

MINUTES
PWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
April 15, 2021 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Conference Call due to Covid-19 concerns

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Mike Corbin, Jeanne Corbin, Elaine Green, Janis Brady, Mark Snyder, Sandy Sticken, Bruce Williams, Sean Orner, Bob Hansen, Pete Ramirez, Mike Shearer, Matt Cowan (USFS Liaison)

Board Members absent: Jim Branch, Karen Roth, Katina Mallon

Advisory Board Members: Tom Adams, Alan Meyer, Karl Ritters, Celia Walker, Janet Caille, Jerry Hanley, Bob Manuel, Jack Morgan, Kevin Cannon

PWV Members, Other: Jeff Randa, Liz Manes, Phil Hendricks Jr., Marion Wells

Guests:

ESTABLISHING QUORUM AND MEETING GROUND RULES.

Mike Corbin welcomed everyone in attendance.

AGENDA.

The meeting agenda was adopted with no changes.

MINUTES.

The March 2021 meeting minutes were adopted with no changes.

Jeff Randa provided the Fund Development Committee report first because he had to leave for another PWV commitment.

FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

- Jeff Randa provided an update of the active GoFundMe campaign.
 - He explained that the committee approached the campaign as an experiment in various categories including fundraising, market research, and public relations. It could be considered a public experiment to understand if the public cares about the trails and PWV's effort. It also gauges our ability to meet the fundraising goal.
 - 16 days into the campaign, we have exceeded our goal with over \$26,000 raised from 259 donors. About 15% of donors contributed anonymously. Funds have come from 12 states and 30 Colorado cities. Nearly 90% of donors are not PWV members. The campaign will continue through April 30th.
 - Jeff emphasized how the campaign has been a team effort, with over 20 members taking an active role in collaboration with Grace Wright, our crowd funding consultant.
 - There are various activities happening "behind the scenes". Sean Orner has been managing ongoing posts on PWV social media accounts. GFM sends an immediate thank you after each donation. Tom Collins has sent a personal thank you to every donor we receive contact info for and has been collecting the replies. Jeff has followed up with each media outlet after printing or airing our story. Celia Walker is working with members to post posters at various locations. Grace Wright has been an active guide and resource.

- Public outreach has occurred through a variety of channels including print, radio, TV, partner newsletters, and social media.
 - Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance (ESWA) included an article about the campaign in their newsletter that goes out to about 1000 recipients and also donated \$1,000.
- There are various metrics being tracked, including dollars raised, total donors, donor profiles, social media engagement, and activity on the PWV.org site. All donor info is being captured in DonorSnap.
- As we go into the final two weeks of the campaign, the goal will stay at \$25,000.
 - The message will focus on “every dollar counts”.
 - A celebratory summary of the campaign and thank you posted on social media and sent to the various media outlets.
 - A “Rebuild” page is being planned for the PWV.org to keep momentum and possibly allow for people to register for community work days.
 - A summary thank you will go out to all contributing partners that will also focus on businesses that contributed.
 - We will reach back out to the Coloradoan, Colorado Sun, Estes Park Trail Gazette, and CPR news where we have had gaps in publicity.
 - A social media summary thank you will go out to highlight local businesses that donated.
 - Will consider leveraging the KRFC podcast towards an Earth Day outreach
- Once the campaign has ended, the committee will work to document and capture lessons learned to create a reference guide should we decide to have future campaigns.
 - The Board will receive a final debrief.
- Jeff recognized Matt Cowan for an excellent job during the Fox news interview.
- Jeff wrapped up by sharing how humbled the committee has been by the generosity of donors. The \$25k goal was reached quickly, and the average donation has been about \$100, which is double what was expected. There has been a large number of requests to help on work days and expressed desire to join. The media has been incredibly responsive.
- Jerry Hanley added that he had just been contacted by the local Unitarian church, which will be holding a special Sunday collection in honor of the campaign to celebrate Earth Day.
- Jeanne Corbin thanked Jeff for his hard work with the campaign.
- Pete Ramirez asked if media outlets in Cheyenne had been contacted. He mentioned that when he worked in that area, he knew many people who came to the Poudre Canyon to hike.
 - Jeff thanked Pete for the good suggestion and said he would follow up.
- Bob Manuel asked Mike Corbin how the funds would be spent. Mike explained that while we are already pretty well funded for 2021, that the restoration is a multi-year project. He noted that the funds would likely be spent next year, primarily on crews and lumber.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(A) CHAIR REPORT.

- Mike Corbin explained that as a result of the publicity with the GFM campaign, he was receiving notes from members of the community who want to volunteer.
 - A local church has a group of 30 or so members who would like a planned work day. Also, an outfitter who was very interested in clearing trails in the Comanche

Wilderness has a team available to volunteer, including horses available for hauling. There are also local businesses who either want to host a work day for their team or coordinate ways for their employees to participate.

- Mike admitted that this overwhelming response was unexpected, so he is working to catch up in order to be able to accommodate the requests.
 - Dates for public work days will be announced shortly, and Mike has begun to seek commitments from crew leaders.
- We will be assisting with Forest Service work days.
- Mike has been in touch with CSU; they may have their own work day or send students to participate in a public work day.

(B) CHAIR ELECT REPORT.

- Bruce Williams shared that he's exploring a project that PWV may participate in called StreamTracker. CSU is looking to collect data on intermittent streams in the area. The Canyon Lakes Ranger District is already collaborating with CSU on the project. Matt Fairchild is the USFS fish biologist working on the project. The research is currently done all by volunteers, who while hiking, make observations about the intermittent streams that they encounter (flow, water levels, etc.) and capture photos. Bruce explained that it should only take a few minutes to collect this information, and could be a good compliment to PWV patrols, and would be optional to members. Bruce will update the Board once a decision has been made but requested that one or two members volunteer to assist him with trial patrols to collect the data.

(C) IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR.

- Elaine Green mentioned that when she was transitioning out as Chair, she overlooked including guidance on the Board's decision on how to handle alternative no-tuck uniforms, so she will be preparing an article for the newsletter to go out to members.
- Elaine also mentioned that she had previously researched the StreamTracker project and offered to reach out the Bruce to assist.

- Celia Walker brought up a point of consideration for Mike Corbin to recruit an event planner of sorts to assist him with coordinating public interest in trail restoration. Several media outlets have requested ongoing updates, and video will be captured of the trail work to document progress. A helper could assist Mike with planning and details.
 - Mike explained that this was already under consideration and that he had a volunteer in mind he would be contacting in the next day or two.

(D) USFS REPORT.

- Matt Cowan shared a new closure order would be signed on April 30th.
 - Matt thanked Steve Musial and the Trail Crew for working to safely open the North Fork Trail and the designated campsites there.
 - The Bobcat Ridge Natural Area and adjacent Forest Service lands will also be reopening.
- Matt thanked Jeff and the GFM committee for the unexpected opportunity for the Forest Service to get their message out to the public about why so many trails are still closed and the work that needs to be done to reopen them. He mentioned that he's heard from many USFS staff about how important that message was to go out.
- Matt explained that agreements are being finalized for crews to assist this summer. The Larimer County Conservation crew agreement is just waiting for signatures, which will provide for a 12-man crew throughout the season. An agreement was also just submitted

for a 10-man crew through the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. We will also have assistance for a few weeks from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp.

- Matt is also collaborating with the Wildland Restoration Volunteers to plan 4 work weekends in the Comanche Peak wilderness for overnight trips, which could be an opportunity for PWV members to participate. They use pack animals to bring up the equipment and provide two meals each day. Mike Corbin added that he's also in communication with them about planned work days.
- Matt addressed a few questions that Mike had emailed him:
 - Matt explained that an executive order was signed mandating that masks be worn on federal land at all times. Different federal agencies have come up with different policies to define expectations, but the USFS has not. The Parks Service policy requires that a mask be worn when you are unable to maintain social distancing. Matt states that we should have a mask with us and cover our mouth and nose when we are passing by within 6 feet of others until we get more specific directions from USFS. Mike noted that this is our current policy requirement.
 - The USFS is currently working on updating their policy around carpooling. Matt expects that the current one-person-per-vehicle policy will be discontinued, but as of now, no new policy has been issued. Matt will be pushing for an update, however we must continue to follow the original COVID requirement until a formal revision to the policy is released.
 - Matt added that he is comfortable with Mike's volunteer age requirements as requested.
- Matt raised concern with recent photos he received of the Trail Crew volunteering on the North Fork trail, as no one was wearing a hard hat. He explained that any trail work being conducted requires a hard hat be worn—this could be cutting trees, digging drains, maintaining bridges, etc. Matt was told that a logistical issue resulted in the lack of hard hats at the project site, but he would prefer the work day be cancelled in that case to prevent the risk of injury. Matt can be contacted if hard hats are needed in the future, and are considered an essential part of PPE including long sleeves, long pants, gloves, masks, and eye protection.
 - Mike Shearer asked to clarify that if any volunteer cutting a tree on the trail they must be wearing a hard hat. Matt reiterated that any sort of trail work requires a hard hat.
 - Alan Meyer pointed out that on regular patrols he usually carries a saw and will cut down small trees. He is concerned that the requirement to carry and wear a hard hat will significantly reduce the number of trees cleared by members.
 - Mike Corbin responded by explaining that this is not a new policy. Alan responded with concern that it's not a policy that he has clearly understood, nor does he believe it is something that is emphasized during Spring Training.
 - Bob Manuel shared that he carries a hard hat along with his other work gear that he brings in preparation of the maintenance he expects to do—it's not that big of an ask.
 - As a former federal employee, Pete Ramirez echoed Matt's concern about the risk of serious injury.
 - Matt explained that he understands no one would want to wear a hard hat the entire time that they are hiking during a patrol, and it's not quite the same as just having a saw in one's pack just in case. He reiterated that he should not see photos of trail work being done without hard hats being worn.

- He added that if someone were to be injured while working without a hard hat, the first question they would be asked for Workman's Compensation would be why required PPE was not worn.
- Celia Walker asked to clarify if the policy applies to just those who have sawyer training and are felling trees, or also those with a portable saw removing small trees from near the trail. Matt confirmed that a hard hat would be required in both scenarios.
 - Celia pointed out that hard hats should be issued to many members. Mike Corbin said he has a stock of about 150 and can issue one to any member who would like one to use.

(E) SECRETARY REPORT.

- Sean Orner had nothing to report.

(E) TREASURER'S REPORT.

- Sandy Sticken explained that a Year to Date Budget vs. Actuals is going out monthly at the request of committee chairs so they can track spending.
- Sandy sent out the final 2020 financials as well as revised March 2021 reports. She explained that we spent more than we had come in during the month of March, but April revenues would be offsetting, which she can explain in greater detail at next month's meeting.
- Sandy explained that currently the donation form available on the website only allows donors to specify endowment or operating use for their contributions. She will be revising the form to allow donors to specify restricted uses and providing it to the Web Team to update on the site.
 - Jerry Hanley asked how the GFM funds will be kept restricted on the balance sheet. Sandy explained that they would be put in the restricted Trail Restoration category.
- Sandy mentioned that she is still waiting for the information on the 2020 fact sheet so she can use it for the 990 annual filing.
 - Mike Corbin said he's working with someone to coordinate and it should be done shortly. Sandy said the 990 is due to be filed by May 15th, so she could wait until May 7th at the latest for the information.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(A) NEW RECRUIT TRAINING COMMITTEE.

- Mike Corbin explained that New Recruit training is going well. All of the animal groups have been formed and AGLs have begun training, with several groups already done with the first unit. The rest of the training should be completed by mid-May. Trail walkthroughs are scheduled for May 15th and 18th in advance of Spring Training on the 22nd.
 - Alan Meyer mentioned that he did not recall an email about the walkthroughs going out to the AGLs. Mike said it would be done soon.
 - Elaine Green noted that the original email said 17th not 18th, so the correction would need to be highlighted. Mike acknowledged that there had been a date change.

(B) SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING COMMITTEE.

- Mike Shearer presented on Linda Reiter's behalf for the committee. She asked him to share what's happened, what's going to happen, and what could happen.

- Mike thanked Pete on Linda's behalf for presenting the Birding Basics course which had about 25 participants via Zoom. 16 course evaluations were completed, and the session was well-received. Mike also thanked Karl Ritters for running the Zoom meeting for that course.
- A Wildflower session will be held on April 27th at 7pm. This will also be held via Zoom, with Karl managing the technology.
- Linda is looking into the possibility of another Front Range Tectonics course with Gerry Cashman and Jenny Collins. The classroom portion may be held via Zoom, depending on the circumstances at the time. There is also a field portion that could occur, again depending on circumstances.
- Linda is also coordinating to hold both the Wilderness and American Heart Association First Aid classes, dates TBD. These classes do have in-person requirements, which would be held following whatever state/local Covid guidelines are at the time. Mike assumes that because members would participate in these classes on their own time that additional USFS policies would not apply.
- Linda shared a handout via email from the National Wilderness Skills Institute which is holding upcoming virtual trainings. Matt Cowan agreed that some of the training content could be useful to members.
 - Mike explained that Linda was uncertain how to share the details of the workshop to PWV members, either via mass email or as a notice from the Supplemental Training committee (she was concerned about it appearing as a committee endorsement since she is unfamiliar with the organization and training specifics).
 - Kevin Cannon said that the NWSI was founded by Sandy Skrein, who was in charge of Wilderness for the Nation and recently retired. He explained that Sandy brought in highly qualified trainers to lead the NWSI classes, which are geared towards seasonal wilderness rangers and other wilderness professionals. Kevin expects that anyone who attends the workshops would have a beneficial learning experience.
 - Mike Corbin suggested that a quick email out to all members would be the best way to share the opportunity. Mike Shearer asked if the email should come from Supplemental Training. Mike Corbin thought that made the most sense.
 - Mike Shearer said he would report back to Linda.
 - Jerry Hanley asked if there was any cost to the NWSI workshop. Mike Shearer said it was free to participate.
- Mike Corbin explained that oftentimes we do not have a May Board meeting, however, the Fund Development Committee is planning a post-campaign presentation. We'll keep the meeting on the calendar and to just try to keep the agenda short.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Sean Orner, Secretary

Next Board Meeting: **May 20, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**