Caswell, Ranotta McNair, Nora Rasure, Susan Skalski, Malcolm Gramley, Phil Aune, Jack Troyer, Steve Eubanks, Don Howlett, Bill Timko, Jane Kollmeyer, Dale Bosworth, Rich Stem, Sharon Friedman, Gene Blankenbaker, Larry Payne, and Jeanne Wade Evans. Guest – Kurt Wiedenmann

Membership and Finance – Johnny Hodges

- Our current membership is 715 members. At this time in 2020 we had 696 members.
- We purged 12 members last month that had not paid their 2021 dues. This is the lowest number of members we have purged in the last 5 years.
- Financial summary – at the end of July, we had \$31,640 in cash and CD's and \$13,860 in our long-term investments for a total of \$45,500.

Website – Bill Disbrow

Our webmaster, Bill Disbrow, did a quick review of our current website home page. We are always looking to improve our website, so if you have any ideas, please pass them on.

Jim Caswell reminded Board members about soliciting fire updates from regional foresters during the fire season. We have set up a Fire Update box on the website. So far this fire season we have received updates from R-1 and R-6.

Legislative Update – Doug Crandall

Doug Crandall has joined the Board and will serve as our congressional liaison. Bill Timko will serve as our liaison with the Forest Service leadership in the Washington Office.

- The infrastructure package has a good chance of passing.
 - It includes the Highway Bill. The FS share is still at historical level which is low at \$5.7 billion over 5 years. Work is continuing to change the share.
 - \$3.3 billion is included for forest management.
 - It includes the Replant Act which removes the cap on RTRT (reforestation trust fund) funding.
 - Hazardous fuels funding is just for work in the WUI.
 - There are amendments proposed including direct hire authority.
- Senator Manchin and others have written several bills that have not yet been introduced.
- The Reconciliation Bill has a lot of funding for the Forest Service.

- The Appropriation Bill includes an increase of \$680 billion over FY21. It includes some earmarks for State and Private Forestry. It is possible it could turn into another Continuing Resolution.
- Homer Wilkes, the nominee for NRE Secretary has had a long career in NRCS. He may not have in-depth knowledge of FS issues.

Update on Personnel Changes and New Committees – Steve Ellis

- Steve will take over as chair in September.
- Steve has not yet found a Vice Chair.
- Jim Caswell will remain on the Board as Past Chair.
- Larry Payne will leave the Board.
- Jane Kollmeyer is also leaving the Board.
- Steve, Jim, and Larry prepared a paper titled “NAFSR Standing Committee and Team Responsibilities and Expectations” which was shared with the Board on August 5. Among other things, it clarifies the difference between committees and teams. “Committees” remain in place year after year while “Teams” are used for a specific task.
- The new committees/teams that have been organized in the last few months –
 - Sustainable Recreation Committee – Nora Rasure, Chair
 - Fire Committee – This is a new iteration of the previous Fire Committee with new members. Mike Dudley is the Interim Chair.
 - Restoration Committee - Kurt Wiedenmann, Chair
 - Communications Team – Hank Kashdan, Chair

Administrative Proposals: Liability Insurance, Dues, News Alerts, Reunion, McGuire Award – Steve Ellis

Steve suggested that we purchase Liability Insurance policy for the Board. Johnny is currently working with a company to determine the cost. We expect the annual cost to be in the range of \$1,000 to \$1,500. After some discussion, we decided to schedule a vote of the Board.

Steve proposed to raise annual dues by \$5. This increase would only impact members paying dues annually. It would not affect Lifetime or Golden members. We estimate it would raise an additional \$1,200 per year. We do not think annual dues have been increased since NAFSR was formed in 2000.

We have been experimenting with a Google News Alert for the last month. Johnny has set up a search with Google which looks for stories involving the Forest Service. He has forwarded these stories to Jim, Larry, and Steve. Over the last month, the search generated links to about 3 to 5 stories per day. Johnny will ask other Board members if they would like to be added to the list.

Jim led a discussion of a NAFSR donation to the 2022 Forest Service Reunion. We have been asked to sponsor the icebreaker event on the first night of the reunion. The donation is

estimated to be between \$5,000 and \$5,600. Any donations made to the reunion will help offset their costs and increase the net proceeds which are donated to the National Museum of Forest Service History.

Jim would like to ask our members to contribute to our donation amount. After much discussion, the proposal was put to a vote of the Board. Greg Griffith made a motion to fund the icebreaker event. It was seconded by Mike Rogers. The motion passed.

We will set up a process to allow members to make a donation to NAFSR that is earmarked for the reunion.

Steve will attend the Rocky Mountaineers Annual Gathering in Woodland Park, CO on September 9 and 10. He will present the John R. McGuire award to the Pikes Peak R.D. of the Pike and San Isabel N.F. The award to the district was finalized last year, but the presentation was delayed because of covid.

Student Congress – Jim Caswell

NAFSR has been asked to assist the Public Lands Foundation with the annual Student Congress. PLF has organized and sponsored the Student Congress for many years. Jim will work with PLF on the next Congress scheduled for 2022.

New Committee and Team Updates

Communications Plan Team

Chair: Hank Kashdan

Members: Larry Payne, Jeanne Wade-Evans, Sharon Friedman

The team has prepared a Draft Communications Plan Template which was shared with the Board ahead of our meeting.

Once the Plan is finalized it will reside on the website to serve as a guide to assist various NAFSR groups to communicate our position on a variety of issues.

Restoration Committee

Chair: Kurt Wiedenmann

Core Members: Sharon Friedman, Steve Eubanks, Jack Troyer

Kurt said the committee will hold their first meeting next week. They are tracking current legislation in Congress.

Fire Committee

Interim Chair: Mike Dudley

Members: Jeanne Wade-Evans, Joe Stutler, Steve Eubanks, Rich Lasko, Dr. Tom Zimmerman,

Bill Van Bruggen

An action team has been organized around the Fire Committee. A draft charter was shared with the Board in May and a final charter is expected to be ready soon.

The committee is set up for 9 members. Send Mike any feedback you may have about the committee. There will be overlap with the Restoration Committee.

Larry mentioned that Mike Rogers will serve as a liaison with the new committee.

Sustainable Recreation Committee

Chair: Nora Rasure

Members: Gene Blankenbaker, Jane Kollmeyer, Ranotta McNair, Susan Skalski, Jim Upchurch, Tom Wagner, Susan Alden Weingardt

The committee is currently working on action items, external contacts, and congressional contacts.

Open Forum

Bill Timko said the FSX group in Washington, DC will host Chief Randy Moore at their next (and first since covid) luncheon on Thursday, September 30. They will use Zoom Meetings during Randy's talk at about 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time, and the Board is invited to attend. Details will follow.

This was the last Board meeting for Jim Caswell as chair, for Larry Payne and for Jane Kollmeyer. There were thanks all around for the job they have done.

Notes taken by

Johnny Hodges

Final edits, August 18, 2021