

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 2nd 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 wants 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 1st 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 1st 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.