

Final Notes
NAFSR Board of Directors
Conference Call
May 3, 2018

On the Call

Jim Caswell, Larry Payne, Dale Robertson, Jane Kollmeyer, Jack Troyer, Bill Timko, Ron Scott, Ranotta McNair, Mike Dombeck, Tom Thompson, Pete Griffin, Al West, Rich Guldin, Hank Kashdan, Jim Golden, Marlin Johnson, Greg Griffith

Administrative Updates

Johnny Hodges reported our current membership is 656 members including 97 Lifetime Memberships. Members that have not paid their 2018 dues is down to 32. Johnny will send the list to the Board, so they may contact members that they may know and encourage them to pay their dues. Anyone with unpaid dues later this month will have their membership suspended.

We are doing well financially with a current balance of \$36,906. We have paid all our bills associated with the Board of Directors meeting in Phoenix and made our donation to the National Reunion in September. We expect some travel expenses associated with the Secretary Perdue meeting last month.

Last year Johnny proposed to invest a portion of our funds in a long-term investment. We put together a small group to develop a proposal. We have decided to invest in a Vanguard mutual fund. Vanguard is the chosen mutual fund because of low expense ratios, stability, size, and a wide variety of choices. The exact fund to invest in should be a conservative Index Fund or ETF that pays dividends and has the potential for growth, as selected by Johnny.

Johnny will determine which fund to use and will dollar cost average an investment amount each month over the next year.

Executive Director Replacement

We have been operating without an Executive Director since February when Sam Foster resigned. After some discussion, we agreed to continue without an ED for another few months until our November 8 conference call. At that time, we will re-visit our decision.

Meeting with Secretary Perdue

In mid-April the Board of Directors received an invitation from the Secretary of Agriculture's office to meet with Secretary Perdue on April 30 in Washington, D.C. We decided to send six

Board members to the meeting – Jim Caswell, Ranotta McNair, Bill Timko, Rich Guldin, Dale Robertson, and Max Peterson.

Five of the six Board members at the meeting are on this call. Here are a few of their comments -

- It was a candid and open conversation. There was no one else in the room except his director of communications, deputy secretary and photographer.
- He wanted to learn from us.
- He talked about boots on the ground, barriers to getting things done and working forests.
- We thanked him for his work on fire funding.
- We talked about capacity in the context of skill set needed, research and its importance and support for resource management.
- We promised to let him know if we think the FS is going down the wrong track.
- He said he needs us, wants to hear more from us and offered an assignment to provide additional details/recommendations.
- Jim asked for seat on the advisory council resulting from the EO on Rural Prosperity.
- The Secretary is interested in reform to things that govern activity on the ground.
- The Secretary is worried about FS culture. He wants a farmers' work ethic in the FS. He admits he has a lot to learn about western lands.
- The Secretary encouraged us to work with BLM retirees on changes in regulations and policies.
- The Secretary has been invited to the reunion in Asheville. He is interested in talking to retirees and find out what they are thinking.
- The Secretary is concerned about multi-level review of decisions.
- He recognized collaboration was important, but when locals make decisions, someone outside the process could derail the decision.

- He is one of the more engaged Secretaries. He has met with the Secretary of Interior and Commerce on how to streamline environmental analysis.
- The group briefed the Chief after the meeting. She will designate someone to work with us.

The Board decided we need two small groups to work on –

- 1) The NEPA process (and coordinated with EADM process) – Rich Stem, Ranotta McNair, Jane Kollmeyer.
- 2) Forest Service Culture – Tom Thompson, Al West (Jack Troyer said he would work with either group).

EADM Regional Meetings

- Tom – The R-2 meeting was good, and he is tracking drafts due in June.
- Jim C. – R-4 had 60 people there with lots of state government and user groups. The people missing were environmental groups. They gave a good presentation on what they are trying to achieve.
- Marlin – R-3 received a huge amount of input from the attendees.
- Ranotta – R-6 will have rollouts with local offices in June.

NAFSR Fire Committee Meeting

Al West gave a brief update on the NAFSR Fire Committee meeting with WO Leadership last month. The notes will be available soon.

Reunion Update

Total registrants are 415+ and rooms at the principal hotel are filling up fast. If the primary hotel fills up, there are still rooms available at the overflow hotel. The Reunion team is working with the WO to include the NLT meeting, but have no definitive response yet. Field tours have been finalized and information will be posted soon to start taking reservations. We are looking forward to more registrants and a great Reunion.

Farm Bill Update

The 2018 Farm Bill has been passed by the Ag Committee and is awaiting amendments and a vote on the House floor within about 2 weeks. The Senate will release their version sometime in May. NAFSR has joined our partners in signing a thank you and support letter to the Committee. We also joined many of our wildlife partners by signing a letter of support for Title II, Conservation. We are currently reviewing the House report language in greater detail. Past Farm Bills have been bipartisan. The 2018 Farm Bill has proven to be very partisan up to this point.

May 18, 2018