

UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2024

Thomasville Firehouse

7:10 PM

- Executive Board: Dale Coombs – Chairman; John Crowley – Vice Chairman;
Melanie Buchholz - Secretary; Treasurer – Pat Crowley – all present
- Board Members: Marilyn Lee, Jean Dodd, Pam Wooley; Jacque Schoon – all present
- Members attending: Ron Bain, Mary & Sarge Whalen, Kathy & Bob Hunt; Kristin & Troy Rhudy, Carolyn & Dick Shell, Gail Coombs, Betty Lou Woolley & granddaughter, Monroe Dodd, Lyle Schoon, Reuben Sadowsky and Abbey Stern.
- Guests:
- Manager of Pitkin County Assets & Project Management Jodi Smith;
 - District Wildlife Manager Peter Boyatt from Colorado Parks & Wildlife;
 - US Forest Service Deputy District Ranger Jennifer Schuller
 - Pitkin County Commissioner Francie Jacober
 - Pitkin County Commissioner candidate Toni Kronberg
- The meeting was called to order at 7:04. The minutes of the August 2024 meeting were approved. Carolyn made motion to approve minutes, seconded by Lyle.
 - Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer’s Report with a balance of \$8,699.39. Monroe made a motion to approve treasurers report, was seconded by majority.
 - Manager of Pitkin County Assets & Project Management Jodi Smith will share status of plans regarding lime kiln restoration as well as status of repairs regarding the historic sign at base of lime kilns. CDOT has donated some money to restore signs. JVA came up last week since they did the original work on kilns for restoration. Looking at possible original work on kilns for restoration. Funding in the amount of \$265k has been approved for restoration and may need to look at some grants depending on what the restoration needs. A plan will be made this summer, but restoration project will be in 2025. They will be clearing some of the vegetation around the kilns and will be flying drone to get a complete look. Jodi has also found the plaque/sign in the shoulder right in front of the kilns.
 - District Wildlife Manager Peter Boyatt from CPW was here as a guest:
 - Fish stocking: All high country lakes stocked with airplanes this year (even years). Hoffer trout are whirling disease resistant. A complete list of the lakes that will be stocked can be reviewed online, but here are some noted during the meeting: Tellurium, Granite Lakes, Ivanhoe, Mormon Lake, Hidden Lake, Sawyer, Savage, Chapman, Nast and Ruedi.
 - A fish study on Ruedi will be performed.
 - CPW is doing a mice shrimp study on Reudi this year.

- Peter noted a successful kokanee spawning program was started. Peter said thanks to Beyul for helping with this program. CPW would like to continue and have robust operation.
- CPW has had some funding snafues, but they are still looking at restoring the brook trout population in the lime creek complex. CPW will be looking for county and/or non-profit partners for help with the project and funding.
- Proposing to change regulations on Frying Pan River regarding the harvesting of brown trout. The Frying Pan River is a Gold medal fishery and the biomass is exceeded. Proposal of limit brown trout to 4 and would have a slot limit. Hoping this will help with the stunted growth of all fish. The public can go to public comment section on CPW website: <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Submit-Public-Comments.aspx>
- It is believed that a lot of small browns need to be taken out to help the population. In order for the fish population to get healthy, need to get some people to catch, keep and cook fish.
- Rocky Ford Range: CPW looking at removing the catch and release restriction on the (once believed native) population of cutthroat. DNA has helped them determine the cutthroat are non-native and came from the Snake River.
- Wolverine bill passed. Beginning stages and little is known regarding how the process will work, but it may be similar to the process gone through before the wolves were released.
- Wolves:
 - 10 wolves from Oregon have been released in Grand and Summit Counties.
 - No wolves have been south of I-70 to date.
 - One has died consistent with lion depredation.
 - There have been a few collar failures.
 - Member asked if there was a dollar amount for each wolf that is introduced. Unknown right now what the total costs are.
 - There has been a lot of livestock depredation.
 - The Director has not issued take permits yet for the wolves with the most recent livestock depredation.
 - Wolves are currently denning so giving the wolve some space before they get in there to investigate and confirm wolves caused the livestock depredation.
 - Next wolf capture season: CPW has secured a contract with a Native tribe in Washington for up to 15 captures for release in Colorado.
 - Peter imagines future release locations will be very broad so CPW may only let the public know the County where they will be released.
 - The agency took a hit with the first two wolf releases because of the perceived lack of communication with the communities where the wolves were released. CPW will try to be as transparent as possible in the next release.
- Dale introduced the US Forest Service representative, Jennifer Schuller, Deputy District Ranger. Kevin is at Glenwood Springs this office, so Jennifer is also currently stepping in to his role as Acting District Ranger located in the Carbondale office.
 - Eagle-Thomasville road will be opened June 14th. The gate chain was broken, please let them know if you see any of this activity.
 - Peregrine Falcons, doing research to confirm whether falcons are there and if they are nesting. If an order comes out limiting access, Jennifer will forward to the caucus.
 - Bears have been very active this year and wanted us to know they are seeing them out about.
 - Jennifer will get more information on beetles and beetle kill.

- Last falls prescribed burn in Lime Creek area went well. They are looking at potentially burning in another Lime Park location this year. Looking at a possible couple more burn areas in the Crystal Valley for this year as well.
 - Forest Service Range Specialists addresses thistles. They focus along the road and high recreation area. Jennifer will follow up to see if the campgrounds have a certified applicator to be able to spray in the campgrounds. Francie will follow up with Jennifer regarding the chemicals in the different weed sprays.
 - The Forest Service has been working with the Horseshoe Bend Lodge with their permits, etc. Hoping to have infrastructure operational within 4-6 weeks.
 - A member brought up the river bridge at Norrie wondering if repairs would be completed. Apparently ½ of the sidewall is gone. Jennifer will follow up to confirm they are aware and see if it can be determined what the priority is. Also raised was the Eagle- Thomasville Road bridge damages (bridge at the bottom of the first hill crossing Lime Creek).
 - Eagle-Thomasville Road restorations following the Sylvan fire will be underway this year. Have not heard that there will be any closures.
 - Timber:
 - 1. Burnt Mountain: No plans to operate at this time.
 - 2. Coyote Park: Plans to operate this summer but all loads will be going down to Eagle on Eagle-Thomasville Road.
 - Kunz Creek -Contract was terminated. Majority of work was completed. They will be doing some finishing up work.
- Current Pitkin County Commissioner Candidates:
 - **Francie Jacober:** Introductions. Noted that we all are really the stewards of are natural area. Platform is built on 3 main issues:
 - 1. Agriculture and Open space – preserve and supporting conservation and open space. Without agriculture in our county, we will loose our open space.
 - A member asked about TDRs. Francie noted that they are still open to TDRs, but are focusing on people not trying to “game the system” and are actually trying to preserve open space.
 - 2. Community – Designed to help the needs of the less fortunate including housing, seniors, social services. To support this, property taxes are up. Francie said Pitkin county has a low percentage of property taxes when compared to the rest of Colorado. RAFTA – is on RAFTA board and believes it is one of most important infrastructures.
 - 3. Environment – Codified that they have reduced the final house size. Cannot build house larger than 9,250 sq. ft. Regarding solar panels, Pitkin County needs more solar storage than solar panels energy as a count.
 - Pitkin County Commissioner Candidate **Toni Kronberg** introduction to the Caucus Members. Toni thanked the other speakers for coming tonight before her. Worked as a Firefighter and EMS for years. She really wanted to come tonight because she wanted to learn what was important to the people that live in this remote area. Has also taught kids swimming for over 50 years. Strongest suits, she has been a volunteer advocate for 48 year. One of the main reasons she decided to run is because the Pitkin County Commissioners wanted to increase the speed limit near 82 and Woody Creek road. There have been 15 fatalities at this intersection. Toni’s 3 main issues:
 - 1. Highway 82

- 2. Wildfire concerns
 - 3. Affordable housing
- Pitkin County Commissioner Candidate, Neil C. Reiley, was unable to make it tonight's meeting to make his introduction.
- Garbage report from Monroe Dodd:
 - Please don't give out the combination to anyone, have them call Monroe first.
 - Please separate trash from recycling.
- \$6,667.25 currently in the garbage account. About half of this budget will be going out to pay for the next pick ups. Every time the trash is picked up, the cost is \$2,100. Every time the recycling is picked up the cost is \$800. Please crush cans, flatten boxes, etc.
- Monroe would like to put up a camera on South Shore property garage directly adjacent to the garbage dumpsters. Please let him know if you have privacy concerns.
- Motion for the Caucus to pay for garbage surveillance camera and sign letting people know they are on video was made, seconded and approved.
- A bear has gotten into the dumpster on several occasions by ripping off plastic doors. Note: the dumpster has since been replaced with one that has metal doors. For anyone interested in bear safe garbage bins for their own properties, The Roaring Fork Valley Bear Coalition may be able to provide bear straps and/or garbage bins at no cost and would love to hear from you if you have any questions: <https://roaringforkbears.org/diy-options-trash-can-retrofitting/>
- One June 29th, the Basalt High School is hosting a **free** drop off for electronics, etc. As noted on their website (<https://www.basalt.net/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=588>),

“The Town of Basalt and Eagle County are sponsoring the 4th Annual Free Community Recycling Event on Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m at the Basalt High School, 600 Southside Drive. Basalt and area Eagle County residents may bring electronic waste (printers, TVs, monitors), household hazardous waste (paint, antifreeze, oil), waste tires (non-commercial), and metal (scrap metal, appliances) for recycling and yard waste for composting. A paper shredding service will also be available on site.”
- July 4th Festivities Committee to was formed to organize fundraiser dinner to benefit garbage fund.
 - Volunteers to be on the committee included: Marilyn, Pam, Jacque, Carolyn.
 - Festivities will start at 5:00pm with a potluck dinner to follow at the Thomasville Fire House. The Committee would like to provide hot dogs or something.
 - John C. made a motion for the Caucus to provide \$200 towards to potluck, motion was seconded and approved.
 - Beyul host only do corn boil on July 20th, 21st or August 24th or 25th.
 - Dale noted that Horseshoe Bend will not be open for business, but could host the corn boil potluck if everyone wants to keep it on the first Saturday of August. Forest Service has approved.
 - Carolyn made a motion to have the corn boil for the Saturday of August, 3rd. If not feasible to have it at Horseshoe Bend, then would try to reschedule to Beyul on August 24th or 25th if still available.
- Corn Boil Committee to be formed.
 - Corn boil committee was formed to include Marilyn, Jean, Braunwin the Beyul events director (volunteered by Rueben), Carolyn, Pat, Jacque, Pam.

- Reuben and Abby said Beyul only has available dates to host the corn boil on July 20th, 21st or August 24th, maybe August 25th. Members noted that they would like to get back to the annual corn boil on the first Saturday of August, this year that would be Saturday August 3rd.
 - Dale noted that the Horseshoe Bend will not be open for business, but could host this year's the corn boil potluck if everyone wants to keep it on the first Saturday of August. Dale noted he had spoken to the Forest Service and they approved.
 - Carolyn made a motion to have the corn boil on Saturday of August, 3rd. If it turns out not to be feasible to have it at Horseshoe Bend, then we would try to reschedule to Beyul on August 24th or 25th if still available. Motion was seconded and approved.
- New Business: None currently.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12.

Upcoming:

- July 4th Festivities: 5:00pm followed by fundraiser potluck at Thomasville Fire House benefiting the garbage fund.

- Caucus Meetings: July 8th and August 12th, 2024.

- Corn Boil: Planned for Saturday August 3rd at the Horseshoe Bend.

The UFPV Caucus website is www.caucus@ufpv.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Buchholz