

# **WRRRA Fall Business Meeting and Elections Minutes**

**Recorder – Chris Masterson**

**October 28, 2023, 5-8pm**

After the pre-dinner social, the silent auction, and a delicious dinner, the meeting commenced.

## **Elections**

### **Elections Primer (Kevin)**

Since Rena Irwin, the Immediate Past President (and Nominations Chair) was not present at the dinner) Kevin described the election process. He announced that all nominees are running unopposed, but welcomed nominations from the floor. If no other nominations are received then we'd simply have a vote by acclamation.

Kevin read the names of all the nominees, and since Brian Brewer was not nominated before the publishing of the Fall Newsletter, Kevin read Brian's Bio to the WRRRA members in attendance.

Kevin asked for nominations from the floor, hearing none, there was a vote for all candidates, and the vote was unanimous.

- Secretary: Chris Masterson, incumbent, running unopposed
- Treasurer: Eric Carlson, incumbent, running unopposed
- Silver Springs Rep: Martha Hunter, running unopposed
- Goat Creek Rep: Mike Middleton, incumbent, running unopposed
- Dalles Rep: Anne Schopf, running unopposed
- Silver Creek Rep: Brian Brewer, running unopposed

Kevin congratulated the newly elected board members and encouraged others to consider running for a board position. He said that even if folks don't want to run for the board, they can volunteer for committee work or to help at various events.

### **Recognition of Outgoing Board Members (Kevin)**

**Kevin Orth thanked Ken Ring, Molly and David Ebel, and Dennette Wood for their service on the board and gave them thank you gifts on behalf of WRRRA.**

## **Updates**

**Presidents Report / Updates (Kevin O) –**

### **FS, NFH Updates**

- Kevin reported that we have a new district ranger. We met with the FS (and the new district ranger, Heather Wilder.) It's been over a year since we met with the FS. We'll re-start the cycle of meeting with them every 3-4 months.
- Goat Creek culvert – the FS lost some momentum with Martie Schramm leaving. It's not been a high enough priority with the FS. We spoke to the need for a culvert due to safety.
- They talked about the Fee Retention program – a program by which each Forest will retain a majority of the fees that are generated by the cabin owners of each given forest. They're considering replacing the culvert with a Bridge, because of salmon runs, etc. It was unfortunate that the Dry Creek flooding

occurred, and is one of the reasons the FS is not aggressively moving to replace the Culvert. They're afraid the creek will flood.

- They also talked about the homeless folks camping by the White River, and perhaps we can use some of those fees to create a block of some kind so that the camping can't take place by the White River.

### **NFH update –**

Forum in Bozeman Mt at the end of September.

Kevin encouraged folks to become members of the National Forest Homeowners' Association. 2 key things they're focused on is permit renewals in the near future. The FS has put in a few new stipulations – things the cabin owners are not in favor of. The NFH is doing a good job of fighting the good fight to object to the items that are unfavorable to cabin owners. The other thing they're working on is CPR – Cabin Program Retention – we lose hundreds of cabins every year from fires, and when they're burned down (and the owner doesn't want to rebuild) the cabin and permit go away. The NFH is working on getting approval that the right to transfer that permit to someone else (sell the permit) so that someone else can rebuild on that land, that has historically been set aside for cabins.

### **Financial Report (Eric)**

We're operating in the black. We have about \$5,000 in the bank, but that does not include the expense of tonight's dinner. He also talked about the restricted fund.

### **Membership Update (Fred)**

Fred reported on the changes to 2024 membership. Fred mentioned the value of Associate memberships. Fred mentioned that he wrote in the newsletter that folks should talk to Tract reps if they had concerns about raising the fees. He said that dues went up \$5 in 2017, which was not keeping up with inflation at the time. And now the dues are going up to \$50. If folks don't pay before Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, the rate will be \$60. Fred also mentioned the need to update our data management system. And that expense is looming.

### **Snowplow**

Robbin Bradburn reported that 37% of the cabins have paid, which mean 63% have not paid. He'll be sending out another email for those who haven't paid. Robbin is always interested in Snow Spies (folks who will call him when there's a need for plowing in their tract). We have a bulldozer that we lease for 3 of the 4 tracts, and we have a truck with a blade for Deep Creek.

### **Q&A**

As the hour was late there were few questions.

Kevin reminded folks about the highway cleanup. It's being hosted by Silver Creek with lunch afterward at Dennette Wood's cabin SC-24.

They told folks to pay for the auction items before they leave. They asked you to pick up any of your items that were not purchased, and take them home.

### **Door/Costume Prizes**

Prizes were awarded and meeting ended at 8pm.