



NAFSR BOARD MEETING NOTES
May 5, 2022
via
ZOOM MEETING

Attendees

Board Members - Jane Darnell (Vice Chair), Jim Caswell (Past Chair), Rich Stem (R-1), Sharon Friedman (R-2), Greg Griffith (R-3), Lynn Sprague (R-4), Becki Heath (R-6), Malcolm Gramley (R-8), Sandra Key Holsten (R-10), Rich Guldin (Research), Doug Crandall (Congressional Liaison), Gene Blakenbaker (National), Hank Kashdan (National), Ranotta McNair (National), Nora Rasure (National), Bill Timko (National), Jack Troyer (National), Ed Shepard (PLF Liaison), Kevin Martin (AWCP Liaison), Victoria Christensen (Chief Emeritus).

Committee Chairs – Phil Aune (Awards), Bill van Bruggen (for Mike Dudley) (Fire), Nora Rasure (Recreation).

Staff - Bill Disbrow (Webmaster) and Johnny Hodges (Secretary).

Welcome and Report from the Vice Chair – Jane Darnell

- Steve Ellis is currently out of the country for most of May and Jane will run the meeting today.
- The “Kitchen Cabinet” concluded on March 1.
- Jane welcomed Vicki Christensen. Vicki is our newest Chief Emeritus, and this is her first Board meeting.

Jane sent out an email to the Board with the following questions and would appreciate a response.

- *Feedback about how we want to use our time together.*
- *Feedback on expectations for regional representatives.*

- *Feedback on topics – program of work balance.*
- *Leverage diversity of the board; how we honor people reflect who we are.*
 - *How might we choose people who reflect the future of the organization?*
- *How we give people access and how they show?*
- *Maybe NAFSR Board host workshops for NAFSR membership to attend?*

Treasurer Report - Johnny Hodges

- Our total assets at the end of April are approximately \$51,000. We have collected about \$18,000 in dues and donations so far this year.
- We currently have 24 members that have not paid their 2022 dues. Their membership will be suspended later this month. Johnny will send the list to the Board.

Membership Report - Johnny Hodges

- As of April 30, 2022, our membership was 728 members.
- We have 201 “Golden” members who are over 80 years old.
- 9 members have passed away this year.
- We have gained 21 new Lifetime members this year for a total of 189.
- We have gained 25 new members so far this year.
- There have been no complaints about the increase in our dues.
- Becki asked if there is a way to look at how many of our members are recent retirees. Johnny will sort his membership spreadsheet by date of membership and share with the Board. We need to think about how to recruit new retirees.

Website Update – Bill Disbrow

- Bill gave a brief update on the website.
- Jane thanked Bill for his work on the website. Several other Board members also complimented him on the quality of the website.

Correspondence Tracking – Johnny Hodges

- There was a brief discussion on Correspondence Tracking related to letters that are initiated by other organizations which we may or may not agree to co-sign. Several Board members have expressed an interest in the issues related to these letters. The decision to co-sign these letters is generally made by Steve or Jane and not the full Board since there is usually a time constraint.
- Most of these letters are generated by AWCP.
- Johnny is filing each of the letters and will send out a summary of the letters quarterly to the Board.

Bylaws Update – Johnny Hodges

- Johnny began updating the bylaws a couple of years ago after a new succession plan was completed. There have been several other changes since then which need to be incorporated.

- He will complete a draft update and Steve/Jane will review and make a recommendation to the Board for approval at our next Board meeting in August.

Committee Reports & Updates

Public Lands Foundation – Ed Shepard

- PLF is awarding two \$5000 scholarships to university students. This is the 9th year for the scholarships.
- Working on new position statements. Check the PLF website for the latest updates.
- Oil/Gas and Critical Minerals are their last 2 papers.
- Making another attempt to include invitation to join PLF in retirement package. This is a continuing problem for all retiree organizations. Ethics folks have had issues with this in the past.
- The PLF Annual Meetings is the week of September 20th. The topic will be e-bikes.
- Ed attended a meeting of forestry leaders in Oregon (in place of Steve). The major topic was workforce capacity.
- There is an Executive Order on old growth/mature forests. Is NAFSR engaging on this issue?
- Established a Foundation for Public Lands (like the National Forest Foundation) to help raise money for the BLM. It was authorized in 2017 and is still a work in progress.
- There is some confusion with PLF.

Congressional Update – Doug Crandall

- This is Budget season – time for the Chief to go to Hill to support President’s budget.
- Budget hearings aren’t usually about the budget
- The 2022 Appropriation Bill is good for the Forest Service.
- The Omnibus Public Lands Bill needs to be monitored.
- Recreation Bills are going to be tough to manage because they are so big. The FS is modifying many of them.
- What are the 2 or 3 biggest recreation issues that we can implement?
- Implementation of the Infrastructure Bill is our biggest issue – do we have the capacity to accomplish fuels treatment?
- The Democrats will lose the House.
- McCarthy will have a tough time managing the Republicans because there are few that are willing to compromise.
- The FS has a lot of bi-partisan support.
- We need to focus on a few key issues.
- Doug suggested that NAFSR engage on workforce issues.

Recreation Committee – Nora Rasure

- The NAFSR Recreation Team is developing a position paper focused on recreation.
- The Recreation Team is responsible for the Recreation Panel at the National Retirees Reunion. They are inviting speakers and shaping presentation.

- The Forest Service launched a new dashboard for Great American Outdoors Act projects. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/forest-service-launches-dashboard-great-american-outdoors-act-projects>
- The Forest Service issued guidance to manage future use of E-Bikes on National forests and grasslands. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-forest-service-issues-guidance-manage-future-e-bike-use-national-forests-and>
- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced the America's Outdoor Recreation Act of 2022. <https://www.energy.senate.gov/2022/5/energy-and-natural-resources-committee-advances-manchin-and-barrasso-s-historic-outdoor-recreation-bill>

Restoration Committee – Kurt Wiedenmann (not attending)

The Restoration Committee has not met since last Board meeting and has no report.

Fire Committee – Bill van Bruggen (for Mike Dudley)

- Completed the “Managed Fire Paper”. Some snippets of that were included in the Chief’s letter.
- Held a Zoom meeting with WO fire leadership.
- The Committee plans to meet in the next month.
- Patty Grantham is nominated and applied for the Wildfire Commission. We haven’t heard that any selections have been made.
- The FS needs to keep all the tools available. They need to have preseason dialogue with key stakeholders to gain support and understanding.

Lead Reports

CEQ – Ranotta McNair

- On April 20 CEQ rolled out final on Phase 1 to implement new rule passed by last administration.
- The Purpose and Need reverted to 1978 language.
- It is not clear if it expanded Purpose and Need.
- The 2nd phase coming, but we don’t know when. It could turn into a political football.

NEPA/FS Regulations – Rich Stem

EADM guidance continues to be adhered to, but there has not been any further direction as of late. However, any further changes or additions to the F.S. NEPA regulations has been frozen by CEQ."

Science and Climate – Rich Guldin

- Forest Climate Working Group is pushing for funding in the Infrastructure Bill.
- The Policy committee is working on a draft Plan of Work.
- There is a Congressional reception on June 8.
- A subgroup will work on the next Farm Bill.

- The Science and Technology subgroup will make sure policy recommendations don't get ahead of the science.
- Steve and Jane are pursuing more discussion with Rich Guldin about how NAFSR might engage more on these issues

AWCP – Sandra Holsten and Kevin Martin

- Transition from Sandra to Kevin as AWCP liaison is now complete.
- We are sometimes/often signing on to letters that are of limited consequences. I'd use letter on wasting disease as an example. Should we be signing for sake of being a team player OR reserve our signature for items of more consequence?
- What role can NAFSR have in helping AWCP get these letters in hands of members of Congress?
- There is an opportunity for NAFSR to write letters and push for partners to sign. We can drive the bus rather than being a passenger.
- How can the Board support Kevin as he works to enhance NAFSR's influence on AWCP?
- What other networks do we belong to?

ESA – Jack Troyer

Nothing new to report.

Tribal Point of Contact – Jane Darnell

Should we add a Tribal point of contact. Who might be a lead for us (beyond our Board members)?

Old Business

2022 – 2023 Program of Work – Jane Darnell

Jane presented the current draft of the 2022/23 Program of Work. After a few minor edits, the draft was approved. Following is the final version.

2022 - 2023 NAFSR Program of Work *(Final Draft 5/5/22)*

Operations and Ongoing

- National Reunion 2022 (Ellis, Hodges, Rogers)
- Annual Accomplishments Report (Ellis, Darnell, Hodges)
- Maintain Liability Insurance (Ellis, Hodges)
- Congressional Relations (Crandall)
- McGuire and other awards (Aune)
- AWCP Partnership (Holsten/Martin)
- Recruitment (TBD and Regional Board Reps)

Strategic

- Recreation (Rasure)
 - Strategic Position Paper
- Landscape Restoration (Kurt Wiedenmann)
 - Forest Health Crisis
- Reforestation (Wiedenmann, Timko)
- Wildfire Management (Dudley)
 - Formulating position paper on wildland fire (Dudley)
 - Formulating position paper on professional wildland fire series (Dudley)
 - Secure a position on the National Wildfire Commission (Ellis, Darnell)
- Emerging Issues (Ellis, Darnell, Board)
- CEQ Regulations (McNair)
- FS NEPA (Stem)
- Tribal Co-Management (TBD)
- Climate Change (Guldin-Forest Climate Working Group)

End Program of Work

Awards – Phil Aune

- Trees at Museum (Board Approved). Need to validate years of service. Lisa Tate will complete plaques when we finalize wording.
- The McGuire Award will be presented to Mike Munoz in Missoula on June 21.
- Bob Ross has been nominated for a McGuire Award. Phil provided the documentation for his nomination. He was approved by the Board.
- Jane recognized the hard work of the committee. How can the Board help in the future?
- Here is the current list of John R. McGuire Committee members -
 - Steve Ellis
 - Dave Hammond, R-8
 - Marlin Johnson, R-3
 - Bob Joslin, R-2
 - Sandra Holstein, R-10
 - Tom Mulder, R-6
 - Mike Paterni, R-1
 - Ron Stewart, WO/RES
 - Ted Stubblefield, At Large
 - Al West, R-5
 - Phil Aune, Chair

National Reunion – Jane Darnell

- We need to produce the content for our ½ page ad in the reunion program as well as for our tabletop display. Johnny and Bill, along with help from Jim C. and Ranotta, will make the decision.
- There will be no business meeting of the Board at the reunion. We will get together on Monday afternoon in an open house style setting and invite NAFSR members to stop by and mingle.
 - We will provide some type of buttons or name tags to denote NAFSR Board Members.
 - VIPs may ask for NAFSR time during the reunion, and we'll be flexible.

Andrus Student Congress MOU – Jim Caswell

- The MOU is done and expires at the end of the year.
- The Student Congress is scheduled Oct 3-6, 2022. The theme is Fire.
- This is the 5th Student Congress. There were 102 applications from 46 universities which is the most ever.
- The field trip is to Bogus Basin outside Boise.
- Students will make recommendations on Day 4.

ADJOURN MEETING

Notes by Johnny Hodges and Jane Darnell

Notes edited by Johnny Hodges

First Draft 5/24/2022

Final Draft 5/27/2022