

FENW Board Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2010

Attendees:

FENW: Currie Craven, Cyndi Koop, Dave & Marilyn Raymond, Bill Reed, George Resseguie, John Taylor, and Rick Warren

USFS: Cindy Ebbert

Special Guests: Rhonda Pederson & Marge Schweri

Meeting Minutes – Minutes from the February 25 BD meeting were approved.

Request for Funding of a Visitor's Guide for the Dillon Ranger District

- Special guests Rhonda P. and Marge S. presented a request to FENW to provide funding for a Visitor's Guide. The Guide preparation would be led by Rhonda & Marge, with final content approval of the USFS whose logo would appear on the cover of the Guide.
- FENW benefits from contributing to the project would include publicity of FENW's goals & objectives, an article regarding Wilderness areas, contact information, and the FENW logo. Funding of \$850 was requested towards an overall goal of about \$2,000 to print 20,000 copies of the Guide.
- After extensive discussion, the following motion was approved: ***Provide funding totaling \$750 to cover a portion of the printing costs for the Dillon Ranger District Guide.*** Currie will advise Rhonda & Marge.

Treasurer's Report

- As of February 28, there was \$23,079 in the FENW bank account, a \$500 increase from Jan. 31, 2010.
- There has been minimal spending (\$216) to date against the \$23,790 budget.
- Regarding the \$2,500 of unspent 2009 grant money from The Summit Foundation (TSF) for weed mitigation, George R. and John T. to meet with Lee Zimmerman on March 29 to discuss options for applying it to other FENW projects in 2010. ***Update: TSF approved the re-allocation of the 2009 grant award to purchase a TRAFx trail monitoring system.***
- The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Business Items

Membership

- In February, deposited \$40 in dues (2 memberships); thus far in March, \$60 has been received.
- Newsletter will be published in April, including a dues request. Articles needed to Dave R. by April 15.

Grants for 2010

- Because of successful grant funding awarded/received to date for 2010 projects, no grant requests will be prepared until the fall. At that time, it was agreed to submit a grant to Colorado State Parks to purchase additional tools & equipment.
- Grant applications also are due to The Summit Foundation (TSF) and Towns in the fall – there was no discussion at this meeting.

Publicity

- Summit County – Cyndi K. and John T. will meet with Bob Berwyn on March 29 to coordinate his writing 2 articles for the Summit Daily; they also will evaluate progress regarding setting up a “social network” in Summit/Front Range.
- Eagle County – Cyndi, Ken H., and Sam Massman (USFS) will have a publicity strategy meeting on March 26 to finalize a strategy for Eagle County.
- Story Boards – George R. will investigate purchasing a 3-panel, Velcro based story board. ***Board Motion: Authorize spending up to \$500 for the story board purchase.***

Fund Raising

No report.

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Trail Projects

Bill R. provided further details regarding the approved 2010 trail projects as follows:

- June 5: National Trails Day. – Joint trail maintenance project with Friends of Dillon Ranger District. The project will be outside the wilderness at a location TBD based on conditions.
- June 19: Gateway "WaterWorks" – Our season start-up project scatters small crews to numerous wilderness area trailheads for light maintenance work. We focus especially on correction of drainage problems but will also remove smaller fallen trees and generally clean-up the tread. This is a great introduction to wilderness trail work -- with light tools and work beginning right at the trail head.
- July 24: Campsite Rehab – We will send small crews to the heavier-use wilderness lake basins to remove illegal fire rings and generally clean-up campsite footprints. The work is hard and dirty but very satisfying as we remove the most egregious traces of human impact and set the stage for site recovery. This will be a very full day with potentially long hikes up to our most beautiful lakes.
- August 21: Meadow Creek Bog Crossing – We will repair and re-construct collapsed sections of a low, log stringer bridge that crosses a boggy area along the Meadow Creek Trail. We'll also be correcting drainage problems below and above the bog site. There will be some heavy lifting, log bucking and muddy conditions but, if we do our work well, you'll be able to brag to your hiking grandchildren: "I helped build this." This site is a short hike from the trail head.
- September 18 (tentative) – Trail signage project; we will scatter small crews to various wilderness trail intersections needing repair and/or installation of signage. Individual sites could involve lengthy hikes carrying tools and sign materials.

Volunteer Crew Leader Training

- It was agreed it is essential for FENW to identify and train Crew Leaders to support our trail projects. Efforts continuing.
- Local Crew Leader training is planned (FDRD) for May 7 and 8; a project in the field is planned for the 8th.

Weeds

- P4C event is July 11; FENW will order 60 books for the event.
- We are awaiting receipt of funding (\$490) from P4C.

Wilderness Volunteer Rangers (WV) – Summit County

- Returning Ranger training is scheduled for April 21.
- The WV training day will be May 8 at the Keystone Science School w/FDRD.
- Cyndi will order 60 flower books for use in Summit and Eagle Counties. *Update: Books received.*

Eagle County

No Report (see other discussion in Publicity, above).

Signage

USFS is waiting for the Travel Management Plan to be published (exact timing is TBD) before finalizing signage plans.

Tools & Equipment

No report.

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Advocacy

- **Wilderness Friends** – Currie provided feedback from his trip to Colorado Springs (March 5-7) for the “Wilderness Friends” initial meeting. He brought back information on the Society for Wilderness Stewardship and a National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. Further steps are TBD.
- **Hidden Gems** – Town of Breckenridge voted to endorse Hidden Gems initiative. A key next step will be to present the plans to the Board of County Commissioners; timing is TBD. Currie will handle FENW’s further involvement.
- **Sierra Club** – Rick W. provided feedback from his trip to Washington DC to lobby for the ANWR coastal plain legislation.
- **National Forest Foundation (NFF)** – The NFF will have a reception at Beaver Creek on March 27. Currie and John T. will attend.

Website – There has been very positive feedback for the website revisions Rick W. has completed. It was agreed that each BD member should ensure his/her “owned” content on the website is kept current.

Next Meeting – Thursday, April 22, at 5:30 at the Dillon Ranger District.

Submitted by
George Resseguie, Secretary/Treasurer