

**MINUTES - ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**January 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

1. Mike Browning, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees and guests.
2. Roll Call/Introduction of Guests: In attendance were Jim Alexander, Kat Bazan, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Currie Craven, Tim Drescher, Ellie Finlay, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Frances Hartogh, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens, Chris Turner. Guests: Cyndi Koop, Cindy Levin, Rick Williams, Ray Skowrya
3. The meeting Agenda was approved.
4. The 12/10/20 Meeting Minutes were approved.
5. 2020 Currie Craven Award Presentation: Mike Mayrer presented the Currie Craven Award to Cyndi Koop, and thanked her for her work running the VWR program and clearing thousands of trees. Cyndi thanked everyone, noted that this is the 15<sup>th</sup> year she's been a VWR, thanked Currie and Maryann Gaug, and recounted some fun rangering stories. Per Currie, Cyndi is a "One-woman crosscut saw ninja master." Cyndi welcomed everyone to come visit her in Denali.
6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Turner reviewed the financials. Mike B thanked Chris for moving the financials over to Quicken.
7. Chair Mike Browning's report:
  - Rincon Mine Testimony: Mike B testified at the January 6 Eagle County Planning Commission meeting in opposition to the proposed gravel mine near the confluence of the Colorado and Eagle River by Dotsero. The commission voted 4-2 to deny the mine application.
  - Berlaimont Testimony: Mike testified at a January 7 hearing to oppose the USFS's approval of a paved road to access the Berlaimont private property. The hearing office is taking the testimony under advisement, and a decision will be forthcoming.
  - Walking Mountains Call: Mike B and Frances zoomed with Lara Carlson, Senior Programs Director for the nonprofit Walking Mountains Science Center, to discuss how ESWA might coordinate with them. Frances reported that Lara provided an overview of WMSC's programs, including Sustainability, STEM and other school and summer-camp programs, paid internships (including housing) for high school and college students, Sustainability film series, and EVOM (the Eagle County Outdoor Movement). WMSC works closely with the USFS and Vail Associates, and receives funding from many organizations and individuals. They have a campus in Avon, run the Nature Discovery Center on Vail Mountain and the Vail Nature Center by the Betty Ford Gardens, and staff the USFS ENHX Ranger district info desk. From their website, it looks like WMSC has about \$25M in assets, raised over \$5M last year, and have almost 50 staff members, including interns. Some of their programs on which Lara suggested ESWA could collaborate (with a preference for "defined events"), include: Trailhead Hosting (cross market as a volunteer opportunity), one-off film (ESWA could suggest a Wilderness-related film, and show it at the theater on WMSC's campus), Campfire Programs and Wilderness Forum (ESWA could provide guest speakers), Curious Nature column (weekly column in Vail Daily) - ESWA could provide

**MINUTES – Feb 11, 2021 ESWA PLANNING MEETING  
5:30 pm VIA ZOOM**

1. Mike Browning, Chair, welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
2. Attendees: Kat Bazan, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Ellie Finlay, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Frances Hartogh, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens, Chris Turner, Rick Williams, Guests: Mark Decesaris, Steve Elder, Cindy Levin, Leanne Veldhuis, Rick Williams
3. Meeting Agenda was approved.
4. Minutes of January meeting were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report: Chris Turner, Treasurer, presented the February financials.
6. Introduction of EN-HX District Ranger: Mike B introduced Leanne Veldhuis, the new Eagles Nest-Holy Cross District Ranger. Leanne provided remarks about her background and her positive experience so far as District Ranger, including the challenge of starting last summer during Covid and an unprecedented fire season. In response to a question, Leanne discussed the Booth Creek Hazardous Fuels Mitigation project the USFS is developing with the TOV, and how the project may affect land that is destined to become part of the ENW if the CORE Act passes. She said that although the Forest Service is not treating the CORE land as Wilderness for now, it won't conduct any activities that would compromise the lands' Wilderness qualities.
7. Chair's report:
  - Mike B reported on the 2/4 ESWA-USFS Planning Call, including ideas on where ESWA can do trail projects, ESWA's new TH program, and support for sawyer and field certification with Anne Dal Vera.
  - Mike B reported on the ESWA-Walking Mountains Partnership: Once monthly, WMSC will give ESWA one of its Vail Daily Hike of the Week or Curious Nature columns on a topic related to ESWA and Wilderness stewardship, and will provide volunteers for our TH hosting program. Frances send WMSC an article on Winter Wilderness Etiquette.
8. USFS reports: Kat reported that she appreciated the great planning meeting with ESWA about the VWR training. She is working on finalizing dates for the llama work trips. Summer USFS hiring is complete, with 4 trail crew members and 2 Wilderness rangers. Kat said that Cindy reports that the Ruby Ranch public scoping is coming up in two weeks. Kat provided an update on the TH signage program, and sent 2<sup>nd</sup> drafts for final ESWA comments. Kat said that Cindy would also like signs for the Summit side.
9. VWR Training: Mike B said that, based on the meeting with Kat and Cindy, ESWA will probably need to plan to run the morning training by Zoom in June, followed by smaller field groups going out on mentor hikes to complete the VWR training. If Summit County relaxes the Covid-related meeting limitations, the training could still be conducted in person.
10. CMC Internship Update: Regarding the two CMC summer fellowships to be funded by ESWA, Bill has been working with Jeremy Deem on the Summit side and Frances and Mike B

are working with Kim Langmaid and Jeremiah Johnson on the Eagle side. ESWA is offering a summer 2021 stipend of \$1,500 for an intern taking an internship course for three credits. A minimum of 100 hours of work is expected, plus time spent with the CMC's internship supervisor. Frances reported that on the Eagle side, the intern will complete ESWA's June Volunteer Wilderness Ranger training, and VWR patrols in the Eagles Nest or Holy Cross Wilderness with an ESWA Ranger to learn how ESWA currently interacts with Wilderness users and the issues VWRs encounter on the trail. On the Summit side, it is proposed that the internship will probably be more hard-science focused. On the Eagle side, the fellowship will focus on (1) researching and recommending the best means for VWRs to encourage Wilderness users encountered on patrol to adopt LNT, protect Wilderness values, and follow USFS Wilderness regulations; (2) developing training programs for ESWA to utilize in its future VWR training programs; (3) analyzing and recommending the best means for ESWA to educate the public in general, and young adults in particular, about the need for and means to protect our local Wilderness Areas from overuse; and (4) recommending social media strategies to encourage heightened awareness of the current threats to our local Wilderness Areas and the individual behaviors we need to adopt to protect them. The intern will provide a final report and short video summarizing the intern's work and key findings suitable for posting on ESWA's website.

It would be ideal if the interns could liaise on some level with the USFS, and Kat said this may be possible and that she will also look into having the interns covered by USFS workers comp.

11. Advocacy Updates: Mike B provided a brief update on the Berlaimont hearing officer's decision, and on Vail Resort's pulling out of the proposed Booth Heights land exchange with the TOV, including public pressure for the TOV to condemn the property for bighorn sheep habitat. Regarding adding future causes to ESWA's Advocacy, such as 30x30 or wildlife corridors/crossings, Mike B recommended that future proponents provide the board with a one-to-2-page proposal including details such as the connection to Wilderness and to ESWA's mission.

12. Strategic Planning/Recruitment: Mike B strongly encouraged the guests to become involved with ESWA.

13. Trailhead Hosting Program: Mike B reported that he and Frances had met with the TOV regarding coordinating our TH hosting program. The town's program focuses on parking issues at the Booth Lake and Gore THs, but they are interested in coordinating with ESWA and may provide some funding for our TH hosting kits.

14. Strategic Planning for Trail Projects: Dave B said there will be an ESWA-USFS meeting on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> with Jim, Laurie, Cindy, Dave, and Kat; Mike B requested to be included.

15. Sawyer Program Update: Mike B reported on the field certification plans with Anne Dal Vera. A few people have indicated an interest in the full training. ESWA has purchased 2 new saws and some new Katanas. We are waiting to hear from Cindy and Kat about which trails we are solely responsible for clearing, and how we will coordinate clearing other trails.

16. Grant Status/Weed Program: Jim couldn't attend the meeting, but Mike B reported on Jim's behalf that ESWA had received a \$20,000 grant for weeds control, and is planning a July 12 weed pull and additional training with USFS Steve Elzinga.

17. New Website: Bill reported that Cindy Levin is interested in co-managing ESWA's new website. Bill is quite pleased with the WIX program, which he says is very user friendly. Chris is helping with transferring content between the old and new websites. Chris says we will be able to host through Gmail. Bill thanked everyone for their input

18. E-Newsletters and Social Media: Chris has agreed to take over ESWA's Instagram account. Chris requested ESWA photos for Instagram. Chris said that he has obtained lots of local business companies on Instagram.

Next Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

**MINUTES - ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**March 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

OPENING MATTERS

1. Welcome: Mike Browning, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Roll Call: Jim Alexander, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Tom Copper, Currie Craven, Tim Drescher, Cindy Ebbert, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Frances Hartogh, Mike Meyrer, Dave Owens, Steve Elder, Cindy Levin, Karn Stiegelmeier, Rick Williams
3. Agenda: approved with one correction (on Llama Trips, "Dave O" changed to "Dave B").
4. Minutes of the 2/11/21 board meeting were approved with amendment to add Dave Owens to the roll call.
5. Nomination of new Board members: Mike B introduced the three board nominees, and thanked Bill for his help in recruiting them:
  - Tom Copper
  - Steve Elder
  - Karn Stiegelmeier

Mike B nominated all three; Bill and Currie seconded. Bill made a comment about the board becoming 12 members, and that this might prove to be unwieldy. Currie mentioned the possibility of an advisory board at a higher level. Currie made a motion to close the nominations; Ken seconded. Unanimously approved 3 new board members. Mike B welcomed Karn, Steve, and Tom, and said he will be reaching out to each board member individually in the next few months to see what their passions are as far as ESWA work.

REPORTS & UPDATES

6. Treasurer's Report: Mike B reviewed the Treasurer's Report that Chris had sent earlier in the day, and mentioned that project costs need to go in a different column - he will follow up with Chris. Dave O mentioned that the Wilderness sign on the Wheeler Lakes trail on the north side of I-70 across from Copper Mountain needs replacing. Cindy E said she has a sign to replace it with, and Dave O, Frank, and Dave B volunteered to help erect the sign. Dave O will follow up with Cindy E.
7. Chair's report:
  - Mike B thanked Cindy Levin for taking over management of ESWA's website, and thanked Bill Betz for all of his great work on the website.
  - Mike thanked Merry Lynne for her work on master list database.
  - Mike thanked Frances for writing Trail/Snowshoe of the Week articles for WMSC for the Vail Daily. Karn asked if the Summit Daily might be approached to print the articles. Frances will send Karn the articles. Karn recommended an article on fire prevention; she said that federal and state bills on fire response might include funding for education.
  - Ruby Ranch fire mitigation update: Homeowners adjacent to ENW will pay for mitigation. The USFS is managing the process, which will require minimal tool use and

no motorized work. The USFS is working with Wilderness Workshop, Wilderness Society, and ESWA to allay concerns about this work being done in Wilderness. Wilderness Workshop will reach out to Wilderness Watch.

8. USFS reports: Cindy E said she's glad to be back after her 4-month detail in HX. She is finishing up hiring one Wilderness ranger and one intern. She will some have access to time from interns in other rec programs, and will have 2 weeks of youth crews for the Mesa Cortina boardwalk and for sawyering. Great American Outdoors Act funding will be used for work on the Lower Cataract wet area, the Surprise Lake trail realignment, and replacing the bridge on the Boulder Creek Trail. Cindy is waiting for the design work bid for Surprise Lake. Bill asked about the Slate Creek bridge - Tim and Cindy said it's lower priority because a fallen tree allows crossing. Cindy said she's looking forward to the VWR and sawyer training, and the TH Hosting program development. She reported that, due to Covid, the sawyer First Aid recertification has been waived to 2022. Because her season becomes quite busy starting in May, Cindy asked for an ESWA volunteer to manage the sawyer program, including drafting of guiding documents, with USFS continuing to help with the training sessions. Ken, Frank, Dave B, and Mike M agreed to coordinate and follow up with Cindy.

9. Advocacy Updates:

- Core Act: Frances reported that the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act and related legislation is a step closer to becoming law after passing the U.S. House of Representatives last month. The CORE Act is now part of a package of public lands bills called Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act (PAW+), or H.R. 803. Frances encouraged everyone to write and call Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper to support CORE. Karn said she believes it will pass.
- Booth Heights Bighorn: Mike B said that Vail Resorts unfortunately pulled out of the exchange deal that would have preserved the sheep habitat. The Vail Daily published Mike B's LTE on behalf of ESWA, and many other LTEs have been published in support of protecting the bighorn habitat.
- Lower Blue Gravel Pit – Mike B discussed the public information session he attended. There is an April 21 hearing that Mike B will attend.
- Spraddle Creek (Booth) Fire Mitigation: Mike B reported that Leanne Veldhuis is scheduling a meeting to update interested groups on the plan.
- Renaming Gore to Nuchu: Bill and Karn reported no new developments, as the bureaucracy grinds on.

Dave B provided an update on the Safe Passages movement, and said that their coordinator, Ashley Nettles, is hoping for a \$500 contribution from ESWA.

10. VWR Training June 5: Mike B has contacted everyone who signed up last year. ESWA will run ads in Vail & Summit Daily.

11. Strategic Plan for Trail Projects: Jim reported that he, Dave B, and Laurie have been working with Cindy E and Kat to possibly adopt an area for major trail work. Field data will be collected this summer to determine where best to contribute, followed by grant applications, and work starting in 2022-23. Jim said that such a project might get folks more committed, including younger people. Dave B said they'd met with the Colorado 14'r Initiative to see how they conduct projects. Cindy said ESWA's version should be scaled to ESWA's size. Jim said the

Summit-side CMC intern will work on this, perhaps focusing on the Eccles Pass trail system. Cindy said that four years ago a USFS employee hiked all ENW trails to determine trail status, and that this information is available online and should be used so that new work doesn't repeat the work already done.

12. 2021 Llama trips: Three trips will be coordinated by Dave B and Tim - Slate Lakes (Dave B), Lake Constantine (Tim), and Sopris Brady (Tim). Signup priority will be given to folks who signed up for last summer's cancelled trips.

13. Strategic Planning for ESWA: Mike B will contact board members to see how the board is working and to sign folks up according to their individual passions.

14. Trailhead Host Program: Mike B, Kat, and Cindy E have identified trailheads and dates where they need TH Hosts. These will be posted on ESWA's website and in e-newsletters. Help is needed in assembling trail kits. TH Hosts may also adopt TH's - let Mike B know if you're interested. Ellie Finlay has agreed to be the TH Host coordinator for the Eagle side, and Dave O will head up the Summit side. Cindy Muesing, the professional computer programmer who has developed the VWR signup forms, will do the same for TH Hosting. At least one volunteer at each TH Hosting table must be a VWR. Dave O asked about Lily Pad Lake, which can be accessed from Ryan Gulch Road or from Mesa Cortina - he said Ryan Gulch needs a TH Host. Dave O also wants to create standard guidelines for TH Hosts to communicate with folks who have dogs off leash, depending on whether the TH is at the Wilderness boundary or some distance away.

15. Grant Status: Jim reported that ESWA is receiving \$20,000 for the USFS weed program from the NFF Ski Conservation Fund - because of Covid, this is half of what we asked for, but Cindy E said it was great given how limited this year's funding is. At Jim's request, Cindy E will reach out to Steve Elzinga to remind him to coordinate weed work with Jim. Jim mentioned that Jamie Werner is NFF's new White River National Forest Stewardship Coordinator. Cindy E is hoping for funding for deferred maintenance on trails vs big-picture projects. Mike B mentioned that Mike Connolly of FDRD said ESWA should apply for Summit Foundation grant - Cindy E said she would coordinate with Jim. Frank asked about the sign directing to the Meadow Creek TH that had been mowed over - Cindy E will add its replacement to the list.

16. Weed Program: Jim sent an email of ideas. We will have trainings, maybe one in the Front Range, since weed seasons starts earlier there. Weed pulls will be scheduled for July 10 or 31<sup>st</sup>, and Jim needs volunteers to help with organizing. Jim is working with the Betty Ford Alpine staff to develop a program for monitoring alpine plants. Jim said that the Vail Weed Warriors need cheatgrass volunteers. Please email Jim for more info or to volunteer.

17. Sawyer Program and Training: Mike B said Anne Dal Vera will finish up field training July 12-13 and do new training. On the Eagle side, Kat assigned to ESWA sawyering responsibility for Dead Dog, East Lake, Squaw Creek, Bighorn, and Piktkin trails. Cindy E is working to finalize Summit-side responsibilities.

18. Update on CMC Internships: Mike B said that CMC has approved both projects, and that the interns will join VWR training. Currie asked about insurance and Workers Comp, to make sure ESWA is protected. Mike B will follow up.

19. Website: Mike B thanked Cindy L for volunteering to maintain the website, and asked everyone to send website ideas to Cindy L, Mike B, and Bill. Cindy L said WIX is an interesting and useful program, and thanked Bill for his help. Bill thanked Merry Lynne Hamilton for taking over the database.

20. e-Newsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter: Bill reported that PWV will write the April newsletter essay on funding to repair trails damaged by Cameron Peak fire. May's author is the Summit Foundation, and June's is new board member Steve Elder writing about fly fishing. Bill will include Dave O's TH hosting write-up in the next e-newsletter.

21. Social Media: Bill thanked Chris for taking over ESWA's Instagram. Bill still needs a volunteer for ESWA's Facebook page.

ADJOURNMENT 7:15pm

**TO DO/FOLLOW UP:**

Jim A: Coordinate Summit Foundation grant application with Cindy E.

Mike B. (1) Reach out to Board members this spring to see what they'd like to focus on; (2) follow up on CMC internships; (3) follow up with Chris on moving project costs column in budget.

Cindy Ebbert: (1) Reach out to Steve Elzinga to remind him to coordinate weed work with Jim; (2) coordinate replacement of Meadow Creek and Wheeler Lakes signs; coordinate with Jim on Summit Foundation grant application.

Dave O: (1) Follow up with Cindy E. on replacing Wheeler Lakes trail Wilderness sign; (2) create standard guidelines for TH Hosts to communicate with folks who have dogs off leash.

Ken, Frank, Dave B, and Mike M: Follow up with Cindy E to manage the sawyer program, including drafting of guiding documents.

Next Board Meeting **Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 5:30.**

**ESWA PLANNING MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 8, 2021 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

OPENING MATTERS

1. Roll Call: Jim Alexander, Kat Bazan, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Tom Copper, Currie Craven, Cindy Ebbert, Steve Elder, Frank Gutmann, Frances Hartogh, Cindy Levin, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens, Karn Stiegelmeier.
2. The Agenda was approved
3. The 3/11/21 Minutes were approved. Mike B pointed out the To Do List at the end of the minutes, and asked attendees to in future provide him with progress reports on their "to do" items at least one week before the next meeting.

REPORTS & UPDATES

4. Treasurer's Report: Mike B reviewed Treasurer Chris Turner's report.
5. Chair's report (Mike B.):
  - Ruby Ranch Fire Mitigation Project: Comments are due by the end of April. Bill asked Cindy E about the 200-foot project strip; Cindy said the actual project area is closer to the homes, the 200-foot strip is just for the study area, and the actual treated area will be feathered, not a strip of 200 feet. Wilderness Workshop will reach out to Wilderness Watch. Currie asked if the USFS could have reached out to ESWA earlier; Cindy E. and Mike confirmed that they had done so in 2020. Currie asked why not an EIS rather than an EA. Cindy E. said a Categorical Exclusion is more likely, depending on public comment. USFS has done a Minimal Requirements Assessment. Cindy E offered to talk with Currie when he visits the area. Dave B expressed interest in joining. Cindy E encouraged them to first review the info at these links:  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/961f3e95e60f494bbf6bad50a5052554?item=1>  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59751>
  - Lower Blue Gravel Pit: There is an upcoming hearing on April 21 before the Mined Land Reclamation Board. Karn said the gravel company is temporarily leasing the site to the horse rescue program run by John Longhill, who has been active in the Friends of the Lower Blue River.
  - Spraddle Creek (Booth) Fire Mitigation Meeting 4/4: Meeting has been postponed to April 12.
6. USFS reports (Cindy and Kat): Kat noted that ESWA had paid for this year's llama rentals, and thanked ESWA for doing so. Kat says she is finalizing summer projects, but just lost a Wilderness Ranger, so is down to 1.5; she will use interns to fill the gap. She is working with the IDT team on Spraddle Creek-Booth Creek planning. The East Vail educational signs are

ready and Kat will let us know when she is ready to have us help erect them. Cindy is also getting ready for summer work, with two Rangers: Megan Sullivan is returning, plus an intern from Texas. Cindy will have a 6-person trail crew, and a RMYC crew is funded to finish the Mesa Cortina boardwalk. The Surprise Trail realignment is moving forward with ESWA funding, Contour Logic based in Boulder will prepare the design for steep section realignment, and NEPA specialists will be out there this summer. She expects construction to commence in summer 2022. Cindy and Kat will prepare their own presentations for VWR training. Bill suggested Cindy and Kat send their Powerpoint slides to him for inclusion in one presentation to avoid any loading problems.

7. Summit Daily Articles: Karn prepared and shared a spreadsheet of weekly articles for the Summit Daily, to start the first Friday or Sunday in May. Cindy E said it would be great if most of the articles focused on Wilderness-specific topics, and she will provide some suggestions to Mike B and Karn. Mike B has volunteered to write the first *What Is Wilderness* column. A lively discussion ensued about the title for ESWA's column. Several good suggestions were made, including Wildernews, Embracing Wilderness, Keep Wilderness Wild, and Get Wild. The general consensus was that "Get Wild!" would be good, and Karn agreed to pass it by the Summit Daily. Mike B asked for volunteer writers. Bill said we need an ESWA clearinghouse – Frances offered to be an editor. It was agreed that we need to prepare a byline about the author and mention ESWA.

8. Trifolds, Ads: Mike B has received a few comments on the trifold – final comments are due to Mike by April 15. Ads: Mike B said that if you sign up for the Vail Daily's Give magazine for \$995, you also get a ½ page ad this summer for free. It was recommended that we expand the ads to include VWRs, sawyer, and weeds. The board agreed to fund the ads, with this broader context.

9. Website, e-Newsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media:  
Website: Cindy L said that working with the website has been great, and she has made several updates with guidance from Bill. She thanked Bill for his help with the calendar, and requested feedback on the calendar and that everyone should send her any suggested changes.  
Newsletters: Bill reported that the April newsletter went out with Poudre Wilderness Volunteers' essay on trail repairs necessitated by last summer's fires, and that PWV has raised \$20k of their \$25K goal, including \$1k from ESWA. Bill believes this is a good investment in the future because PWV has lots of experience they can share. Bill noted that the May essay is on the Summit Foundation and June's is on fly fishing, authored by new ESWA board member Steve E.

10. June 5 VWR Training: Mike B said that we need to develop the training scenarios within the next few weeks, and had asked Ken and Mike M to join in a conference call next week to ensure timely progress towards the training program. Mike B reported that there are 20 recruits available on June 5, five who can't make June 5 but would like to train through a recorded version, and about one dozen who haven't responded. Mike M will ask this week if we've lost any current VWRs. Mike B says we had 40 active rangers last year. Frances offered to review the County COVID regs, in case an in-person training might be possible. Cindy E said ESWA should have weekly meetings to get the training developed timely.

11. Strategic Plan for Trail Projects: Dave B. and Jim have been working with Cindy E to develop possible ESWA trail projects.

12. CMC Internships: Mike B says CMC is worried about insurance. Cindy E said that the USFS could harbor them under an "individual volunteer agreement," if that will meet CMC's requirements for the students, but this would just allow access to Workers Comp and liability.

13. 2021 Llama trips/Work Trips: Dave B has some people from last summer's list already signed up for llama trips. It was decided to publish availability in the May & June newsletters and the HCN. Dave B will check ESWA's website for content.

14. Trailhead Host Program: Bill said that Cindy Musing has developed signup ability. It was agreed that Joan, Ellie, and Dave O should hold weekly meetings to be able to set up program. Joan pointed out that Mike M and Ken need to organize distribution of materials, including between VWR and TH Hosting program.

15. Grant Status/Weed Program: Jim reported that he has an April 15 deadline to send the grant application to Summit Foundation for Wilderness signs. He is trying to pin down dates for other events. Jim needs a volunteer to coordinate dates for the Copper Mountain seed collection and the Betty Ford clinic.

16. Sawyer Program and Training: Mike B reported that there are seven people from last year's sawyer training who have signed up for field training this year, and seven more have signed up for the full training. Anne Dal Vera is available for the training sessions.

ADJOURNMENT 7:00 pm

Next Board Meeting Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 5:30.

### **TO DO:**

#### **Everyone:**

1. Review Karn's list of Summit Daily column topics, and provide Mike B and Karn more suggested topics and offers to write by May 1.
2. Provide final comments on ESWA trifold to Mike B by April 15.
3. Those interested should provide comments to Mike B on the Ruby Ranch Fire Mitigation Project by the end of April.
4. Provide comments to Cindy L on website calendar and any changes to your contact info by the end of April.
5. Provide comments on Summit Foundation grant app to Jim by April 12.

**Ken, Mike M, Dave O, Joan, Ellie, Mike B:** Set up and hold weekly meetings to ensure timely development of VWR training and TH Hosting program development.

**Frances:** Provide an update on county meeting regs by the end of April.

**Currie and Dave B:** Review links to Ruby Ranch Fire Mitigation Project, and discuss any remaining concerns with Cindy E.

**Dave B:** Review ESWA website for content about llama trips, and provide revisions to Cindy L.

**Kat**: Let Mike B know when signs can be erected.

- Mike B**: 1. Work with Cindy E and CMC to finalize plans for interns.  
2. Write initial *What Is Wilderness* column for Summit Daily – provide draft to Frances and Karn by April 20.  
3. Draft ESWA ads by April 15 and contact VD and SD to run them in early May.  
4. Finalize trifolds and arrange with Bill to get them printed.

**ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**May 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**  
**ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**May 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

OPENING MATTERS

1. Roll Call / Introduction of Guests (Mike B) – Mike Browning, Bill and Joan Betz, Tom Copper, Ken Harper, Karn Steigelmeier, Dave Owens, Dave Brewster, Jim Alexander, Frank Guttman, Kat Bazan, Cindy Ebbert, Mike Mayrer, John Craven, Steve Elder.
2. Review/Approve Agenda (Mike B) - approved
3. Review/Approve 4/8/21 Minutes - approved

REPORTS & UPDATES

4. Election of Tom Copper as new Treasurer (Mike B) – Chris Turner asked to be replaced as Treasurer, due to increased business commitments and desire to help ESWA with corporate sponsors. New board member Tom Copper, with expertise in finance, was willing to take on the position. Mike B nominated Tom and it passed unanimously.
5. Review Treasurer's Report (Chris) - Chris had provided a recent budget, which Bill shared his screen to show. It was noted that it was dated March, but looked to be more recent financials.
6. Chair's report (Mike B)
  - New Trifolds, Ads - The new trifolds (1000 at cost of \$0.45 each) are finished and ready for use.
  - The ads we placed in the Vail Daily (\$285) and Summit Daily (\$180) about ESWA and to recruit new VWRs have so far brought at least 5 new ranger applicants, all from Summit County.
  - Spraddle Creek (Booth) Fire Mitigation Meeting on 4/12 – Leanne Veldhuis hosted a Zoom meeting that Mike and Frances attended with members of other environmental groups. The plan is for spot burns in portions of the Eagles Nest Wilderness near Vail, and thinning and burns in other portions of the National Forest immediately north of Vail. Purpose is to remove aspen and brush for fire mitigation and to open up the ground for better bighorn sheep grazing. No new roads, all hand work. The scoping document should be out soon for work to be done this summer.
7. USFS reports (Cindy and Kat) - Both have been busy getting ready for their new Wilderness rangers, starting soon; also organizing sawyer trails (ESWA will look after designated trails). Cindy has Megan Sullivan coming back for her 3<sup>rd</sup> season.

Ruby Ranch comment period closed. Comments all positive; can be seen in Reading Room. The SE Group will be doing third-party surveys in the next few months.

Mike M asked about going ahead with the VWR refresher and Cindy E agreed it can move forward. She said she would review the materials and send COVID protocols. Kat noted that the safety officer has new guidelines/risk analysis that might work for that.

8. VWR Training (Mike B and Steve) - Joan thanked Cindy for facilitating ordering of the official FS shirts for our VWR recruits, and Joan hopes they arrive before the June 5 training. A few extras were ordered, in typical sizes for last-minute recruits. There is also a stock of shirts, some of which matched, but others that did not match the requests of new people.

The 2021 training will be a hybrid: people will watch about 1 hr of videos in advance, covering basic principles, background; Steve and Emily Elder are helping with videography and production. Then people will come in person for either a morning (9-1), or afternoon (1-5) session. There will be a review of principles, small groups for scenarios, time to hear about all of ESWA programs, and social time, shirts, signing up with mentor hikes. At the moment two venues are considered: Meadow Creek park in Frisco has been reserved all day, and Mike Mayrer is trying to get us access to the Eagles Nest community center, but is waiting to hear.

Ken asked about the protocol for recertification; Mike B will email these returning rangers the official forms that need to be signed: JHA, liability, revised COVID protocol (Kat said that Larry Anderson is updating the risk assessment and they'll send us that protocol). Mike B also plans to send these returning rangers the scenarios that will be used by the new recruits (for refresher).

Note that because Ken Harper has new email, an updated contact list should also be sent. A separate meeting will be held following ESWA planning meeting for the teams working on VWR training and Trailhead Hosting.

9. Trailhead Host Program (Mike B, Joan and Dave O). The kits are coming together, and Mike noted that the kits will be assembled at Betz cabin Sat. May 29 starting at 11, with lunch provided. He invited Mike M and Ken and others who may be interested to join, to prepare the goody bags for the VWRs.

There is a need to coordinate ESWA's and FDRD's plans for trailhead hosting, so Mike M will contact Doozie (Mike had first asked Cindy to also be present at that meeting, but she deferred, and wants them to plan). We currently have joint online signup for VWR patrols and their Ranger patrols, and probably for the Trailhead hosts also. We would prefer that FDRD patrol and host at the numerous non-Wilderness trails in Summit County, with ESWA in charge of Wilderness trails.

10. Newspaper Columns (Karn) - Two weekly columns of *Get Wild!* have already appeared in the Summit Daily: Mike's on What is Wilderness and Karn's on wildflowers. The next one is Frances's bear article. Karn invited others to contribute ideas; note that the articles are 600 words; the paper prefers one image (but she got 4), and at bottom includes head shot of the author, and brief statement about author, and also ESWA link. We decided to alternate columns on topics of stewardship with other timely topics, keeping bigger picture, natural history, and timeless articles for winter. An example of

stewardship could be mud and trails (Bill noted Maryann Gaug wrote e-newsletter on that topic last year); also sawyering. Noxious weed article in mid-July.

ESWA also has a monthly column in the Vail Daily through the Walking Mountain Science Center.

11. Sawyer Program and Training (Mike B and Dave B) – Mike reported 16 sawyers will do the training on June 11-13, with roughly half completing the training that was started last year but interrupted by COVID and the rest doing the full training. ESWA has purchased 2 new crosscut 2-person saws and may also buy 2 new Katanas (1-person saws).

12. Communications Plan Review (Steve and Bill) – Currently ESWA publishes 2 hard-copy newsletters per year, monthly e-newsletters, and has social media Facebook, Instagram, and now newspaper columns. Bill mentioned after 5 years of the monthly e-news, he has rather exhausted contacts, and we maybe should end that format and focus more on the newspaper columns. What can we do better to reach people and get our messages out. Mike suggested a small committee to pursue these questions. Steve and Bill will pursue this.

13. Advocacy Updates

- Lower Blue Gravel Pit – Bill noted that after 3 days of testimony the Mined Land Reclamation Board unanimously denied Peak Materials' request for new gravel pit. Bill noted that Harris Sherman, a lawyer hired by John Fielder's Lower Blue Residents United group, was very effective in his arguments.

- Homestake III - Mike B noted that Suzie Kincaid and others in Wilderness groups in opposition are planning a hike to Homestake Peak this summer. Mike B plans to join them.

14. Website, e-Newsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media (Cindy L, Bill, Chris)

June e-newsletter is on flyfishing by Steve Elder. In July Emily Griffoul, conservation scientist at the Betty Ford Gardens, will write about alpine flowers. The HCN will be finished May 14 (300 copies being printed at \$2 each), will be mailed to all members and VIPs, but not to people who have not renewed their memberships.

15. Trail Projects (Dave B. and Jim) – need to talk with Cindy and Kat about which trails, etc. Meet in June.

16. CMC Internships (Bill and Mike B) - Mike B reported we had hoped to have two \$1500 stipends for undergraduate students to complete projects for us, but there were difficulties with CMC bureaucracy and liability about paying students. CMC insisted that ESWA provide insurance for the interns. In lieu of formal internships this year Kim Langmaid, a professor at CMC, will tell her students about unpaid volunteer work opportunities with ESWA this summer: surveying trail conditions for Jim Alexander and looking at how ESWA can better communicate with Wilderness users. This winter we will explore with Kim Langmaid running the program through the Walking Mountains Science Center in 2022 to deal with the insurance issues.

17. 2021 Llama trips/Work Trips (Dave B. and Tim) – Dave B reported not many people signed up yet; can take a total of 15, including 2 FS rangers, 1 ESWA person.

18. Weed Program (Jim) – noted June 19 noxious weed training.

19. Other Business. Frank updated the health of Bill Reid, which was a fairly good report, but he has sold his home in Summit and moved back to Chicago. Frank also alerted the group that Glen Hackemer is interested in volunteering.

**TO DO:**

**Cindy E: review the VWR refresher materials, and provide comments.**

**Kat: Send updated JHA and related docs.**

**Bill & Steve: What can we do better to reach people and get our messages out – lead small committee to pursue these questions.**

**Dave B and Jim: Meet with Cindy and Kat about which trails projects, etc. in June.**

ADJOURNMENT 6:40 PM.

FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY VWR/THH PLANNING GROUP MEETING until 8:00 PM.

Next Board Meeting Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 5:30.

## MINUTES - ESWA PLANNING MEETING June 10, 2021 - 5:30 pm VIA ZOOM

### OPENING MATTERS

1. Roll Call: Jim Alexander, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Tom Copper, Tim Drescher, Steve Elder, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens
2. Agenda was reviewed and approved.
3. The 5/13/21 Minutes were reviewed and approved with Joan's suggestions that the Minutes note that they were prepared by Steve Elder and Joan, and that the spelling of Susie Kincade's name be corrected.

### REPORTS & UPDATES

4. Treasurer's Report (Chris/Tom): Chris is bringing Tom up to speed, so Tom can take over as Treasurer. Tom reported that he and Chris met with an officer at US Bank. They found out that the ESWA account is an individual account, not a business account; so, Ken Harper needs to sign to allow Tom to be able to sign checks. Mike B asked Tom to consider simplifying this arrangement. Tom reviewed the Financials. Jim mentioned that the Financials included a paid invoice for saws.
5. Chair's report: Mike B noted that the signs erected on the Gore/Deluge Creek Trails look great. Jim discussed directional signs, and received an \$1,800 grant, for Summit-side trails. Dave O mentioned need to erect Wilderness sign on Wheeler Lakes Trail – Dave O will coordinate with Cindy E.
  - VWR Training Day Recap: Tremendously successful June 5 VWR training day, with 35 new VWRs trained, split between morning and afternoon sessions. About a dozen younger trainees. Trainees viewed Zoom training before attending. This system worked well. Mike B is following up with trainees for other activities. Mike M and Ken are following up with mentor hikes. Mike B asked about putting Zoom VWR training videos on our website – Bill mentioned possible issue with bandwidth – Jim said maybe make a link to YouTube. Mike M has mentor hikes set up for most trainees. Ken has all mentor hikes set up on Eagle side except Crines. Efforts to get forms signed being continued by Mike B, Ken, and Mike M. Bill asked for photos from mentor hikes.
  - Sawyer Training Update: Mike B reported that the July 11-13 sawyer training was scheduled with Anne Dal Vera with 16 new sawyers signed up for training, plus 10 or so who were too late to sign up, but would like to mentor saw.
6. USFS reports: Neither Cindy E nor Kat were available for the meeting.
7. Surprise Lake Planning/Contract Authorization/Funding: Mike B said that ESWA has committed to Cindy E to help financially with initial trail design work, Contour Logics bid + trail corridor alignment that would allow Cindy E to send staff out for NEPA analysis. \$9,500 estimate; we can pay from restricted funds provided by USFS. Also, we have \$10k in unrestricted budget. Kat and Cindy E are ok with using the restricted USFS funds. ESWA would front pay and then be reimbursed. Mike B moved, Ken 2<sup>nd</sup>: Unanimous vote by Board to sign contract with Contour Logic and use restricted funds for work. Contour Logic would also help mentor Jim and Dave B towards coordinating some of these efforts in future. Dave B suggested getting CMC intern involved. Frank asked if we should have options for a little additional funding if work comes in over \$10k. Mike B moved to be authorized to use up to an additional \$2k from unrestricted funds, Frank 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved. Bill said let's make sure we get lots of pictures –Dave B and Jim will do so.

8. Trailhead Host Program (Mike B., Joan and Dave O): Mike B thanked Dave O, Ellie, Joan, and others for helping to set up this new program. Mike B said we need folks to sign up to host, and to recruit others, as signups so far are quite slow. Dave B asked about FDRD members – Mike B said we should be able to do this without FDRD members, but they are welcome as 2nds. One host at each hosting session has to be a trained VWR. Mike B hopes to expand the program next year to other trailheads that VWRs select. Dave O said he’s unavailable for calls until mid-July – Mike B asked Dave O to coordinate with the Betzs, so that hosting gets done. Frances will send Dave O the master list.
9. Newspaper Columns (Karn): Karn unavailable, but Mike B said to send Karn ideas for articles.
10. Committees: Mike B presented a committee signup sheet for VWR training. Mike said that as we grow ESWA, it’s too much work for one person to run all these aspects, and planning committee members need to sign up to lead committees. Mike B gave example of Jim’s great work with weeds. Mike said that if you’re going to be on the planning committee, you need to run a committee. Dave B recommended separating grants from fundraising – Mike B said this is a good idea. Dave O and Joan suggested adding a social committee.
11. Communications Plan Review: Steve and Bill are analyzing the best path going forward. Mike B said all should reach out to them with ideas. Steve said questions to be considered are cross-committee questions. Steve said this is a special task force approach – how do we communicate?
12. Grant Update: Jim noted that the next cycle of Summit Foundation grants starts in August, so everyone should send Jim suggestions. Jim hopes to have special trails project funding application done in fall.
13. Work/Llama Trips (Dave Brewster/Tim Drescher): Dave B says last trip has just one slot left; other 2 are half full. When do we open trips to FDRD? Joan asked if returning rangers are aware of committee signups and llama trips. Mike B will send a note to them. Mike B reported a good response at VWR training to Deluge Creek workday.
14. Weed Program Update (Jim Alexander): Saturday June 19, July 10 weed pull with FDRD at Hunters Knob; July 31 at Martin Creek with Sierra Club. Trying to get contract done for treatment with USFS Steve Elzinga – treatment spots have been chosen.
15. Strategic Trail Projects Update (Jim Alexander): See Surprise Lake minutes, above.
16. CMC Internship Update: Jim reported that Andrea (“Drea”) is a CMC graduate who is interested in forestry school. She would like to be involved in the Surprise Lake project. Scouting hike is being planned for Surprise Lake, to include Drea.
17. Advocacy Updates: CORE Act in Senate committee.
18. Website, e-Newsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media (Bill and Chris): Cindy L working on it, improvement suggestions should be sent to Mike B who will forward to Cindy L. Mike B asked about more trifold, Joan will send.

**TO DO:**

1. Tom: Look into simplifying check-signing arrangement at U.S. Bank.
2. Dave O: Coordinate with Cindy E to erect Wilderness sign on Wheeler Lakes Trail.
3. Steve, Mike B, Cindy L: Discuss whether a YouTube video link of the VWR training could be created and placed on ESWA website.

4. Ken, Mike M.: Follow up to obtain all signed forms from returning VWRs.
5. Frances: Send Dave O the master list for use in THH.
6. Mike B: Revise committee list to separate grants from fundraising, and add a Social Committee.
7. Mike B: Send note to returning VWRs about committee signups and llama trips.
8. Ken: Book Meadow Creek Park for July 8 ESWA meeting. Steve will book his conference room as backup (located in The Towers, behind NatGro/Starbucks/KFC on Lake Dillon).
9. All: Send Bill Betz photos from Mentor hikes.
10. All: Sign up to head an ESWA committee, by July board meeting.
11. All: Send Karn ideas for articles for SD and WMSC/VD.
12. All: Send ideas to Bill and Steve about ESWA's future communications plan.
13. All: Send suggestions to Mike B for Website, e-Newsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media.
14. All: Send Jim ideas for next Summit Foundation grant application.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Next Board Meeting Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 5:30. Meadow Creek Park, 828 Meadow Drive, Frisco, with weather backup at Steve's conference room located in The Towers behind NatGro/Starbucks/KFC on Lake Dillon. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

**Minutes - ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**July 8, 2021 5:30 pm**  
**MEADOW CREEK PARK – Frisco**

OPENING MATTERS:

1. Roll Call/Introduction of Guests: Bill & Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Steve Elder, Frank Gutmann, Cindy Levin, Mike Meyrer, Dave Owens, Karn Stiegelmeier, Rick Williams.  
Guests: Zack Kauk, Ann Kampf.
2. Agenda was approved, with the addition of VWR program status.
3. Minutes from June meeting were approved, with no changes.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

4. Volunteer Wilderness Rangers Update: Mike M reported that 30 new VWRs have completed their mentor hikes on the Summit side; congratulations and thanks were offered by meeting attendees. Mike B said that the new Eagle-side VWRs had also completed their mentor hikes.
5. Financials/IRS letter: Tom C sent financial report, which received compliments from meeting attendees. Mike B said any comments on the report should be sent to Tom C. Mike B mentioned that ESWA had received an IRS letter saying we owe \$2,800 as tax penalty for failure to file 2019 taxes. Ken confirmed to Mike B that the taxes hadn't been filed, and Ken will call IRS and see if fee can be waived.
6. USFS: Kat and Cindy weren't able to attend, but Kat reported to Mike that RMYC is working hard, as were her other teams. Kat also said that ESWA could sawyer Deluge Trail.
7. Sawyers: ESWA Sawyer Coordinator for Summit side, Zack Kauk, reported that ESWA had sawyer responsible for 7 trails, 8 now with Lower Cataract. All ESWA sawyer trails have coordinators. Mike B reported that all the Eagle-side trails for which the USFS has given ESWA responsibility have been cleared, and we are starting to make 2<sup>nd</sup> pass.
8. Annual meeting: Mike B asked when and whether to schedule. Bill said late August was when last held. Bill mentioned Aug 14 Beau Schuette Memorial dedication. Mike B said that since we have so many new VWRs, an annual meeting might be warranted, but that the VWRs also have end-of-year meeting in September. Decision was made to hold annual meeting this year in October or early November, when we can introduce the Winter Patrol program. The awards would be presented then. Bill, Joan, and Cindy L offered to organize the annual meeting.
9. Committees: Mike B said that we need to enable committees, so ESWA work is better divided. Joan said why not have an Advocacy Committee. Frances agreed to Chair Advocacy Committee, and members will be leaders of each current Advocacy campaign. Mike B asked about a Hospitality Committee – Bill said that PWV's does a lot of outreach to members. Mike B wants to get the other committees going, and we can address social/hospitality later, and meanwhile fold social stuff into the existing Committees.
10. Trailhead Hosting: Dave Owens discussed the stats so far on this new program, including that 19 VWRs have held 13 THH sessions, including contacting 181 backpackers. He noted that the Dillon Ranger office hopes to have enough staff to be open Saturdays. Summit-side VWRs were encouraged to trailhead host for Eagle side, too.

11. Newspaper columns: Karn noted that Frank volunteered to write a column. Karn said that Summit Daily makes editing changes (some incorrect), and also asks numerous questions. Frances & Karn will develop guidelines and criteria for articles. Karn will send updated article schedule. Copy Emily Elder on articles.
12. Grants: Everyone needs to send grant ideas to Jim asap, because deadlines are coming up in August-September.
13. Brochure Distribution: Dave O mentioned Tim's idea of putting ESWA brochures at sporting goods stores and visitor centers at outlet stores. Holders are \$11 on Amazon, get 20, plus \$.50 for trifolds. Approved. Steve to work with Dave O. Joan recommended also considering one-page pamphlets, which are less expensive.
14. Work-Llama Trips: Dave B said the first trip is scheduled for Friday, July 16-18 to Slate Lakes, including needing to clear trees en route. July 30-Aug 1: 5-6 spots left for Lake Constantine. August 27-29: 2 spots open for Sopris-Brady.
15. Weeds: WeedCzar Jim was unable to attend, but sent a report. Jim reported that the June 19 weed training was a success and well attended. There are two upcoming weed pulls: July 10 Silverthorne (Hunters Knob) and July 31 near Minturn. Dave B is checking out Harrigan Creek to see if it needs spraying.
16. Strategic Trails: Dave B went out with Drea, the CMC intern. Kat and Cindy seem very interested in having Uneva be a sanctioned trail. They also want Drea to look at Red Buffalo and other high-elevation areas. There was a brief discussion of the distinction between sanctioned vs pristine, and the implications of trail building in a "pristine" area.
17. Advocacy Updates: Whitney Reservoir Drilling (Homestake III): Frances reported that Wilderness Workshop, the Sierra Club, Wildearth Guardians and other groups had provided the required 60-day notice that they intended to sue the USFS and Fish & Wildlife over the approval of a Special Use Permit for test drilling designed to see if the area were suitable for reservoir construction. Nuchu renaming: Karn reported that there have been no recent developments on the efforts to rename the Gore Range.
18. Newsletter, Eaglet, Social Media, Website: Mike B thanked Bill for an excellent VWR Eaglet. Bill thanked Emily E for taking over social media. Cindy L asked everyone to send her updates (copy to Mike B).
19. Method for future meetings: Mike B asked how folks want to meet. Quarterly in person and remainder by zoom? Or when weather gets cold, meet by zoom? It was decided to play it by ear, and decide each month. It was decided that the Thursday, Aug 12 meeting would be held at Bighorn Park in East Vail.
20. Miscellaneous:
  - Dave O needs volunteers for replacing ENW sign on Wheeler Lakes Trail.
  - Dave O said that the Wilderness info board by Dillon Ranger District office still says FENW, and needs to be updated. Frank G agreed to coordinate updating. Add ESWA and LNT info – Mike B will give Frank LNT poster.
  - Bill B said we need more volunteers on Eagle side. 72 trails are "adopted" there, but not with ESWA focus.
  - Zack asked about Sawyering releases - Mike B. will scan and Zack and Frances will archive.

- Mike B mentioned that Dr Jim Crine – new VWR - is willing to do a hands-on 1<sup>st</sup> aid briefing for sawyers.

### **TO DO:**

All: Let Dave O know if you're available to help erect Wilderness sign on Wheeler Lakes Trail.

All: Let Mike B know if you would like to attend a hands-on 1<sup>st</sup> aid briefing for sawyers and VWRs.

All: Sign up to trailhead host and patrol on the Eagle side.

All: Send website updates to Cindy L, with copy to Mike B.

All: Send grant ideas to Jim.

Frank and Mike B: Mike provide materials to Frank for Wilderness board at Dillon Ranger Station, so Frank can update.

Ken: Call IRS and see if fee can be waived.

Frances, Mike B, Zack: Coordinate scanning and storage of releases, and verify that all volunteers have signed.

Frances & Karn: Develop guidelines and criteria for newspaper articles. Karn will send updated article schedule.

Bill, Joan, and Cindy L: Start to organize annual meeting for October, and revise website as needed.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, Aug 12 meeting will be held at Bighorn Park in East Vail, at 5:30.

**Minutes ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**August 12, 2021 5:00 pm**  
**BIGHORN PARK – 4800 Juniper Lane, East Vail**

1. Roll Call/Introduction of Guests: Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Steve Elder, Ellie Finlay, Frank Gutmann, Zack Kauk, Cindy Levin, Karn Stiegelmeier. Guests: Pam and Jim Crine, Linda Palmer, Jean and Mark DeCesaris, Rick Williams.
2. Agenda approved.
3. 7/8/21 Minutes approved.
4. To-Do List from 7/8/21 minutes (see new To-Do list at end of minutes): Mike B warned everyone that at next month's meeting he will call on folks with tasks on the To-Do list. Last month's To-Do list included the following:
  - All: Let Dave O know if you're available to help erect Wilderness sign on Wheeler Lakes Trail.
  - All: Let Mike B know if you would like to attend a hands-on 1<sup>st</sup> aid briefing for sawyers and VWRs.
  - All: Sign up to trailhead host and patrol on the Eagle side.
  - All: Send website updates to Cindy L, with copy to Mike B. In progress.
  - All: Send grant ideas to Jim. Done.
  - Frank and Mike B: Mike B will provide Frank materials for Wilderness board at Dillon Ranger Station for updating.
  - Ken: Call IRS and see if fee can be waived. Done, waiting for IRS response.
  - Frances, Mike B, Zack: Coordinate scanning and storage of releases, and verify that all volunteers have signed. In progress.
  - Frances & Karn: Develop guidelines & criteria for articles. Karn will send updated article schedule. Done.
  - Bill, Joan, and Cindy L: Start to organize annual meeting, and revise website as needed. In progress – see below.
5. Treasurer's Report: Mike B thanked Treasurer Tom Copper for a thorough and useful report.
6. Chair's Report (Mike B.):
  - Response to IRS Letter re overdue filing – Mike B sent Ken's letter to IRS; hasn't heard back. Hoping to have penalty waived, which IRS will often do for first offense.
  - 8/11 celebration of Schuette boardwalk completion went well. 30 people attended. Bill reported that plaque will be moved to a more-visible spot. Boardwalk cost \$40k.
  - Susie Kincaid hoping to get CORE Act passed and move onto ESWA work. Susie agreed to introduce ESWA to enviro leaders in Eagle County at lunch at her ranch in Eagle County Aug 29.
7. USFS reports (Kat/Cindy) – not able to participate due to busy season. Kat would like more of the new trail info signs on Eagle side. Board would like to add these on Summit side too. Frances will check on costs. Bill also confirmed that Cindy and Kat are ok with ESWA continuing to post its own signs at trailheads.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8. Advocacy Committee (Frances): Frances reported that the AC is formed, and membership consists of the lead on each Advocacy campaign: Karn – Renaming Gores & opposing Lower Blue River gravel mine; Mike B - East Vail Bighorn Sheep protection & Homestake III; Tim Drescher – Berlaimont; and Susie Kincaid – CORE Act. Committee's 1<sup>st</sup> meeting set for Aug 31. Working on website and protocol for new Advocacy programs.

9. Grants/Corporate Fundraising (Steve/Jim): Steve reported that he's working closely with Jim, who has great instincts around fundraising. Two major tools needed (1) master prospect list, and (2) our funding story (why do you exist, how will you deliver on this – to engage people around that story). All can help by sending prospects for funding, both small and large. Would like to raise about \$30K/Year. Need to think bigger and more compellingly. Would like to drop "Corporate" from committee name, and focus on philanthropic, including estate planning.

10. Membership: Mike B said we are entering our big time of year for membership, through year's end. Will be sending emails/reminders to members, reviewing dues structure, member swag.

-Annual Meeting (Bill, Cindy, Joan) – Cindy said they've researched indoor venues, and developed a useful list, but with Covid meeting should be outdoor in Sept/Oct, with hors-d'oeuvres and drinks, and combined with the VWR meeting – ideally at Eagles Nest where VWR training was held. Zack will try to reserve dates recommended by Betzes and Cindy L. Mike B will need list from Annual Meeting Subcomm of people they recommend for Selection Comm for CC and photo contest. Mike B asked if for future years the Annual Meeting folks would reimagine date and purpose of Annual Meeting.

11. Publications (Karn and Frances): Karn reported the PC had held their first official zoom meeting, with Joan, Bill, and Emily (coordinating with Social Media). Karn will post list of articles published to date, and upcoming. PC has developed guidelines for article writing. Frances will do article on mountain goats. Dave O mentioned the value of getting ESWA's name out.

12. Sawyer (Zach and Ken): Zack said primary goal was to make the program more structured. Have 8 trails on each side, with one certified sawyer responsible for each trail. On the Summit side so far – 25 sorties, cleared 10 trails, 425 trees cut. Ken said they've cut 400 or so trees on Eagle side, but some of the remaining are miles in, and hard to get to with only 4 sawyers.

13. Social Media/Website (Emily and Bill): Emily sent a report – said FB engagement and Instagram reach have gone up; thinks Get Wild content helps, especially coverage with llamas. Bill said be sure to "like" postings on FB and Instagram. Steve said to post.

14. Swag: Ellie is keeping inventory, and we will need a winter meeting on what to reorder. Joan suggested ESWA handkerchiefs. The Swag Committee needs a Chair.

15. Trailhead Hosting (Dave Owens and Bill): Dave O gave quick program review – USFS liaisons gave ESWA 17 days to meet and greet at THs. 5 dates still need filling – please signup well ahead of time, and not at last minute. Mike B said it's harder to staff on Eagle side since fewer VWRs; committee needs to review program and recommend suggested changes based on lessons learned. Jean said it's a great program. TOV says check is in mail.

- Need Eagle County Co-Chair

16. Trail Projects (Dave B, Jim, Ken, and Tim): 2 successful llama trips. Rick reported great experience with llamas, each carried 70 pounds, hiked 7 miles in. One more llama trip to Brady Sopris – still room to sign up.

17. VWRs (Mike M and Ken): Cindy L will provide Mike B a report of which VWRs have done their 4 patrols, and Ken/Mike M will reach out to those who've not completed the 4 patrols. Joan said 49 used USFS shirts were provided by FDRD, who is moving to the Columbia shirts.

18. Winter Patrol (Mike B): Ben and Melissa were working on a proposal, but Cindy E put damper on it because she doesn't want VWRs out on trails in the winter due to risk. Needs new energy, since one co-chair is leaving and the other one is super busy.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Meeting Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 5:30. Ken will try to book Meadow Creek.

#### **TO DO:**

All: Send Jim and Steve ideas for prospects for funding, both small and large.

All: TH Hosting: Sign up for one of the several remaining slots. Also, we need an Eagle County Co-Chair.

All: Social Media: "Like" postings on FB and Instagram. Important to post content, or send to Emily.

Emily: Provide "cheat sheet" for techno-luddites on how/what to post where.

Cindy L.: Provide VWR patrol report to Mike B, so Ken and Mike M can send reminders.

Betzes & Frances: Give Jean dog cards for Eagle Nest Wilderness – and do a one-page with link to article.

Ken: Book Meadow Creek for September meeting, with Steve's clubhouse as weather backup.

Ken/Zack: Coordinate on work day for Deluge Adopt-A-Trail.

Frances: Check on costs for more TH info signs. Provide updated content for Advocacy website pages and draft protocol for selection of new Advocacy campaigns. Draft article on mountain goats for SD.

Zack, Cindy L, Betzes: Coordinate to reserve Eagles Nest for Annual Meeting.

Cindy L and Betzes: Send Mike B list of people they recommend for Selection Comm for CC award and photo contest. Subcomm should consider purpose and timing of 2022 Annual Meeting.

**MINUTES ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**September 9, 2022 5:30 pm**  
**MEADOW CREEK PARK – 828 Meadow Drive, Frisco**

**OPENING MATTERS**

1. Roll Call / Introduction of Guests (Mike B): Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Tom Copper, Ken Harper, Zach Kauk, Frank Gutmann, Mike Mayrer, Karn Stiegelmeier, Jean DeCesaris. Guest: Lisa Fine
2. Agenda was approved.
3. 8/12/21 Minutes approved.
4. Mike B reviewed the To-Do List from the 8/12/21 minutes

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

5. Treasurer's Report (Tom): Mike B thanked Tom for a great financial report. Ken asked about the loss of NFF funds, and Tom said we are on track to spend previously rewarded funds. Mike B and Tom will work on getting reimbursement.
6. Chair's report (Mike B)
  - a. Biden Proclamation/Op Eds: Mike B reported that Susie Kincaid had spoken to Nate Peterson at the Vail Daily, who agreed to publish Mike's Op Ed. Karn also persuaded the Summit Daily to agree to publish the Op Ed.
  - b. Susie Kincade Lunch: Mike B talked about Susie's help with Advocacy, including a great lunch on Aug 29 where she introduced ESWA to her Eagle-side colleagues.
  - c. Susie Kincade is conducting a Sept 25 (National Public Lands Day hike at Spraddle Creek). It was agreed we could post the event on ESWA's website.
  - d. Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance membership/meeting – Mike B will meet with SRCA leadership about ESWA joining.
  - e. 2022 Chair and Chair-elect: Board and leadership need to choose Chair and Chair-Elect. Mike B told the leadership group to take 30 days to consider and nominate candidates, and vote at October meeting. Mike emphasized that it is essential to obtain a candidate's permission before nominating them. Steve encouraged the group to think about the importance of a woman as next Chair of ESWA – Steve does capacity building for organizations, and ESWA has had only male chairs; if we want more-diverse folks to get involved, we need a "bigger mirror" that they can see themselves in. When seeking grants, grantees would take a hard look at our org, and because we are about access to Wilderness, grantees would look for diversity in management.
  - f. October 2 Vision Retreat with Steve and Emily Elder at Susie Kincade's ranch: Emily and Steve have expertise in this process, and offer their expertise at no cost to ESWA. Steve said ESWA needs money to have a greater impact in the future. The visioning process helps orgs build their story. While funding is a driver, the visioning process will help develop a compelling story for ESWA that everyone can see themselves in, provide a better understanding of where ESWA is going, and be a good way to integrate some of our new leaders.
7. USFS reports (Kat/Cindy): Neither was able to attend. Mike B reminded everyone that Cindy E will be moving on to another position in the USFS, in charge of Special Use Permits. Her replacement has not yet been determined, but Tyler Kirkpatrick is a possibility.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8. Advocacy Committee: Frances reported that the committee had a good kickoff meeting on August 31 with members Tim Drescher, Susie Kincade, Karn Stiegelmeier, and Mike Browning. Steve

Elder from ESWA's Funding Committee also attended. The committee is developing plans for strengthening ESWA's Wilderness-protection campaign, focusing on our 3 Wilderness Areas. ESWA's ability to advocate is inherently tied to our name recognition, and so we are working on ways to increase getting ESWA's name out. Karn has done a great job through the Summit Daily articles. Susie Kincade convinced the Vail Daily to publish Mike's Op Ed and has urged the editor to consider a regular ESWA column. Steve has shown that to get our name out ESWA needs a Vision and message – especially to liaise with partner orgs and potential funders. We also discussed how to select future Advocacy campaigns, keeping in mind that we need to circle back to our niche, which is our 3 Wilderness Areas. One idea is to divide campaigns in three ways: Initiatives we endorse (*We are Local, but Wilderness is Global!*) e.g. 30 x 30, Wildlife crossings and migration routes; Campaigns we partner on (*Where can we be a helpful and effective partner for Wilderness?*) Existing campaigns fall here; Issues we are tackling (*If not us, then who?*) e.g. Nuchu, restoring leash rule in HX.

- Homestake update: Eagle R Watershed Council Homestead hike Tuesday morning. Tim will attend.
- Nuchu: Karn spoke before the Vail Town Council on the name change, and we need to start a letter-writing campaign to TOV Council, state geo-naming board, and Eagle County Commissioners.
- Website: Frances asked everyone to look at the Advocacy portion of the ESWA website and provide suggestions to her.

9. Grants/Fundraising (Steve Elder/Jim Alexander): Steve is calling their committee the Funding Committee (FC) - for now. They had a great 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Tom Copper provided an advance report on finances. Members include Chris Turner, former Treasurer; and Mike Harrison new VWR. They discussed the ongoing issues with new NFF funding arising from NFF's not to provide direct grants, but rather through a committee of which ESWA isn't a member – in Summit, FDRD is the member; in Eagle it's VVMTA, so we would need to ask those groups to include ESWA's "Wilderness component" in their grant applications. Mike and Steve will meet with FDRD and VVMTA. The FC emphasized the need to engage A-Basin ASAP as one of our major funders. Steve noted that ESWA has great "metrics," because we've kept track of trees sawed, VWR hours, etc., and the numbers are amazing. ESWA needs to determine how to package up our "asks" – for instance, a 3-year sawyer program initiative, for which Steve has a potential funder. Karn mentioned that it would be great to fund a backcountry version of the current Front Country seasonal rangers.

10. Membership (Mike Browning)

- a. Annual Meeting (Bill, Joan, Jean) 20 RSVPs, 6 no's.
- b. Dues Levels/Renewals/Process: Mike B reported that the Membership Committee met, talked about dues-renewal cycle, reviewed dues amounts and swag, and determined to keep all the same. Joan suggested that donors above a certain amount should not just receive more cards, but also a Wilderness book/hat/reusable shopping bag with ESWA logo. Karn suggested an opt-out for swag, and it was agreed that was a good idea.
- c. VD and SD Ads for CO Gives Day: Joan moved that we spend the money to do ads, Karn 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously. Emily will work on the ads.
- d. Website Join/Donate Page update: Zach is setting up meeting to discuss this portion of the website.

11. Publications (Karn and Frances): SD articles are going well; hoping to get a similar column in the VD.

12. Sawyer (Zach and Ken): Zach reported that the 2021 training day is June 11-12. Anne DalVera will again be the instructor. Zach would like a more uniformed team that advertises ESWA's presence, with long-sleeved shirt with logos for ESWA and FDRD, a more standard hard hat with sticker for both orgs, and a standard shirt with both orgs on it. Zach reported that 582 trees had been cleared on the Summit side. Ken will provide Eagle numbers.
13. Social Media/Website (Emily and Bill): Emily has been great about updating ESWA's social media.
14. Swag: Mike B recommended that we sell swag at the Annual Meeting.
15. Trailhead Hosting (Dave Owens and Bill): Bill will thank Restop for wag bags. Guy Warren provided the final program numbers, which were quite convincing in showing the program was worth the effort.
16. Trail Projects (Dave B, Jim, Ken and Tim): Ken said that ESWA will need a work day near the end of September on Deluge, ESWA's Adopt-A-Trail. Mike B said both August llama trips were a great success. Ken moved (Karn 2<sup>nd</sup>) passed unanimously, to give Drea Sanchez \$1,500 as a thank-you gift for her summer trail-inventory work, and invite her to Annual Meeting.
17. VWRs (Mike M and Ken) – Mike M suggested putting a star on the Wilderness hikes in the VWR sign-up form so VWRs are sure to obtain their minimum four patrols in Wilderness. It was suggested to move up the 2022 new-VWR training date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week May so VWRs can get started sooner. Mike M reported that there are 7 new applicants plus 6 from last year.
18. Weeds: Mike B said that Jim was no longer available to attend Thursday meetings, but had sent a report on USFS weed eradication conducted through ESWA's NFF funding.
19. Next Board Meeting Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 5:30. Where and how? Options include: Masked in Copper Room, or via zoom, or decide based on weather.

ADJOURNMENT 7:30.

**TO DO'S:**

All: Nominate candidates for 2022 ESWA Chair and Co-Chair. Important: First obtain candidates' agreement to run.

Ken will provide Eagle-side Sawyer numbers to Zach.

Mike B will meet with SRCA leadership about ESWA joining.

Mike B to invite Drea Sanchez to Annual Meeting.

Mike M to work with Cindy Muesing to add asterisk to Wilderness hikes on VWR signup form.

**Minutes ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**October 14, 2021 5:30pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

OPENING MATTERS

1. Roll Call / Introduction of Guests (Jim A, Mike B, Bill Betz, Frank Gutmann, Frances Hartogh, Tyler Kirkpatrick, Mike M, Dave Owens, Karn Stiegelmeier)
2. Approved Agenda
3. Approved Minutes, as amended

ELECTION

4. Election: Mike B nominated Steve Elder to be Chair in 2022 and Karn Stiegelmeier to be Chair-Elect. Bill Betz seconded. No other nominations were made. These above nominations were approved by acclamation.

OFFICER/USFS REPORTS

5. USFS Reports: Mike B welcomed Tyler, as Cindy's unofficial replacement. Tyler provided an update on the Surprise Lake trail redesign and NEPA review – there will be 2 miles of realignment. He will be writing the decision memo after hearing back from State Historical because trail dates back to 1933.
6. Treasurer's Report provided by email by Tom Copper. Mike B added that he and Tom submitted a cost-reimbursement request to the USFS for reimbursement for the \$15k for ESWA expenses for VWR shirts, llamas, Contour Logic under ESWA's Cost Sharing Agreement with the USFS. Mike will work with Steve, Karn and Tom on a draft of 2022 budget. Mike B will need each Committee's budget request by 1<sup>st</sup> week Nov.
7. Chair's report (Mike B.)
  - Annual Meeting Recap – great success, thanks to the committee. In future, encourage former VWRs to drop their old VWR shirts off; Bill asked about more social events.
  - Vision Day recap – Mike B said it was a useful event. The 2 Elders are working on Zoom call for those that missed it.
  - Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance membership. ESWA has been accepted into the Alliance. Informal group 2 meetings/yr with an email system for members to share conservation updates.
    - Camp Hale Tour offered by Susie Kincade on Saturday Oct 16

COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. Advocacy: Frances reported the AC held their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, with Tim, Susie, Karn, Mike B, and new members Krista Hughes and Mike Harrison. Developed draft criteria for selecting future Advocacy campaigns. Criteria was approved by Board. Contacted VD editor Nate Peterson for a regular column.
  - Tim and Susie reported on ERWC Homestead hike.
  - Nuchu: Karn spoke to Vail Town Council on the name change. ESWA needs to start a series of articles on name changing, to counter negative press. Bill is writing about Ute Pass.
  - Mike B reported on Homestake; would like to meet with other groups this winter

9. Development: Jim reported on committee charter, focusing on relationships, list of organizations to contact; need to get priorities from leadership & committees on projects to fund, why, time frame – need by year's end.

Mike and Frances met with VVMTA; would like to work with them for ESWA to be the Wilderness group in Eagle.

10. Membership: Mike B discussed Dues Renewal/Colorado Gives Day, VD and SD Ads for CO Gives Day drafted by Emily, and Website Join/Donate Page update by Zach and Cindy L.

11. Publications: Karn and Frances reported that the SD articles are going well; hoping to get a similar column in the VD. Held our 2<sup>nd</sup> committee meeting. Decided to continue the monthly e-newsletters, with Emily Elder running the Mail Chimp side and Mike and Frances to work on content, pending finding a new editor. November and December issues will focus on CO Gives Day and membership renewals. November will include an article from the outgoing Chair, and December will include an article from the incoming Chair and Chair-elect. Jan-March would reprint some Get Wild articles. April-May will plug our upcoming summer programs and trainings. June-Oct would continue to report summer volunteer events and hours.

Committee decided to do just a one-page HCN for CO Gives Day, to include an End-of-Year report that honors donors and summarizes results from summer. Joan will provide list of donors; Mike and Frances will provide other content, including photos and stats of ESWA's program accomplishments.

Karn needs more articles for SD: mental health & Wilderness (Karn has author) – wants more, intrinsic value (Mike has drafted), Bill & Utes, animals and winter (Frances), lynx (Frances)

12. Sawyer (Zach and Ken). No updates

13. Social Media/Website (Emily and Bill) add per Jim at end of Get Wild and home page; do a social-media eaglet

14. Swag – need to do an order. Joan ordered 50 boxes of notecards

15. Trailhead Hosting (Dave Owens and Bill) – Dave O would like FS to add popular trails that don't necessarily lead to backpacking sites, such as Lily Pad and North Ten Mile

16. Trail Projects: Jim reported earlier on Surprise Lake reroute

17. VWRs (Mike M and Ken). No updates

18. Weeds: Jim reported that program is up in the air due to revised funding format. Once we know what NFF is doing, we should have a discussion in Dec/Jan. Karn said she'd like to discuss Buffalo Mtn and make them do something re their weeds that are spreading into Wilderness. Joan said County has the rules in place and should enforce, but Jim says they don't enforce. Frank says the municipality of Silverthorne has an ordinance, but they don't enforce because no staff and enforcement is unpopular. Maybe weed control is an Advocacy thing? Frank recommended ESWA send letter to county asking them to enforce their weed regs.

19. DRD Info Board Redo: Frank provided a report on updating the Dillon Ranger District info board.

20. Miscellaneous: Bill has an ESWA photo-sharing site. We encourage ESWA members to add photos to the site. Zach is looking for a platform to use.

Next Board Meeting Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 5:30. By Zoom

ADJOURNMENT 7:15 pm.

**To Do:**

Mike B: budget

Booth fire-mitigation sign up Oct 9 (Dave B and Susie are signed up so far)

Development Committee: Needs to get priorities from leadership & committees on projects to fund, why, time frame – need by year's end.

Mike B and Committee Chairs: need each Committee's budget by 1<sup>st</sup> week Nov.

Frances: Check with Emily re getting *Get Wild* pdfs on website and on social media

Frances: Resend WMSC article list to Pubs Comm and board to see if any takers.

Cindy, Emily, Frances, Karn: Coordination of Pubs with Social Media and ESWA website - will coordinate to ensure SD articles and others get to Cindy for inclusion in the website and to Emily for social media.

**Minutes ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**November 11, 2021**  
**VIA ZOOM**

OPENING MATTERS

1. Attendees: Mike Browning, Steve Elder, Karn Stiegelmeier, Frances Hartogh, Dave Brewster, Frank Gutmann, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Zack Kauk, Krista Hughes, Mike Harrison, Mike Mayrer, Dave O, Susie Kincade, Currie Craven
2. Agenda: approved
3. 10/14 Minutes: approved with one typo corrected

OFFICER/USFS REPORTS

4. USFS Reports: Tyler and Kat weren't available for the meeting. Dave O pointed out the need for all jurisdictions to coordinate fire restrictions. Zack reported hiking the Ptarmigan fire area, and that much of the burned area is along the trail, so likely started by people; will send photos; trail already is cleared of downed timber.
5. Treasurer's Report: Mike B thanked Tom for his report. Dave O asked about funding for 1<sup>st</sup> aid training. Mike B said Dr. Cline offered to do a sawyer-specific first-aid training for free, but we may want to keep \$500 in budget if needed. No avalanche training planned for 2022.
6. Chair's report (Mike B.)
  - 2022 budget process: Committee chairs provided budget requests, which Mike B incorporated in budget. While we might have up to \$65k in available funds, Mike B recommends keeping \$25k in reserve for unexpected expenses and to go into following year, so recommends we should budget spending at \$40k. Mike B asked for any suggested changes to the first draft budget. Dave B said USFS wants just 2 months for llamas & money for signs; Currie pointed out that Summit Fdn likes to do grants for signs. Karn asked that we fund the intern program. Currie said that in the past we've paid for the USFS to extend their Wilderness Rangers during hunting season, and we might consider funding that in 2022.
  - Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance (SRCA) letter requests: With ESWA's new membership in the SRCA, Mike B is receiving weekly requests for ESWA to write letters endorsing various advocacy campaigns. Frances recommended sending these to the Chair of the Advocacy Committee (AC) for recommendation. Mike B recommended giving AC guidelines – if anything to do with Wilderness, ESWA endorses; otherwise needs further analysis. Krista said for campaigns that fall in a grey area, let's ask the requester what's the connection to Wilderness. Susie agreed, as did Frances with the caution that we should also consider whether the requester is a group that we may want to have support future ESWA campaigns. Karn supports Frances' idea and said the consideration process will evolve as requests come in. Mike B – let's be cautious at first until we learn more about the range of requests we receive and then develop some criteria/guidelines for Board approval.
  - Hosting of National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Fall meeting: Mike B received call from Dave Cantrell from NWSA re ESWA hosting 2-day Fall meeting of local Wilderness groups like IPWA PWV, Friends of Mt. Evans, etc. ESWA would help NWSA find a venue for the meeting, but not provide food or be in charge of the program or registration. Mike B will attend an initial organizing meeting and report back.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Advocacy (Frances)

- Thanks to AC member Krista Hughes for persuading AllTrails to include basic Wilderness regulation language for the trails that enter our 3 WAs, which AllTrails has now posted.
- Oct 16 Camp Hale tour – Susie Kincade ran a great tour for 11 attendees. ESWA needs to continue letter-writing campaign; directions are on Advocacy page of ESWA website. Susie is drafting official ESWA letter.
- Spraddle Creek Fire Mitigation Tour – Mike B reported on two trips to area, including Unit 108 that would be future Wilderness under CORE Act, which turns out not to be the old-growth fire area we were concerned about protecting. Abatement in Unit 108 would be done to build barrier between two stands of heavier timber to avoid fire spreading, and improve chances of allowing natural fires in ENW to burn.
- Whitney Reservoir-Homestake III – Mike B reported on the WildEarth Guardian forum – need people to sign the petition Mike sent in today’s email.
- Frances reviewed the Advocacy campaign selection process approved last month by the Board, which would divide proposed new campaigns into those we lead, those we actively support, and those we simply endorse. As we become more involved with organizations like the SRCA, we receive increasing requests for ESWA to sign onto others’ Advocacy campaigns. Current structure is for Advocacy proposals to be considered by the Advocacy Committee, which sends recommendations to the Board. But, as discussed above, given the number of campaigns we are being asked to endorse, we think a streamlined clearing method is needed – e.g. send recommendations to Advocacy Chair, who will consult as needed with the AC and provide recommendation to Chair.

8. Development: Steve reported that the Development Committee is working to achieve a more robust income stream and to package up grant opportunities. DC approved the estate-planning wording, and began conversation about 2022 events eg Rising Sun Distillery, not so much for fundraising as to encourage/reward membership.

9. Membership (Mike Browning)

- Dues Renewal/Colorado Gives Day: HCN to be mailed soon, with focus on donors/members. Dec newsletter will have same focus. Committee will follow up in Dec and Jan with non-renewing members. Joan asked about the free ad in papers as part of buying Gives Day ads – Mike B will ask Emily to follow up.
- VD and SD Ads for CO Gives Day (Emily): waiting for papers to send proofs.

10. Publications (Karn and Frances): Karn said the weekly Summit Daily *Get Wild* articles are going well. Frances reported that Susie is still working with Nate Peterson to convince the Vail Daily to give ESWA a similar weekly column on the Eagle side. Meanwhile, ESWA is continuing to work with the WMSC to author occasional Curious Nature columns, including Steve’s Nov 29 column on meteors.

11. Sawyer (Zach and Ken): Mike B is wondering if ESWA should “take back” the sawyer program and make it solely ESWA’s; Bill and Currie agreed. Zack doesn’t have a strong opinion either way, and says working with FDRD was fine this summer, but sees that ESWA could use this as a signature program with branding; but also sees that cooperation with FDRD allows us some say in what they do (and FDRD offered some funding). Zack recommended that we consider whether partnering with FDRD furthers our mission, or is it better to make it ESWA’s program – also, how would FDRD react? Zack doesn’t want to divide the trails between the 2

groups. Steve said we would like FDRD funding. Mike B noted that ESWA doesn't have a lot of its own programs, whereas FDRD has lots, and that crosscut sawyering and Wilderness are perfect matches for ESWA – and we'd still welcome FDRD members to saw with us. Zack will talk to Doozie and Mike B will talk to Mike Connolly.

12. Social Media/Website: Mike B thanked Cindy L and Zack for their work on the Join/Donate page of the website, which is much improved.

13. Swag: Mike and Ellie will review inventory and place order.

14. Trailhead Hosting (Dave Owens and Bill): Dave O will be THH co-chair and manage Summit side; Mike B is default for Eagle side, but hopes someone else volunteers. Mike B, Dave O, and Joan participated in NFF's Trail Ambassador webinar, and said they learned several things to add to VWR training. Mike B questioned whether we need THHs to be VWRs, or could we do separate online THH training so those interested could start mid-season.

15. Trail Projects: Dave B said we should budget for FS signs, llamas, and other FS projects. He and Jim will talk to Tyler and Kat about possible 2022 trail projects.

16. VWRs (Mike M and Ken): Mike M nothing to add. Mike B suggested we move up training to May – Mike M agrees it's a good idea, but we should ask Tyler and Kat.

17. Weeds (Jim) – no updates

18. Next Board Meeting Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 5:30. VIA ZOOM

19. Miscellaneous:

Tuesday 11/23 Bill Betz will speak about Wilderness and ESWA to the Rotary Club at the Frisco Senior Center, all invited. Meeting starts 7:30am; Bill speaks at 8am.

Karn & Bill participated in first-ever beaver summit, which was a 2-daywebinar event. Beavers are essential to wetlands.

ADJOURNMENT 7:30 pm.

### **TO DO:**

ALL: Renew your membership [here](#) today or through ESWA's Colorado Gives Day page at the [Colorado Gives Day](#) website.

ALL: Send Mike B any suggest budget recommendations by 12/1.

ALL: Sign WildEarth Guardian petition by [adding your name](#).

Mike B: Ask Kat and Tyler if we can move VWR training to May.

Frances: Update Advocacy criteria

**AGENDA FOR ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**December 9, 2021 5:30 to 7 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**OPENING MATTERS**

1. Roll Call / Introduction of Guests: Mike Browning, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Tom Copper, Steve Elder, Cindy Levin, Dave Owens, Dave Brewster, Mike Meyrer, Frank Gutmann, Karn Stiegelmeier, Ken Harper, Jim Alexander, Kat Bazan
2. Agenda was reviewed and approved.
3. 11/11/21 Minutes were approved.

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

4. USFS Reports:
  - o Kat Bazan reported good news on budget approvals for 5 seasonal rangers, who will start around mid-May. Dave B mentioned possibility of funding W rangers into hunting season, just for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Nov; Kat said it's a great idea and would cost \$6,500 for two rangers.
  - o Kat had a useful startup meeting with Contour Logic about Booth Lake trail reconfiguration; will need \$10K in funding.
  - o Kat will look into user numbers for Eagles Nest Wilderness-Eagle side. Currently, there are counters on Mt of the Holy Cross and Missouri Ck and 4 on East Vail trails; FS bought 3 more.
  - o Kat is fine with moving VWR training up to May 21.
  - o Will need to do new cost-sharing agreement with FS-ESWA, starting in March.
5. Treasurer's Report (Tom Copper): Mike B thanked Tom for a great Treasurer's report, and Tom provided a brief budget update. Joan said she contacted former Treasurer Chris (who picks up checks at ESWA's PO box) because several people say they've sent checks but Joan doesn't have confirmation – Chris said he'd go to PO box on Monday. Steve said he'd develop a more efficient system for next year.
6. Chair's report (Mike B.)
  - o 2022 budget process (see attached 12/4/21 draft); modest addition for fundraising/social/development events. Will finalize budget at January meeting.
  - o Discussed Sawyer budget breakdown, which Mike later emailed to group.
  - o Mike outlined his meeting with Dave Cantrell's Steering Committee for 2022 meeting.
  - o SD ads: As a consolation prize for SD's failure to publish ESWA's Gives Day ad, we've accepted their offer for 4 free ads in December.
7. Chair-Elect report/Development Committee (Steve E.)
  - o Review of Committee Structure: Steve shared his vision of the 2022 ESWA Committee structure. Agreed to add weeds/ecology/enviro restoration program tab. Joan suggested that TH should go under VWR; Mike B opined that he would like to keep TH as separate for now, to provide focus on and build the TH program.
  - o Wild & Scenic Film Festival Event 2022: Steve proposed ESWA present this event at an Eagle and Summit location for a total of about \$2,500 to be followed by social event at local brewery. Discussion ensued with generally positive opinions. Bill expressed concern about cost; Steve said costs would ideally be defrayed by sponsors. Steve agreed to explore concept further.

- Steve reported on his meeting with ESWA officers to prepare for transition, and to look at committee structure.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. Advocacy (Frances)
  - CORE Act: The AC conducted a robust campaign to encourage passage of the CORE Act as part of the NDAA; unfortunately, Republican leadership stripped CORE out of the NDAA. ESWA will take up the fight again next year, with Susie Kincade's direction.
  - Website: Frances thanked Cindy L for updating the CORE Act tab and adding an Endorse tab. Bill, Cindy, and Krista are working on a letter-writing function.
  - Regular AC monthly meeting date: 1st Tuesday of the month at 5pm
  - HX ESWA-funded signs: Tim, Frances, and Mike are working with Kat Bazan on sign design and text, and will meet with Kat again January 18. One goal is to draft dog language that is more protective of resources, within the current rule that dogs must be leashed or "under control." Discussed a possible letter-writing campaign to Scot Fitzwilliams on why HX should have the leash rule restored as part of the FS 2023 management plan process.
  - C-3 nonprofit limitations: Mike H. provided the AC with a cogent explanation of the limitations of C-3 nonprofits, and agreed to review ESWA's draft 2022 budget in connection with his analysis.
9. Membership (Mike Browning): Received 90 out of 165 renewals.
10. Publications (Karn and Frances)
  - Summit Daily: Karn reported on her communications with Nicole at the Summit Daily regarding Nicole's dissatisfaction with most of ESWA's Get Wild columns, including lack of interest by viewers (low page-clicks) and the need to include authorship by other groups, such as Summit Rescue. Frances suggested we could raise page-clicks by emailing the link to ESWA's mailing list each week for recipients to click.
  - E-newsletters: Frances said the December e-newsletter was well received, and thanked Emily for her design skills, and everyone who provided content. Mike B and Frances need content for January 1 e-newsletter; Joan agreed to provide Gives Day numbers.
11. Sawyer (Zach and Ken): Zach is working on uniforms, which likely be matching vest and helmet. FDRD agreed ESWA the sawyer program could be an ESWA-branded program, but that FDRD would not share funding.
12. Social Media/Website: Cindy L said it is good to see there's money in the budget for professional website help. She can maintain the website, but not develop. Mike B and Frances thanked Bill and Cindy for all of their work on website. Steve said he's a big fan of the website, said Cindy should just capture future ideas for now. Dave O asked about Get Wild not getting attention, and can we track clicks on our website; Bill said no, nor on the SD site.
13. Swag: Joan reported that Ellie now has the swag and will organize a new swag order.
14. Trailhead Hosting (Dave Owens and Mike B): Mike will call TH Committee meeting in early 2022 to update program based on comments received from hosts.

15. Trail Projects:
- Dave B and Jim said they've developed 19 possible projects, and are soliciting project leaders to present to board.
  - Booth Lake trail configuration will have ESWA lead.
  - Jim reported that Laurie Alexander has researched OSI training possibilities, and will communicate these to ESWA membership.
  - Dave B said that Drea Sanchez's work needs to be incorporated in trail-project planning.
  - Discussion with Kat Bazan on trail projects.

16. VWRs (Mike M and Ken): Ken and Mike M agreed to move training up. Mike M has recruited 2 new VWRs, Mike B encouraged VWR Committee to meet by end of Feb. Steve likes Kat's idea of getting new Wilderness ranger at the training. Mike B asked about a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> training for would-be VWRs who can't make the first training. Joan asked about updating training videos.

17. Board thanked Mike B for his two years of service as ESWA Chair, and congratulated him on his final board meeting.

18. Next Board Meeting Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30. VIA ZOOM

ADJOURNMENT 7:30 pm

**TO DO:**

**Everyone: Provide content for January e-newsletter to Mike B and Frances by Dec 20.**

**Chris: Check ESWA PO Box by Monday 12/13, and report checks to Joan.**

**Kat: look into user numbers for Eagles Nest Wilderness-Eagle side.**

**Mike B: (1) Finalize ESWA 2022 budget; (2) call TH Committee meeting in early 2022 to update program based on comments received from hosts.**

**Mike M and Ken: (1) Schedule VWR meeting by February 2022; (2) check with FDRD about ESWA moving VWR training to May 21.**

**Mike H: Review ESWA's draft 2022 budget in connection with limitations of C-3 nonprofits analysis.**

**Steve: (1) Develop efficient system for processing ESWA checks; (2) further research into Wild & Scenic Film Festival Event 2022; (3) add weeds/ecology/enviro restoration program tab to Committee chart.**

guest writers, but no slots available before June), and Hike of the Week (weekly column in Vail Daily - ESWA could provide guest writers). Lara also suggested that ESWA meet with the VVMTA to get ideas about how to grow and broaden ESWA.

- February 4 Meeting with Kat and Cindy to discuss 2021 ESWA-USFS planning: Bill, Dave Brewster, Dave Owen, Frances, Jim, and Mike B will attend. Anyone else interested should let Mike B know.
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado: Mike B is working with VOC's Dan Williams, who says that VOC has funding for training on how to grow your nonprofit, and they have a budget to continue this training through the end of 2021.

8. USFS reports: Kat Bazan reported that seasonal hiring starts the week of January 18, and she will be able to hire three seasonal Wilderness rangers to coordinate projects. Kat showed proofs of the new Eagles Nest Wilderness Educational signs that ESWA submitted a grant proposal to have printed and installed on our four East Vail Wilderness Trails (before the Wilderness boundary). Several meeting attendees recommended minor revisions, and Tim sent Kat different versions of ESWA's logo that would show up better on the signs. Kat said that the Forest Service received Great American Outdoors money, which will be used mainly for trails outside of Wilderness. Kat mentioned that the Booth Lake counters showed that there were 50K visitors on the trail in 2020, up from 40K, and that the largest visitation day was September 26. Also mentioned was the availability of "small grants" of \$200, which ESWA might use to purchase another Katana saw.

9. Strategic Plan for Trail Projects: Dave B said that he and Jim met with the Forest Service in December. They shared with attendees a very useful spreadsheet of multi-year planning for all trails in ENW, on which Tyler and Kat had filled in upcoming plans. They noted that the USFS has robust grant funding, but there are still unfunded projects on the Summit Side. The USFS has funding for Deluge Lake, Pitkin Lake, and Upper Piney trail projects, but could use funding for Surprise Lake trail planning, the Boulder Creek bridge, and Lower Cataract Lake. Jim thanked Dave B for starting the spreadsheet, and Dave B thanked Jim for making a useful list of grant opportunities. Tim and Dave B said they would be happy to each run two llama-supported trips this summer (Tim on the Vail side and Dave B on the Summit side) for a total of four trips.

10. Strategic Planning for ESWA: Mike B would like to hold a 2- to 3-hour ESWA strategic planning meeting in March, with some ESWA leaders and an equal number of community leaders. Mike Connolly (FDRD), Kim Langmaid (TOV/CMC/WMSC), Karn Stiegelmeier (outgoing Summit County Commissioner), and Susie Kincaid (long-time local environmental activist) were suggested as community leaders, along with someone from the USFS. Mike B said that discussion topics would include planning for a 2022 Chair, possibly hiring a part-time staff person, and how ESWA might evolve as an organization. Dave B said that ESWA might consider sharing a part-time staff person with FDRD or the USFS.

11. 2021 Budget: There was discussion regarding the ESWA-funded Colorado Mountain College summer internships through CMC's Sustainability program. Frances suggested that Kim Langmaid might be able to recommend a student with a background that would allow her/him to evaluate ESWA as organization, create a short video about ESWA, and provide recommendations for bringing ESWA into the next decade, including possibly hiring a paid staff member (and be a possible candidate). Joan suggested we call the internships "fellowships" – there was positive response to this suggestion. Bill said he doesn't want ESWA to have to supervise the student too closely. Currie cautioned about employment-law related issues. It was agreed that we don't want the student to conduct a service project.

Dave O raised a question about why the HCN cost was \$1K if being sent to fewer people, and Bill reviewed the costs, which do total that amount. Dave O also asked about the costs for the sawyer program – it was explained that the amount is for purchasing extra saws and a possible end-of-year celebration.

Mike B moved to tentatively approve the 2021 budget, Ken 2-, and all approved. Mike noted that there may be future budget revisions for board consideration, based on the strategic planning process.

12. Trailhead Hosting Program: Dave O. recounted his successful trail hosting at the North 10 Mile trailhead. Mike B said it's very important to educate people at trailheads on busy weekends. The plan is to start a pilot effort this summer, and if goes well, to make it permanent like the VWR program, using the same signup system. Host tables would be staffed by experienced VWRs in 4-hour shifts. Mike asked for volunteer trail hosts for each side, and Joan, Dave B, Dave O, Ellie, and Mike B volunteered. Kat said this will be a great program, the USFS would be supportive of it, and it should be an easy process to address liability-JHA risk analysis issues. Kat advised that ESWA should coordinate with the Town of Vail trailhead-hosting program, but also consider hosting at busy HX trailheads, like Missouri-Fancy.

13. Winter Patrol Program: Mike B reported that Melissa Wills and Ben Hilley are working to develop program parameters, including liaising with FDRD. Kat said that she is excited about the program, but wants to take this winter and summer to implement, and start the program next winter (winter 2021-2022). Dave B had sent email about free online avalanche training from an organization called "Friends of Berthoud Pass" that is offering free, 2.5-hour online avalanche awareness presentations at [Event Schedule - Friends of Berthoud Pass](#).

14. Grant Status: Jim reported on grant funding. Unfortunately, ESWA did not receive the national environmental education Covid relief grant that had been sought to fund the USFS educational signs for East Vail trailheads - Mike B noted that, for the cost of the signs, we can use some of the FS \$15,000, for which we have a spending deadline.

15. Website, e-Newsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media: Bill reported that he and Chris have been working on updating the website platform. They are excited about the WIX program, which costs only \$67/year, and is a "very intuitive," easy-to-use program. Bill discussed the upcoming newsletter essay writers, including the new EHX District Ranger Leanne Veldhuis. Bill had asked Frances to follow up with Beau Kiklis of Conservation Colorado, the February essayist, and Frances reported that she has edited the essay and was just waiting for another photo. Bill asked for volunteers with social media, Instagram, and Facebook. Guest Cindy Levin said she has background in software and would be interested in helping with the website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The next Board Meeting is Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:30.