

MINUTES
PWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
September 21, 2023 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

ATTENDANCE

- **Board Members:** Jim Branch, Jennifer Collins, Rich Cappello, Jeanne Corbin, Joe Cox, Ruth Janitscheck, Jim Medlock, Sean Orner, Pete Ramirez, Jeff Randa, Mark Snyder, Bruce Williams, Matt Cowan (USFS Liaison)
- **Board Members absent:** Steve Musial, Dan Schultejann
- **Advisory Board Members:** Tom Adams, Chuck Bell, Kevin Cannon, Mike Corbin, Karen Roth, Celia Walker, Jim Zakely
- **PWV Members, Other:** Hayden Hamby, Peter Skiba, Renee Skiba, Anne Yakos

ESTABLISHING QUORUM AND MEETING GROUND RULES

- Mark Snyder welcomed everyone in attendance and established a quorum was present.

AGENDA

- The agenda was adopted.

MINUTES

- The July and August minutes were approved.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(A) CHAIR REPORT

- Mark Snyder mentioned that the newsletter went out that morning. The end of year event will be October 22nd.

(B) CHAIR ELECT

- Nothing to report from Sean Orner.

(C) IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR REPORT

- Nothing to report from Bruce Williams.

(D) USFS STAFF REPORT

- Matt Cowan reported great work from WRV in the Rawahs. They put in a bridge, new puncheons and a lot of great rock work. The Youth Corps is just about done. Rocky Mountain Conservancy finished just last week, and Larimer County crews will be finished at the end of next week. They've also completed a couple of turnpikes on North Fork. The county crew has been on Roaring Creek all season, they're finishing up work now and plan to reopen at the beginning of October.

(E) SECRETARY REPORT

- Nothing to report from Ruth Janitscheck.

(F) TREASURER

- Jim Medlock said he sent out a note to the committees on the 14th of August with information on using the endowment fund and the grant form and has requested that they have that back to him by October 1st so we can get fund development to review

them and recommend them for the 2024 budget. On August 24th he sent individualized emails to all the committee chairs requesting that they develop their 2024 budget and operational plan and those will be due by October 27th to give him enough time to send out the budget by November 5th. Finances are going well. Income is up about \$4,300 for the first 8 months of the year. Expenses are running lower than in 2022 by about \$4,500, he credited the committee chairs for being frugal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRAILS FOR ALL UPDATE ON ITS OUTREACH TO ADAPTIVE SPORTS AGENCIES IN THE AREA

- Anne Yakos spoke on behalf of Carol Kennedy. On September 6 they hosted a workshop for the Adaptive Recreation department for Fort Collins. Walt is stepping down as co-chair and Carol will be taking over and adding Anne as her co-chair ; Walt is staying on the committee. They've had a zoom meeting with Kristy Bruce with the Fort Collins Natural Area Program to share what they've done and discuss the possibility of working together. They are discussing logistics for the track chair that we are planning to acquire for the new accessible trail in Red Feather Lakes as well as if they partner with the city on a piece of equipment for a trail. Matt Cowan said the Forest Service would be open to the development of a program like this. Areas of concern are liability, maintenance, and storage. For the Lady Moon trail, they were finally able to get the money promised to WRV, and tomorrow he is going out to lay out some pin flags for the trickier sections of that trail. Bruce asked for clarification on if these kinds of wheeled conveyances are allowed on Forest Service trails and Matt indicated that they aren't considered the same as bikes and other wheeled conveyances. He thinks that the logistics of the program is difficult to execute. Celia Walker mentioned another park that had detailed information about the trails like the width, angles, surface, etc. that we might consider doing for our trails.
- Mark Snyder moved to appoint Anne Yakos as co-chair of the Trails for All committee. The motion passed.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Sean Orner said that the committee has grown significantly since she became involved with it and Jeff Randa has helped with that growth with his marketing efforts. Sean moved to revise and update the committee's charter to say: "The task of the Outreach Committee is to increase public awareness of what the Poudre Wilderness volunteers organization is. We participate in annual community events such as Poudre River Fest and The Earth Day celebration to distribute pamphlets describing our patrols, noxious weed and trail maintenance activities as well as give information on Leave No Trace, and Kids in Nature. We collect names of folks who might be interested in joining PWV and share that information with the Recruitment Committee. We also recognize Ad hoc Outreach events, such as presentations at Front Range Community College classes and local business events. We have power point presentations highlighting our activities as a way to introduce PWV to community organizations, academia, and businesses." Bruce Williams seconded, and the motion passed. Jeff Randa added that he and Sean have talked in depth about communicating internally. We have a couple of classes who don't really understand the coolness of PWV. They are going to push to share information internally. He and Sean agreed that they should take "public" out of the committee change to reflect this. The amendment passed.

**SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING: SPRING TUNE UP, CO-LEADERS
ANNOUNCEMENT, ARE NOW VICKIE TAYLOR AND APRIL MASON**

- Jim Medlock announced that Vickie and April are now the Leaders responsible for organizing the Spring-Tune Up event. The event will be part of the Supplemental Training Committee's events.

**SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING: COURSE UPDATES & UPCOMING PWV
PRESENTATION: SEEING THE LAND THROUGH INDIGENOUS EYES**

- Joe Cox reminded all that he is presenting a class on October 11 on Indigenous Perspectives on Wilderness at the Council Tree Library and those who want to have social time afterwards can meet at the brew house nearby. He has also designed patches for our PWV shirts for those who have completed Wilderness First Aid training. Matt Cowan said the Forest Service doesn't have any issues with us wearing the patch. Joe Cox moved to allow the PWV members who have completed Wilderness First Aid class to wear the patch on the right shirt pocket of their uniform. Sean seconded.
- Bruce Williams asked if you have to take it off when your certification expires, and you don't re-certify. Joe said certification is good for 2 years, your ability to help someone in an emergency is always good as long as you're prepared. He suggested that if they don't feel comfortable helping someone and don't want to signify to others that you can/will help someone, don't wear the patch. Mike Corbin suggested we consider updating the uniform policy to include this patch and guidelines for wearing it. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

PWV PATROLLING SEASON BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE WHOLE YEAR

- Mike Corbin moved that PWV patrolling season be extended to include the whole year. While patrolling during high powered rifle season our members would be required to wear a safety vest which PWV would furnish. Bruce Williams seconded.
- Mike stated that we are missing out on a lot of Forest Service visibility and connection with the public for over 1/4 of the year. He spoke of the rarity of hunting accidents, 85% of serious hunting related injuries are people falling out of tree stands. He thinks the safety concern is very minor and if people don't feel safe going out on the trails, they don't have to, just as we feel about the risks of hiking alone or with small children. Most of us are really mature adults. Celia Walker brought up the risk of allowing patrols during hunting season. She said risk assessment has 2 factors, the risk and the severity of the possible outcomes including media responses if someone did get shot. Let's say the probability is relatively small. Then you have to look at the magnitude of the harm that could come because of something happening. The other thing that is significant to me is that you can bet that the headlines would report that a pwv member was shot and the damage to pwv because we were not careful enough about protecting our members. Hayden Hambly asked where the hunters are concentrated and if we can only patrol the trails with less hunters on them. He also asked if a vest could get covered up with a pack and suggested we allow other high visibility gear/clothing. He mentioned that maybe we should have members fill out a risk assessment like we do for the hazard trees. Jim Branch asked if the Forest Service is ok with this change. Matt Cowan said that the Forest Service employees are

expected to work in the field and wear orange, he strongly supports the motion to connect with more people. There was talk of a need for education and a desire to wait until 2024 to implement this change so we have time to develop education and add it to the volunteer agreement requirements. Bruce moved to amend the motion to say they can wear safety orange or pink clothing. Mike restated the motion that we start patrolling year-round starting in 2024. While patrolling during high powered rifle season our members would be required to wear a safety vest that PWV is going to furnish or safety orange or pink clothing. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION FUND ASSISTING PWV ON HORSE PACKING TRIP.

- Mark Snyder showed some photos of the trip and thanked the stock committee for their work.

VIDEO ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN POUUDRE WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY

- Peter Skiba put together a video of work on the Little Beaver Creek bridge that he played.

CLOSING

- Mark Snyder thanked all in attendance. Bruce Williams moved to adjourn. The motion passed.

Next Board Meeting: **October 19, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**