

FENW Board Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2008

**Attendees**

FENW – Cyndi, George, Marilyn, and Rick  
Others – Cindy Ebbert (USFS)

**Treasurer's Report**

- 2007 Year-end Results
  - Cash on hand totaled \$9,671, down from \$13,400 at the beginning of the year.
  - Receipts totaled \$24,691 and costs were \$28,420. Grant funding represented \$20,760 of the receipt total; the largest cost items were: noxious weeds (\$11,930), tools & equipment (\$6,414), and the Wilderness Volunteer program in Eagle County (\$3,772).
  - Treasurer's report of year-end results was approved with the understanding that inventory amounts (\$715.00) would be corrected to include Eagle County WV program and to exclude \$83.50 (double reporting) from the balance.
- 2008 Preliminary Forecast
  - Forecasted receipts total \$17,605, primarily a \$10,000 grant from the NFF/Ski Area Contribution Fund, and \$5,500 from State Trails for tools and equipment. Forecast is conservative and includes only minimal dues receipts (\$355).
  - Forecasted costs, based largely on 2007 actual levels, total \$23,435 with the largest cost items noxious weeds (\$11,150), tools and equipment (\$6,585), and USFS hunter patrol funding (\$2,000).

**Business Items**

**Grant Recaps**

- NFF/Ski Area Contribution Fund will contribute \$10,000 to the FENW Wilderness Ecosystem Improvement Project for noxious weed treatment; FENW is required to provide a 25% match in funding and volunteer hours. John Taylor prepared the grant and has the lead for this project.
- No other grant requests are pending at this time. Further efforts will be made to identify funding sources – George will review grant cycles for The Summit Foundation, State Trails, and others; Marilyn will research possible grant sources from companies such as Patagonia and REI.

**Membership**

- BD agreed to revise the dues payment schedule and focus on February and October for the two months where dues will be due.
- Cyndi K. and Joel and Mern Bitler will handle mailing reminder notes to the FENW membership; Cyndi will revise the present postcard verbiage.
- George will maintain an updated membership listing.
- All dues payments will continue to go to the Treasurer (George) who also will handle sending out "thank you" letters.
- Rick Warren will update the website to include the latest dues information and a downloadable form for dues payment.

### Website Update

- Rick Warren is the new FENW webmaster and will ask each BD member to review the present website and provide suggestions to him regarding updates, revisions, etc. Timing is to have feedback to Rich by February 14.

### Newsletter

- BD agreed to publish 3 newsletters in 2008 as follows:
  - February – Introduction of new BD members, tentative project plan, dues process, website info and membership update.
  - April – Final project plan, timing for volunteer party, annual meeting timing, and special events (like a John Fielder presentation).
  - October – Season wrap-up, dues process, special event schedule, and membership update.
- Cyndi K. and Becky Hopkins will prepare the February newsletter and distribute it by the end of February. All efforts will be made to distribute the newsletter electronically

### Communication

- Dave Raymond “volunteered” to lead this effort which primarily will focus on newspaper publicity. George will contact Dave to discuss new steps.

### Project Planning

- Based on a presentation by Cindy E., BD agreed on the following project plan for 2008:
  - June 7 – Acorn Creek; joint project with FDRD and will provide some focus on the Ptarmigan Wilderness area.
  - June 28 – Gateways; likely will focus on trail maintenance, with a small team involved in repairs (as needed) to trail head signage.
  - July 27 – Mesa Cortina; continue basic trail maintenance work from 2007; this will be “Sunday” project.
  - August 23 – Mesa Cortina; demolition of turnpike. RMYC will follow closely with a team to construct new turnpike in the same area.
- Jonathan Kriegel will lead the trail maintenance projects again this year. Cyndi K. will work with FDRD to coordinate project timing and minimize scheduling conflicts.

### Wilderness Volunteers Planning

- Training is scheduled for May 10 and will again be a joint endeavor with the FDRD.
- Cyndi K. will recruit volunteers from past participants and “word of mouth”.

### Eagle County Planning/Grant Success

- Vail Valley Foundation did not approve our grant request, citing it did not “completely embody our mission of serving the Vail Valley through athletics, educational, and cultural endeavors”. The Foundation encouraged FENW to reapply during the next grant cycle “with more emphasis on education”.
- The John Fielder event in November provided \$280 in net proceeds, far below the \$4,200 results in Summit County. While the participants purchased a large volume of books, only about 25 people attended the presentation.
- It was agreed to continue to provide support to establish a FENW-type organization in Eagle County. As a key next step, Currie will be asked to organize a planning meeting with Michael Arnett, USFS, and others with the FENW BD to plan how to proceed.
- Cost outlays should approximate \$4,000 (using 2007 actual costs), and a robust funding strategy needs to be identified for Eagle County.

#### John Fielder Event

- Currie will contact John to determine feasibility for having a presentation in the Fall, similar to the timing in 2006. If John agrees to the presentation, George will contact Vince White-Petteruti to see if he is willing to head up the program. *Update: Currie advised that John has committed to a presentation for the Friends of the Lower Blue in the spring; consequently, it doesn't make sense to try to have another "Fielder event" in November.*

#### Ralph Swain/NFF Grant Proposal

- NFF grant proposal (\$10,000 for 9 non-profits -- \$500 for the FENW) was discussed in detail. The focus of the grant will be on 3 elements of the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge – Air Quality, Wilderness Education, and Recreation Site Inventory. Most of FENW's efforts are anticipated regarding the Recreation Site Inventory element in the Ptarmigan Wilderness (Acorn Creek area).
- Funding will total \$500 in matching funds from the NFF for supplies and equipment, training, and compensation for wilderness volunteers (Cindy E. confirmed with Ralph Swain).
- **Board Motion: Agree to spend \$500 to participate in this program.** Cindy E. will advise Ralph Swain; Cyndi K. agreed to take the lead for FENW.

#### Next Meeting

The next BD meeting will be on February 28 at 5:30 at the Dillon Ranger District office.