

## **FALLS CREEK RANCH ASSOCIATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Falls Creek Ranch Association, Inc. Board of Directors occurred on October 19, 2016 at the home of Jim McCarthy. Present were President, Jim McCarthy; Vice President, Michael McQuinn; Treasurer, Larry Hansen; At Large, Peggy Yotti and Secretary, Deirdre Heine. Also present were Joe Scarpino, Bobbie Baird and Robin Lucie.

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion, duly made by Mike McQuinn to approve the minutes as amended of the September 29, 2016 Board of Directors meeting, was seconded and unanimously approved.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved with the addition under New Business of discussion of the Board's plan for the rest of the fiscal year.

### **3. LIAISON REPORT**

Mike McQuinn reported:

Ray Smith will attend a water operator class in Durango on 10/20. He will also attend a class on 11/09 in Alamosa to learn about the new data collection and filing procedures now required by the state of Colorado. During the past work period tasks performed included:

- ❖ Made repair to 2" transfer line in Big Rock Meadow.
- ❖ Changed cutting edges on road grader, and greased.
- ❖ Changed all fluids and filters and greased the dump truck, also performed thorough cleaning, installed 2 new batteries, attached the plow and the sander, purchased new flipper fins for the sander.
- ❖ Investigated possible water leak on upper system, turned out to be usage from new resident on High Ridge. System ok.
- ❖ Made simple fix at dumpsters, the rod used to hold lids on are damaged will be replaced when dumpsters are winterized.
- ❖ Collected and delivered bacteriological samples to San Juan Basin Health.
- ❖ Assisted with installation of rafters for pole barn at slash site.

Next month, roads will be graded and snow removal equipment will be winterized and chained and the road grader will be serviced.

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Larry Hansen, Treasurer, reported:

The Falls Creek Ranch Association financials have been finished. A motion duly made by Deirdre Heine to accept the financials and have them posted to the Ranch website was seconded and unanimously approved. The FCR tax returns have also been completed.

#### **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **FireWise Ambassador**

Paulette Church, Firewise Ambassador reported:

We received reimbursements for the 2015 DNR Falls Creek Main widening grant (\$2,750), part of the Stephens Grant (\$4,000), and part of the Watershed Grant (\$15,000).

Paulette sent in the final reimbursement request for the Watershed Grant for \$5,000. This amount is covering \$4,256 of our summer labor fire mitigation costs to finish removing and burning the slash from the grant area. Final report is due in December 2016.

Paulette is preparing the final reimbursement request for the Stephens Grant for \$4,010. This amount is covering \$2,000+ of our labor costs through November 15, 2016, up to the \$4,010 total. This isn't due until June 2017 Paulette wants to close it out by the end of this year so we don't have so many open grants.

Received the Purchase Order for the 2016 DNR WRRG Capacity Grant to purchase a heavy-duty diesel RTV, 14 by 8' hydraulic dump trailer, and a pull behind offset rough brush cutter. Since we have the authorization to begin spending as of October 12, 2016, and received reimbursements of \$21,750 this week and had Board approval for our 25% match, we quickly finalized costs and purchase the trailer, RTV, and tow-behind brush cutter so we could use two of these on our Fall Clean Up Day and will be able to continue to use them until the snow prevents us from using them. The brush mower should arrive in about 2 weeks. We are seeking a garage to store the RTV and brush cutter in for the winter so mice and such don't eat up the electrical systems. Trailer and RTV worked well during clean up and volunteers expressed appreciation to have good tools available to do the healthy forest work.

Paulette is trying to find new funding sources to help cover labor costs and equipment maintenance next summer and will ask for help from FireWise of SW CO.

The Ranch hosted the Fire Adapted Colorado Board on October 12<sup>th</sup>. We were selected by FireWise of SW CO as a good demonstration of a strong Firewise Community with great volunteer and partner support. Attendees were from the USFS, BLM, three National Forests,

Santa Fe, and Flagstaff. We gave a historical presentation of how we have grown support on FCR, partnered with other agencies and governmental units, and shared our results and plans for the future. The worked on identifying common ways to assess residential property at the Holmen's home and we had informal discussion during lunch, purchased by FireWise of SW CO. Durango Fire opened the firehouse, removed and replaced the trucks, and brought out very nice tables and chairs for the meeting.

Paulette was asked to present our work widening Falls Creek Main through a grant at the FireWise Area September meeting and included how the air curtain burner is helping with all the slash. The other ambassadors were impressed with our volunteer base and equipment to maintain our efforts.

Phil Boroff, Clyde Church, and Paulette attended a two-day seminar at Vallecito on managing a ponderosa pine forest. Research from several sources was presented with a walking tour of a tree farm and restoration areas around Vallecito Lake. With global warming now a measurable factor, ponderosa pines are threatened on the lower elevations and around meadow areas, especially on south-facing slopes. Thinning the forest to include a variety of trees with a variety of ages seems the best plan. We probably need to eliminated seven of every ten ponderosas so those that remain will be able to capture enough moisture to avoid insect and disease damage. Northern slopes can maintain more trees per acre and smaller trees will be able to develop and mature there. Naturally occurring ponderosa pine saplings that had been in place for 35 years on the southern-facing slopes and were studies by the CSFS all died. We need to focus on managing a healthy forest as much as maintaining fire mitigation work for the long-term benefit of the Ranch and our forest.

Safe Passage grant to trim back 25 feet on either side of CR 205 south of our entrance will begin on or about May 15, 2017. The SW Conservation Corps has us on their schedule and Jim Davis, Superintendent of La Plata County Bridges and Roads has offered us two men and a large chipper for the week to help us dispose of the slash that we cannot handle in our air curtain burner. Paulette will keep the Ranch updated on this work as it may disrupt traffic briefly as the larger trees are removed and equipment is moved along the road.

### **Architectural Control Committee**

Nancy Peake and Mary Ann Bryant, Co-Chairs, reported via email:

Mary Ann and Nancy visited all the open ACC projects to determine which have been completed or are still works in progress. Currently, there are eight active projects and four projects that are open but "on hold".

## **Beautification Committee**

Marge Rebovich, Co-Chair, report via email:

No new business

## **Common Property**

Phil Boroff, Chairman

The Fall Clean Up Day was very successful with about 30 Ranch residents volunteering their time and enjoying the potluck lunch afterwards at the picnic area.

The carport for the Air Curtain Burner has been completed at the slash area.

## **Water and Dam Committee**

Mike Hicks, Chairman, reported via email:

### **Lake Level, Water Calls and Flows:**

Zink call for .0.25 cft in place. No call is in place by USFS.

Irrigation season ends on October 31st. All outfall from the lake will be terminated on November 1st. The lake is 0.75 feet below full.

The annual dam safety inspection by the CDWR was scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pasture Irrigation:**

No pastures are under irrigation.

### **Native Cut Throat Project:**

Nothing new to report.

### **Dam Face Seeding / Plant Control:**

The south dam face has been reseeded with a “steep slope seed mix” with the hope that it will take hold and grow next spring. Additional seeding was applied to the spillway as well.

Willows, oak brush, Alder and Wood Rose were treated with herbicide. Herbicide was applied from a raft and sprayed upslope to keep any herbicide out of the lake. Note: Herbicide used is

certified safe to use in aquatic environments and is non-toxic to humans and aquatic life. Area south of dam was retreated for noxious weeds.

### **Horse Committee**

Lisa Eckert, Chairman, reported via email:

No new business

### **Lake Recreation and Beach Committee**

Barbara Belanger, Co-Chair, reported via email:

In conjunction with the Ranch Clean Up Day, the Lake Committee put down a load of sand, tidied up the storage areas and trimmed willow. Spring plans are to relocate one canoe rack to make room for a paddle board rack and a kayak rack.

### **Road Committee**

Ed Kileen, Chairman

A water truck will be utilized the first part of November to help grade the roads.

### **Utilities Committee**

Eb Redford, Chairman, reported via email:

#### **AWC/FCR Water Systems Connection Project**

We are finalizing a confidentiality agreement for each engineering firm to sign before sending them the RFP (Request for Price Quotation). We plan to send these two documents out by mid-October.

Eb Redford attended a one-day water training class on Asset Management. At the end of the class he met briefly with Erik Worker (CO State) and Duane Dale (USDA) regarding funding

options for the AWC project. Mike Hicks had previously discussed our project with them as well. There are several low interest loan opportunities depending on whether or not Falls Creek Ranch forms a Metropolitan Water District. It appears we can also eventually be reimbursed for the preliminary engineering feasibility study.

### **System Repairs**

A leak was discovered on the Upper System via SCADA Monitoring. The leak was identified to a single house via an emergency meter reading exercise. After phone calls with the owner, the cause was determined to be a running toilet. The owner turned off their main house water valve and plans to call a plumber.

### **6. OLD BUSINESS**

The rental policy written by the previous Board was never executed and was tabled. A document outlining the current rental policy as provided in the covenants will be presented at the November board meeting.

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

Jim McCarthy opened the discussion of this Board of Directors planning for the remainder of this fiscal year. Items discussed included:

- AWC – the need for a time table and committee formation to research the forming of a Metro District
- Finalization of a Rental Policy
- Succession planning for new Board members and Committee members and chairs
- Strategic financial planning to determine strengths, weaknesses and opportunities
- ACH water bill payments

### **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, November 18, 2016 at the home of Peggy Yotti.

### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board, by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, adjourned the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.

This document constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of the Falls Creeks Ranch Association, Inc.

Respectively submitted,

Deirdre Heine  
Secretary  
October 19, 2016