

Final Notes from Board of Directors Conference Call
November 8, 2018

Jim Caswell opened this call by taking roll and reviewing the agenda. Johnny could not be on the call. Lee Nightingale volunteered to take notes.

Finances - We have a balance of about \$30,500. We have started moving money into our Vanguard account and will move \$1,000 per month until we have deposited \$10,000.

We will begin collecting 2019 dues and donations later this month for members that want to make payments before the end of 2018.

Membership - Our current membership is 680 members which is the highest we've had since Johnny took over as secretary about 3 years ago.

We picked up about 25 new members at the reunion in Asheville. Thanks to the Board members that were there helping us recruit. We thought we might get more new members, but a big chunk of the attendees was already NAFSR members so 25 was a good pick up.

Survey - We shared the results of our NAFSR survey with the Board a couple of days ago and we posted it on the website yesterday. We had close to a 50% participation rate which is very good.

A couple of things that caught our attention - it was almost an even split over whether to produce a newsletter. That is something to think about. The other thing was most members do not use Twitter and do not want to learn how to use Twitter.

Jim recommended that we read 186 responses to question 12.

Meeting in Phoenix - We have selected a hotel for our Board meeting in Phoenix during the week of February 11. It is an Embassy Suites located just north of downtown on the Light Rail line. You can ride the train from the airport to the hotel for \$2. For those of you driving, the parking rate is usually \$16, but we should have enough comp passes for everyone with a car.

The room rate is \$219/night which is about \$100 less than their regular rate for that week. That includes a cooked to order breakfast and a complimentary Happy Hour (for 2 hours) each evening.

The hotel finished a \$19 million renovation earlier this year. This is the best deal we could find in the Phoenix area for those dates.

We already have a contract ready to sign. We need to confirm with each of you attending how many nights you will stay at the hotel. Thanks to those of you that have

already responded. We are planning for 3 nights for most of you, but some of you may use less (or none). We have 45 nights planned and we need to be within 20% of that total or we may have to pay for the difference if it is less.

We can also get the same rate for 3 days before and 3 days after the meeting at the same rate in case some people want to stretch it into a little vacation.

BLM/Public Land Foundation meeting - Students will be present with connection to Forest Service. They are interested in natural resource careers. Each Congress has themes. This Congress is focused on trails and wild and scenic rivers.

A Board member should attend and participate. It is exciting and stimulating. By end of 4 days, recommendations are made to organization for the future. They will then be made to the Secretary of Interior. It is an opportunity to tie in with young people.

Jim and Sam said they would bring this opportunity back to Board for 2020. Sam Foster would be our lead. Jim talked to Chief about this and she is interested. 129 students are recruited with exhaustive screening process. There are two Native Americans and good mix of genders, age, masters, PhD and undergrads with sprinkling of current employees in the field. This is 4th Congress. Resumes of students are on PLF site.

A motion was made by Ranotta and seconded to accept this proposal. There were no objections. There is no cost to our organization. Jim will move ahead and work with PLF in next 5 months.

Secretary's Project - Two things before NAFSR to address 6 months to a year out. We will need to comment on the CEQ proposed rule. We have the same situation with ESA. Keep on front burner. We have a letter from Secretary. The Chief's office will write a response, asking what we would and would not want in Secretary response.

Time was spent transitioning Jim Hubbard as new Under Secretary. Many from Hubbard's office were on that call. Larry Payne spoke about the effort on our report, and how we are supporting the agency. NAFSR asked questions about the work with Secretary by Hubbard. The relationship is excellent and with NAFSR. There was a good discussion and will be more with Hubbard. Shared resources with states are one of Hubbard's focus areas. Rich Stem offered a lot of this update.

Jack Troyer asked about EADM and ESA. Is there an execution plan? Jim Caswell said that Hubbard/Department think it is well in hand. Relationship with NOAA not as easy as with DOI.

Capacity - Hubbard recommended an approach and process focused on what, who, and how. Administrative problems were also a focus of the conversation. Hubbard did not want to talk about capacity much and the need for more money (little/no hope for more funding). He wanted to have information on capacity to demonstrate real issues.

Jim Caswell recommended steering team related to capacity for a qualitative/quantitative approach. Keep small with a set of common questions for Ranger Districts concerning workload, staffing, skill mix, size of unit, demands, and

barriers. What are you missing? Can you get job done? We could then work with Chief and Department.

Jack mentioned that County Commissioners could define what they are seeing related to capacity. The agency has difficulty getting the attention of the Department, but externals can. Larry and Lee are gathering workforce data from Albuquerque Service Center back to 1993 or so. They think they can deliver by 12/14. Board would like sooner.

Jane emphasized the importance of being strategic with numbers and interpretation. Ranotta volunteered. Susan said that Jack and Jane's comments are incredibly important. Susan will help where she can. Jim Caswell asked what are questions we will ask after establishing a clear objective. How will we introduce? How many units would we contact?

Jim, Tom, Ranotta, Rich, Susan, Jane, Larry and Lee volunteered to work on capacity issue. Questions will be about workload, staffing, barriers, zones, skill mix, etc. Maybe 6. Not too long or too many.

EADM – Rich's comments were about the CEQ regs due out in the spring. FS NEPA regulations will come out in summer as well and we will need to be prepared for that as well. Will need team to review FS recommendations and comment on them. Regional meetings resulted in data and PowerPoints, but no real action yet. Consolidating that now. Also, the other EADM efforts were moving forward in terms of direction and execution to answer Jack's question earlier.

Larry Payne Update - Larry summarized that partnership efforts are intensive. NAFSR Program of Work is ongoing. MOU is at back of pack with new Chief. There is no progress on Twitter objective to report.

Notes taken by Lee Nightingale and edited by Johnny Hodges
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