

FENW Board Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2010

Attendees:

FENW: Currie Craven, Ken Harper, Cyndi Koop, Dave Raymond, Bill Reed, George Resseguie, John Taylor, and Rick Warren
USFS: Cindy Ebbert
Special Guest: Scott Fussell, Friends of Dillon Ranger District (FDRD)

Meeting Minutes – Minutes from the October 22 BD meeting and the November 13 Annual Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

- As of December 31, there was \$19,739 in the FENW bank account, down slightly from November 30.
- Final year-end cash position is still being determined because a number of receipts/invoices have not been reimbursed to BD members. George R. to complete as soon as possible.
- For 2010, an initial budget was discussed in detail, with particular focus on maximizing the effect of unrestricted funds for FENW activities. Suggestions were as follows:
 - Place added focus on FENW advertising and publicity (see below)
 - Pay for FENW members to attend training classes – e.g. Leave Not Trace Masters Course – that will benefit FENW's goals and objectives. Cyndi Koop has an interest in this training.
 - Purchase a GPS-enabled camera – ***BD Motion – Authorize George R. to spend up to \$750 to purchase a camera, using the Black Hills Parks \$500 grant from 2009, supplemented by \$250 in unrestricted contributions from 2010.***
 - Pay for FENW members to attend advocacy-related meetings such as the Wilderness Friends meeting in Colorado Springs and other such meetings that require out-of-town travel. ***BD Motion – Authorize payment of travel expenses for Currie to attend the Wilderness Friends meeting on March 5-7).***
 - Be prepared to provide financial support for the purchase of materials for USFS trail projects.
- FENW still has \$2,500 of unspent grant money from The Summit Foundation (TSF) for weed mitigation. It was agreed for George R. and John T. to discuss options with TSF for either returning the money or applying it to other FENW projects in 2010.
- FENW banking arrangements will be moved to 1st Bank in February. There is no cost for maintaining a checking account and the process to change signatories is far easier than with US Bank. (George R.)
- The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Business Items

Membership

- For 2009, dues received totaled \$4,911; the payments were for 122 renewals and 10 new members.
- It was agreed to continue using the Newsletter for 2010 dues campaigns (spring and fall).

Grants for 2010

- Award for \$10,000 has been received from NFF/Ski Area Conservation Fund for noxious weed mitigation.
- Awards for \$2,750 have been received from TSF (\$2,000) and the Towns of Breckenridge, Frisco, and Silverthorne (\$250 each) for signage.
- John T. has submitted a grant request for \$490 to the Pulling for Colorado organization.
- It was agreed not to submit a grant request to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) for weed mitigation given the receipt of the NFF/Ski Area Fund award. George R. will communicate with RMEF to provide status of our weed mitigation efforts and to thank them for their past support.
- George R. will submit a grant request for tools & equipment to Colorado State Parks in the fall; the amount to be requested will be determined later this year.
- Cindy E. advised that she does not expect any grant funding to be available from the USFS this year; last year, FENW received \$500 from the Black Hills Parks for campsite inventories.

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Publicity

The following items were discussed:

- FENW needs to have someone coordinate publicity efforts covering the media, brochures, communication with schools, seniors, etc. The newsletters are effective, but more is needed to attract new members.
- There should be more attention to the distribution of brochures around the County. Cindy E. suggested that all of the available brochures be brought to the next BD meeting, sites selected, and BD members choose a site to handle.
- All of the FENW storyboards need to be updated; further discussion needed to find someone to do it.
- Bill R's company is going to have a tent at the Dillon Farmer's Market this summer to offer information regarding the company's services. He offered to invite a FENW representative to the tent each week to hand out brochures, discuss FENW, etc. Perhaps WV's could handle a shift that would count as one of their trail days – further discussion is needed.
- Bill R. also suggested having a FENW BD member investigate possibly hiring a PR consultant to help with the publicity efforts. Cyndi K. will follow-up with Bill and chat with several local people.

Fund Raising

- FENW again received \$1,109 from employees of A-Basin. It was agreed to provide recognition in the Summit Daily News for their continued generosity (George R.). Also, we agreed that all of the donating employees will become honorary members of FENW.
- Unlike 2008, no donations were received from businesses other than Copy Copy. It was agreed not to pursue any fundraising with businesses for now given the present economy in the County.
- Currie will chat with John Fielder to determine his interest in working with FENW on a fund raiser.

Trail Projects

- Extensive discussion regarding possible trail projects as follows:
 - June 5 – partner with FDRD and, possibly other non-profits, for a National Trails Day project at Horseshoe Gulch in Breckenridge. None of the work would be done in the Wilderness. ***BD Motion: It was agreed to collaborate with FDRD on this non-Wilderness project.***
 - Selected the following possible dates for other projects: June 19, July 24, August 21, and September 18.
 - Possible projects include: Meadow Creek (“muck area” – repair/construct a stringer bridge; Surprise Lake Trail – repair/construct a structure at the first creek crossing; Angler Mountain Trail – minor maintenance on the trail constructed in 2009 (note: John T. advised the Town of Silverthorne that he will take ownership of maintaining the Town's trail); and, a possible signage installation (September project).
 - FENW also could possibly assist the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in some of these projects – their crews will be in the County for 9 weeks this summer.
 - Because of limited staffing, the USFS will have to minimize any projects that will require a significant amount of preparatory work by their staff.
 - FENW members also will participate in the July 10 Pulling for Colorado event.
 - There was discussion regarding continuing the traditional “Gateways” project; no decisions were made.
- It was agreed there needs to be close coordination with USFS and FDRD in finalizing FENW's plans. Goal is to have the project plans firmed up at the February BD meeting.

Volunteer Crew Leader Training

Cindy E. requested FENW identify candidates who could participate in a 1 1/2 day Volunteer Crew Leader training program. The training program is planned for FDRD volunteers and any FENW member would join that class. It was agreed to communicate this information to FENW membership; timing TBD.

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Weeds

- Funding of \$11,985 will be provided as follows: NFF grant (\$10,000) and a FENW 10% match (\$1,000); and, a P4C grant (\$490) with a FENW match (\$495). A backpack sprayer and chemicals will be purchased using the FENW match dollars.

Wilderness Volunteers – Summit County

- Supplies (Leave No Trace cards, dog leashes, rainproof books, hats, and business cards) were replenished for both Summit and Eagle Counties at the end of 2009 using grants from the Towns of Breckenridge, Frisco, and Silverthorne.
- Cyndi K. will coordinate the program in 2010. She attended a pre-season meeting to set up training plans, reporting, etc. in coordination with FDRD.
- It is planned to increase publicity and advertising for the program to attract new volunteers.
- The training day will be in May, with a target of May 15.

Eagle County

- Ken H. again will coordinate the program, with an approach similar to 2009. Ken also will increase publicity to attract new volunteers and will consider a possible National Trail Day project.

Signage

- Limited discussion. FENW has received \$2,750 in grant funding for signage and close coordination will be needed with the USFS. Further details and plans will be developed by the next BD meeting.

Tools & Equipment

- There is no grant money available in 2010 unless Colorado State Parks grants an extension for the 2007-2009 project under-run of \$1,300, which is doubtful. George R. will work with Scott Fussell and Cindy E. to determine a purchase/maintenance strategy for 2010.
- It was agreed to post a trail projects schedule in the tool shed to help planning.
- USFS expressed some concerns for their tool inventory at the Dillon Compound. A truck crashed into their storage building and damage to the contents has not been determined.

Advocacy

- FENW Budget – Tentatively, \$1,000 has been allocated for Advocacy efforts.
- Wilderness Friends – It was agreed to participate with the “Wilderness Friends” initiative and Currie will attend their first face-to-face meeting in Colorado Springs March 5-7.
- Hidden Gems – The Friends of the Lower Blue letter to the SDN editor regarding the Hidden Gems Wilderness Campaign was complimented during BD discussion, and it was agreed that Currie will prepare a FENW letter to the SDN editor. Further discussion is required regarding other actions by the BD.

Website – No discussion.

Next Meeting – Thursday, February 25 at 5:30 at the Dillon Ranger District.

Submitted by
George Resseguie, Secretary/Treasurer