

December 8, 2022 FINAL MINUTES ESWA BUSINESS MEETING Via Zoom

OPENING MATTERS

- Welcome (Steve): Jim Alexander, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Tom Copper, Tim Drescher, Steve Elder, Frances Hartogh, Colleen Gauron, Frank Gutmann, Zach Kauk, Karn Stiegelmeier, Dave O. From the USFS: Kat Bazan.
- Review/Approve Agenda (Steve)
- Review/Approve 11/10/22 Minutes (Frances): Approved subject to Joan

IMPACT MATTERS

- *Steve's 12 Days of Wilderness*: Steve provided a great photo recap of his experience with ESWA – Mike B and others thanked Steve for his great service.

OFFICER/USFS REPORTS

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)
 - Committee and Leadership Updates (Karn)
 - Introduction and vote on new Board Members Colleen Gauron, Krista Hughes, Zach Kauk. Karn moved to accept all 3; board approved unanimously.
 - Currie Craven and George Resseguie stepping off board.
 - Mike B will take on the Chairship of VWR/THH Committee with Steve as Co-Chair, to include arranging mentors for each new VWR.
 - Joan will take over Chairship of Membership Committee.
 - Wild & Scenic Film Festival update (Karn/Steve): Karn said deadline is next week to choose films, with emphasis on honoring indigenous, biodiversity, Wilderness; Steve said we have \$7k in sponsorship asks out; Steve is soliciting. A-Basin is in for \$1,500, and will donate a season pass. Tim connected Steve with Mountain Dwellers Coffee, who will also sponsor.
 - Bill gave Rotary Talk #8 in Parker, said there were lots of questions, video & PPT worked well.
- USFS Reports (Kat). Tyler was unavailable.
 - Wilderness Character Monitoring Baseline Assessments (Kat): Hoping for ESWA support, for all 6 forests. Society for Wilderness Stewardship – will hire one of their Fellows. NWSA grant would extend Fellow for 3 months to get Holy Cross Assessment done, too. Need \$18-19K numbers; grant opens in Feb and we know in April-May if successful. \$9,500. Would make it a 9-12 month position. ESWA would pay ½. Jim said some of ESWA's contribution can be in kind; Kat said \$1-2K in kind, at \$29/hour. ESWA VWRs can go out in field with Fellow. For instance, if Fellow sees that bighorn sheep are a large part of characteristic, can look at closures and other management actions.
 - Dogs on Leash – Kat working towards restoring the leash requirement in Holy Cross in 2023 HX forest management plan revision

- Kat – proposed bighorn closure on Booth Lake – put on hold and take next year to gather data; might do initial caution program, with informational signing.
- Kat would like extension of funding for hunting season rangers – needs to check hunting season schedule – will get back to Mike B next week.
- Kat is starting to hire – has funding for a full-time Wilderness Ranger, and three seasonal rangers.
- Kat confirmed that Tyler DRD now is a permanent hire.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

- Treasurer’s Report (Tom): Tom reviewed current financials and dues renewal. CO Gives Day and renewals total \$27,338, which compares to \$26,000 total last year, and will probably increase before year’s end. Bank balance \$62,000.
- Draft Budget Presentation and Discussion: Mike B reviewed each line item of the 2023 proposed budget, which had been circulated to boss list. \$57k available to spend. Doesn’t include film festival, since unknown as fundraiser. Mike B, Tim, and Frances expressed support for continuing to fund Wilderness ranger for 2 additional weeks into hunting season, and maybe partner with BHA. Dave B recommended engaging with CPW on hunting issues, too, and Jim mentioned that CPW has a grant program for stewardship, which ESWA should apply for. Board indicated support for ESWA creating hunter LNT brochures. We still need Tyler’s input on trail projects.
Action: Moved to approve 2023 budget – unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Advocacy (Karn/Frances): Frances said that some AC members had reviewed the American Outdoor Recreation Act & are meeting tomorrow with Scott Miller of The Wilderness Society.

ADJOURN: 8:04 pm

TO DO:

Colleen/Bill: Get headshots of 3 new board members and update “Who We Are” page of ESWA website. Remove Currie and George.

Jim: Research and apply for CPW stewardship grant.

Mike B and Frances meet with Kim Langmaid re CMC interns

Meet with Kat mid-Jan