

UPPER FRYING PAN VALLEY CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2024

Thomasville Firehouse

7:00 PM

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

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

Members attending: Cory & Nick Mian, Chuck King, , Mary & Sarge Whalen, Bob Hunt; Kathy & Steve Block, Joel Summerlin, Ron & Debbie Bain, Alex & Karen Speros, Carolyn & Dick Shell, Gail Coombs, Betty Lou Woolley, Denise Neilson, Monroe Dodd, John Swomley and Troy McCutcheon.

Guests: Commissioner Francie Jacober;
Pitkin Deputy Public Works Director Scott Mattice, and;
Pitkin County Engineer, Andrew Knapp

The meeting was called to order at 7:04. Corrections made to minutes regarding adding Lyle Schoon to members attended, correcting spelling of Tellurium Lake, corrected the wording of a couple of sentences. Carolyn made motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024, seconded by Lyle, approved.

Pat Crowley gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$8,699.39. \$8,701.06 balance today after deposit in the amount of \$1.67. Marilyn made a motion to approve treasurers report, was seconded by Jacque and majority. A reminder that generally members pay \$20 in dues annually and checks can be sent to Upper Frying Pan Valley Caucus, P.O. Box 10, Meredith, CO 81642.

- Deputy of Public Works Director Scott Matice and Pitkin County Engineer Andrew Napp discussed the electronic speed signs installed late last summer and the data has been collected since that time including, in part, the following:

- 3 speed signs on the Meredith and Thomasville corridor, 1) Upper sign -Facing down valley lanes after passing Lime Kilns; 2) Middle sign - Facing up valley lanes just before you enter Thomasville, and; 3) Lower sign - Facing valley lanes just before entering Meredith near the Firehouse.
- Traffic recorded passing the signs: 8,300 counts at Lime Kiln site and 13,000 at Meredith and 32,200 at Firehouse. The signs don't have the ability to categorize the vehicle and maybe some cars are getting picked up by the middle Thomasville sign both on their way up and way down valley and that could be what is causing there to be more than double the car counts in the middle of the corridor. It could also be there are some people driving up to use the internet at the firehouse from the campgrounds, etc. and/or animals/people walking past middle Thomasville sign.

- 75% of traffic was recorded speeding past both the lower and upper signs. But only 25% are speeding past the middle Thomasville sign.
- 85% percental speed for bookend (upper and lower) signs is 35 miles per hour. For the middle is 30 mph.
- Maximum speed recorded is 148 is an outlier. However, one member did report seeing a porche that could have been going over 100mph.
- Andrew was able to look back at old counts from the Thomasville sight which has been up longer than the upper and lower, it was 50% of cars were recorded speeding in the past at this sign.
- The time of day at which the speeding peaks is 5:00pm in Thomasville. Speeding peaks in Meredith at 11:00am and 5:00pm. Could be locals. Could also be check out time for campers (11:00?) and camping rush hour when coming up (5:00pm)? It is unknown which days have the more significant peaks.
- A member did shared concerns for the straight away in Thomasville and there is not a sign to record speeding vehicles in this section.
- A member asked if there are cameras that actually take a photo and issue tickets. It is unknown whether they are allowed in Pitkin County and if they are looking at them in the future. A member noted that before cameras were installed, members may want to consider whether we would want the county to have the ability to have “surveillance” cameras in our neighborhood.
- Andrew noted that Pitkin County does already have license plate readers in undisclosed places in the county used by law enforcement. For example, these could be used to locate vehicles with owner warrants associated with them.
- At this point, it appears the electronic traffic signs have helped in getting people to slow down.
- In addition to traffic and speeding concerns, Scott and Andrew discussed potholes and snowplowing.
- They are in the process of performing cold patching on potholes until they are able to get out and repair them with asphalt. Please let them know when you see road hazards so they can address.
- A member let them know about the potholes on the upper Thomasville bridge. Scott and Andrew planned to leave tonight’s meeting while the sun was still out so they could drive up the road to look for hazards and see the current potholes on the bridge.
- Regarding snow plowing on Frying Pan Road, Pitkin County has an agreement with Eagle County for them to plow the entire Frying Pan Road. There is no reason at this time to believe this agreement will change for the upcoming winters.
- Scott spoke with Jodi who was a guest at our June meeting and provided some information regarding the restoration of the lime kilns. There has been some weed and bush removal around the kilns so that pictures could be obtained, but the work will not begin until 2025. Additionally, they plan to replace the lime kiln historical sign which had been knocked down.
- Francie Jacober noted her appreciation for Pitkin County Road and Bridges for all they do. Pitkin County currently has 120 paved roads, and 370 dirt roads they maintain.
- Feel free to email Andrew.knapp@pitkincounty.com or call Romany 970-927-5390 with any follow up questions, reporting of road hazards (i.e. potholes), downed mile markers, signs, etc. When you report, it is very helpful to have mile markers.

Francie Jacober:

- Sadly, Pitkin County Attorney John Neilly passed away. He had been with the county for 30 years. “It was a pretty serious personal loss to all of us and we are working on reorganizing the the attorney’s office. We’re picking an intermin county attorney which you will probably hear

about, probably within an week maybe? And then we'll do some kind of search for a permanent county attorney. But it has affected the production of everybody in the county so you're not getting phone calls returned at the rate you would like and if other things seem a little slow that's probably been a result." There will be memorial services held for Mr. Neily in the fall.

- Francie thanked anyone who had participated in the primary election a few weeks ago. Francie Jacobi will face challenger Toni Kroneberg in the November election to determine who will be Pitkin County Commissioner next term.
- Sardy Field/Aspen Airport status: There is a group that called Citizens Against Bigger Planes (CABP) and they have applied with the county to put a ballot initiative on the ballot which would propose that the county cannot change the size of the runway or move the runway without a public vote. This would result in a Home Rule Charter change if this gets passed. Additionally, the FAA appoints the Pitkin Board of County Commissioners as the decision makers and arbitrators about the airport. Therefore, it is unclear how the FAA would respond to a ballot question that would then take the decision-making ability away from the BOCC. The Hatch Act and the Fair Election Act prevents the county from using any money to respond to the CABP's ballot initiative so the BOCC cannot respond officially. There are other people working to respond to CABP's ballot initiative so we may see some activity regarding this in the future. A member asked if Francie was unable to identify the "other people" opposing to the CABP's opposition. Francie said she couldn't at this sign but would be able to soon. Member asked if they would be soliciting funds, and Francie said they will be soon, "So that will be a campaign that will sort of counter the campaign from Citizens Group [sic] Against Bigger Planes and the Amory Lovins Aspen Fly Right campaign. They are not the same thing interestingly enough." Francie will update the Caucus on the status of the ballot initiative during our August Caucus meeting.
- group which are stating the Fly Right program should be up for a vote. Listen to recording.
- On the valley floor Francie noted they are seeing a "plague" in ground squirrels and chipmunks too. The ground squirrels are "pretty devastating to the farmers right now," digging holes which affect tractors as well losing crop to them. Francie wanted to know if we had also been seeing a rise in ground squirrel numbers in the Upper Frying Pan Valley. The members are not seeing a rise in ground squirrels here. Nor is anyone seeing a decline in coyotes.
- Member asked if Francie had any influence on the quality of the Eagle-Thomasville Road section where it is impassable when wet. The member noted he had helped 2 motorists who were stuck in that section. Currently, they are just put a lot of work and rock up past Spring Gulch Ski area and Francie did not know what the schedule was but would be something good to report to Pitkin County Engineer Andrew who had spoke to us earlier. Dale noted a few years ago they dumped some shale on the road, and it did really helped a lot. It gives the county a chance to get rid of the shale and at the same time helps the road.

Garbage report from Monroe Dodd:

- 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.
 - The garbage Reserve Fund has been around \$1,330. Donations from the other night totaled \$367 and were added to the garbage reserve fund. Giving a current rounded total in the for the Reserve Fund of \$1,697. The Reserve Fund is used in case waste management raises their prices. There is almost as much money in the garbage checking account which currently has a balance in the amount of \$8,617. The bins as of today where almost completely full.

- Therefore, calling waste management to empty will cost approximately \$2,870 to empty. This in addition to the bill from June will leave approximately \$2,870 in the checking account.
- Member asked if only has 1 bag because only up for a couple weeks so only has about 1 bag a month. Monroe said it's reasonable to give him a call and he can discuss price with member in that situation.
 - Camera has been installed that aims on the garage bins. A sign has been posted on the bins that video is in process.
 - Monroe said the main reason for the cameras is the bears.
- Corn Boil Committee report from Carolyn and Marilyn:
 - The Corn Boil Committee Marilyn, Jean, Carolyn, Pat, Jacque, Pam and Braunwin (Beyul events director as volunteered by Rueben).
 - The Committee has agreed to go back to the traditional date of the first Saturday of August, which this year is on Saturday August 3rd.
 - Member asked why it was not being held at Beyul this year and was advised the only dates Beyul could offer were June 21st and August 25th and the members in attendance for the June meeting indicated they would like to get back to the traditional first Saturday of August date for the corn boil.
 - **Work session at horseshoe bend on the July 19th** at 1:00pm (offering hot dog lunch to volunteers) at Horseshoe Bend to help get ready for the corn boil.
 - **Set-up session** will be on July 26th to get Horseshoe bend ready for corn boil.
 - **Sub-Committees formed need volunteers:**
 - **Food & Beverage Committee:** Contact Jacque Shoon (970-927-4100 home, 970-379-2274 cell) or Mary Whalen (970-379-5100 cell, 970-927-5440 home) to volunteer for this committee.
 - **Greeting Committee:** Contact Marilyn Lee (970-379-5100 cell, 970-927-3844 home) to volunteer for this committee.
 - **Set-Up Committee:** Carolyn Shell (970-927-1924 home, 713-724-9813 cell) or Dick Shell (713-724-9811 cell) to volunteer for this committee.
 - **Clean-up Committee:** Please contact Jean Dodd (970-927-0339 home, 913-631-2043 cell) to volunteer for this committee.
 - Work session on the July 19th (offering hot dog lunch) at 1:00 and the set up on July 26th to get Horseshoe bend ready for corn boil (
 - Sub-Committees formed: Set up and
 - Donations at the Corn Boil last year were \$846. The committee stated they were getting quotes for the meat far above \$846. John made a motion to approve \$1,500 budget for the corn boil, majority seconded the motion.
 - New Business:
 - Valley Girls Luncheon will be hosted by Kathy Block this year. Friday August 9th. Note: An email Flyer was sent via email after this meeting.
 - Lea Vasten is resigning so will look for volunteers to fill her position through next summer when board member election determined in August 2025. Mary Whalen would like to volunteer. If anyone else is interested, please contact Dale and let him know. A replacement board member will be appointed at the upcoming August meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

The next meetings will be August 12th, 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Buchholz