

UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2023

Thomasville Firehouse

7:00 PM

Executive Board: Dale Coombs – Chairman; John Crowley – Vice Chairman;
Pat Crowley – Treasurer; Melanie Buchholz - Secretary – all present

Board Members: Marilyn Lee, Jean Dodd; Lea Vasten, Pam Wooley; Jacque Schoon – all present

Members attended: Monroe Dodd, Lyle Schoon, Gail Coombs, Ron Bain, Tom Stewart Jr., David Lapham, Kathy Hunt. Bob Hunt, Jennifer Roberts-Swomley, Chris McDonald, Buck Buchholz, Ben O’Rourke, Heather O’Rourke, Sarge Whalen, Mary Whalen, Reuben Sadowsky, Stacey Wallin, Abby Stern, Alex Speros and Karen Speros.

Guests: Jennifer Schuller, Forest Service Deputy District Ranger
Michael Buglione, Pitkin County Sherriff
Scott Matisse, Pitkin County Deputy Director of Public Works

- The meeting was called to order at 7:09. The minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting were approved by motion from Jacque which was seconded by Lyle and then approved.
- Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer’s Report with a current balance of \$9,410.56. Expenses included reimbursement of the \$200 cost for the green slow down signs. A donation of \$50.00 was made. Jean made a motion to approve the report and Lea seconded the motion. The report was then approved.
- Representative Bradley Jones with Roaring Fork Fire & Rescue were here to discuss fire safety:
 - o Resource Packet handed out including information and resources regarding wildfire mitigation, having a “Go Kit” packed and ready under evacuation circumstances, testing your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors monthly and replacing detectors and batteries when the expiration dates come up, keeping area (at least a couple feet) around propane tank mowed and/or dirt and rock, pet safety, home safety survey (RFFR would be happy to review your completed survey if you’d like), etc. Melanie will attach a copy of the packet to the minutes when emailed out to members.
 - o Bradley as well as other fire prevention folks from RFFR would be happy to come to your house and assess fire mitigation possibilities. Alternatively, you can email pictures and you can talk on the phone.

- Get signed up for both Eagle and Pitkin County alerts because the fire may be started in one county and spread to the next. Handout is attached to emailed minutes to walk you through the process.
- Representative Chris McDonald and Jennifer Schuller with the Forest Service provided status on the following:
 - Timber sales/planned, current and planned harvesting:
 - Peregrine Falcon closure will be in place until at least August 1st but they are monitoring and may be opened earlier.
 - Completed moving and felling project at Sellers but still clean-up to do. They plan on coming in the next few weeks for clean-up. All future operations will go up Crooked Creek Pass so no more trucks hauling down the Frying Pan.
 - Catawampus - they are continuing to monitor how it is growing in.
 - Coyote Park timber sale harvest scheduled to begin 7/30/23 but date may be pushed back. They should not be coming down the Frying Pan Road.
 - Kuns Creek (519 Road) timber sale harvest scheduled to begin within the next 3 weeks (this side of Lime Park). There will be an impact to the road but date may be pushed back. They should not be coming down the Frying Pan Road.
 - Burnt Mountain project most likely won't start for another year or two.
 - Chris will follow up with the contracts to determine what they are responsible for in reconstructing the roads and clean-up and doing it without creating new 4 wheeler roads during the clean-up and reconstruction.
 - Dying trees mostly from Douglas Fir beetle but it appears there are some spruce beetles near the river.
 - Phermon packets can be helpful but overuse has the opposite effect.
 - The State Forestry is the contact resource and they will direct you to who may be able to provide and place the pheromone packets.
 - The road to Demur is blocked by trees about a mile down the road. Jennifer will follow up to get it on the list of things they are working on.
 - There may be trail crews up here soon so if you are aware of anything you can give them a call.

*Jennifer Schuller sent the following information in an email on 7/14/23:

Here's a few follow-up items from the caucus meeting Monday night:

- We will have trails crews in the Upper Frying pan this summer focusing on some of the blowdown that still exists (e.g. Savage/Carter area). We anticipate 4 – 5 trips in the Upper Frying pan area this year to clear out trees and do trails work.
- I've passed the information regarding the fallen trees across the road to Diemer lake to our Recreation department and it will be added to the list of areas that need clearing.
- I also passed on the inquiry regarding the tunnel – we'll have some folks in that area to take a look at the activity. If there's any more intel on that, please pass it along.

- Peter Boyatt with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) was here and discussed, in part, the following:
 - o Fisheries work: Frying Pan River: starting to see a ton of brown trout effecting the rainbows so they will be proposing an increase in limit of brown trout that can be kept. Some fish have a little gill lice and they are monitoring so give a call if you see them on your fish.
 - o Ruedi: Survey completed. Looking at doing a kokanee salmon spawn to get the population up.
 - o Cunningham creek: Brook trout removal ongoing to get cutthroat populations up.
 - o Lime Creek complex has gotten some funding to get the cut throat population up but health (e.g. whirling disease) of the current fish needs to be addressed before so may take some time to get that project going.
 - o Ivanhoe is stocked three times a year. Also stocked are Champman Lake (not Chapman reservoir) but there is a high number of salamanders that are eating the young fish. High mountain lakes are on 2 year restocking schedule and our area should be up this year.
 - o Elk survey: As a whole, elk numbers are looking better, approximately 8,500 head. They are starting to reintroduce cow tags. The Upper Frying Pan Valley has not seen the same uptick in Elk numbers as surrounding areas but it seems like it's starting to work. We are in a predator rich area.
 - o Deer: Not much has changed.
 - o New mountain lion plan has been successful (combined a few units together). Maybe half of the quota was filled. The electronic calling is now allowed in unit 444, 43, 44 and a few other units.
 - o Bears: UFPV members are reporting seeing a lot of bears this year.
 - o Moose: Hard to get aerial survey on moose. Getting more reports of moose sightings.
 - o Wolf introduction:
 - CPW finalized Wolf Reintroduction plan in May. The timeline is to have wolves on the ground by this winter. Multi-year and multi-phased release.
 - Reuben participated in a program regarding wolf introduction called Range Riders. Daniel Curry who is the subject of the film has offered to come up and talk with us at the August meeting. Basically, they are hired to patrol the areas of livestock on horseback. Apparently, where the range riders are implemented, the conflict between wolves and livestock is lessened.
 - Members agreed Rueben would arrange for Daniel Curry to speak with us at our next caucus meeting on August 14th. Rueben will then host a more in-depth conversion on August 15th at Beyuel and possible screening of the film prior to the discussion. The film will also be screen August 16th at TACAW.

- The trash and recycle potluck fundraiser on July 4th brought in \$1,155.00 in donations. Great job everyone! If anyone else would like to donate, please contact Monroe Dodd.

- Abby said they have found some Beyuel Staff to reinstall the Meredith sign. They will arrange to get the sign from Hank. Thank you!

- Corn Boil Committee has set date and location for the 2023 event: Sunday August 6th at Beyuel. The Corn Boil committee will meet this week this week. They will also be getting the invitations

mailed out. Abby noted there were a lot of leftovers so everyone should bring their own to go box in case there are leftovers this year.

- Motion to donate \$300 to Thomasville Fire Station for use of building made by Marilyn, seconded by Pat and then approved. Confirmed donation will be made specifically to Station 43 in Thomasville. Pat gave check to Mel who will get it to Duane to be deposited.
- Miscellaneous Community topics: Pat is also the treasurer of the Church in Thomasville and just had to pay insurance bill for the year. If anyone wants to donate to the church, they can send checks to Thomasville P.O. Box in Meredith.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Upcoming this Summer 2023:

- **Sunday August 6th** - The 2023 Corn Boil will be on Sunday August 6th at 5:00pm at Beyeul (f.k.a. The Diamond J).
- **Monday August 14th**, 7:00pm - Last Caucus meeting of the summer at Thomasville Firehouse.
- **Tuesday August 15th**, Beyeul to host screening of Range Riders documentary with discussion led by Daniel Curry.

The UFPV Caucus website: <https://caucus.ufpv.net/>

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Buchholz
Upper Frying Pan Valley Caucus Secretary