

**MINUTES of the ESWA Board Meeting**  
**January 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm**

Venues for Video Link: Dillon REI Store at 306 Dillon Ridge Road and  
Eagle River Water & Sanitation District at 846 W Forest Rd, Vail

1. Welcome (Mike Browning)
  - Tim Drescher, Dan Siebert, Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh (Eagle County)
  - Chris Turner, Bill Betz, Dave Owens, Mike Mayrer, Jim Alexander, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Chris Menolasino (Summit County)
2. Roll Call / Introductions (Mike Browning)
2. Review/Approve Agenda (Mike Browning)
  - -Motion to approve
  - Discussion to approve/ all in favor
3. Review/Approve Minutes (Mike Browning)
  - Unanimous: All in Favor
4. Review/Approve Treasurer's Report (Chris Turner)
  - See Treasurer's Report:
    - Unanimous approval of Treasurer's report

REPORTS & UPDATES

5. Chair's report (Mike Browning)
  - Getting back into the swing of things after a great vacation. Will be reaching out to members to work on goals one of them being to promote diversity on the board to gain more women and minorities
6. CO Gives results (Chris Turner)
  - Discussion on how to outreach further for this event, not a lot of new donors
  - Final #'s 40 donors for \$3600 (2018: 32 donors for \$2200)
  - Chris will put together a spreadsheet on donor list to catch up Mike B
  - Increased donations over 50%
  - Discussion on how we can maximize for CO day
7. USFS reports (Cindy Ebbert, Katherine Bazan)
  - Not Present
  - Katherine: No specific updates; working on hiring seasonal crew and should be finalized by February. Gave Tim updates on Llamas & budget
  - Discussion on Mesa Cortina Trail (Jim Alexander)
8. VWR Program (Ken Harper, Mike Mayrer)
  - Mike B would like to get together by March to strategize
  - Discussion on ear marking budget items for VWR (Swag, uniforms, etc.)
    - Start thinking about it; in years past roughly \$1000 a side
9. Trail Work Programs (Tim Drescher, Dave Brewster, Ken Harper)
  - Multiple Llama trips planned for summer
    - Tim will be coordinating for Eagle County Side
      - Discussion on possibly budgeting for supplies for volunteers

- Katherine & Tim have been discussing possible trips
  - Lake Constantine
- Discussion on updating signage
- Dave Brewster will be coordinating for Summit County Side

10. Noxious Weed Program (Jim Alexander)

- Budget requests for equipment
- Mesa Cortina discussion
- Happy Hour events to educate
- Dave Owens discussion on Sierra (outing events) / good opportunity raise awareness

12. Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media (Bill Betz)

- a. Thanks to Chris for switching over website
- b. eNewsletter:
  - Next issue is on wolf reintroduction
  - Hard copy newsletter: Thanks to Chris for helping with printing
- c. Thanks to Tim for transferring Facebook to ESWA

PROJECTS

13. Swag Committee Report (Dave Owens)

- a. The swag committee hasn't met since the last meeting
  - i. Plan to revise the business cards
  - ii. Please use up the dog off leash cards
  - iii. Have some stickers made with new name and logo
  - iv. Two new banners (6 x 2) will be made (roughly \$100 a piece with nonprofit discount)
  - v. Discussion on if we should make up hats, t-shirts, vests, etc. based off cost and benefit to members
  - vi. Gifts: Should be decided by new board and president
  - vii. Mike will work on circling the committee together to determine ballpark numbers
    - 1. Dave has some numbers that he will send to Mike B
  - viii. Great opportunity to get our name out in the community and to increase recruitment and donations

14. Name change implementation (Bill Betz)

- a. Everything is completed (THANKS BILL!)

15. Advisory Board (Currie Craven/Bill Betz)

- a. Maryann Gaug and possibly Currie for members
- b. Discussion on if we should have an advisory council vs a board
  - i. Possible focus on more high-level issues where we can solicit input
  - ii. Reminder that they are welcome to meetings but do not have a vote on the board
  - iii. Mike B & Bill will circle back to discuss

NEW BUSINESS

16. Please be thinking about your budget requests for your programs.

- a. For grants we need to be looking into the future, someone with a PM background
- b. As you come up with an idea please tell Jim in advance so he can think about grants to locate
- c. Please get your items in to Mike by Feb so we can approve for March

## 17. Formalize Committees and Chairs

- a. Grants (Jim Alexander)
  - o Possible grants but will need volunteers
  - o Could use our newsletter / newspaper columns to promote these
    - Safe Passage
    - Global Warming
      - There is a group who is passionate about Pika's
    - Camp Hale Restoration
- b. Membership (Mike Browning)
- c. Publicity and Newsletters (Bill Betz)
- d. VWR Program (Ken Harper and Mike Mayrer)
- e. Trail Work Programs (Tim Drescher, Mike Mayer, Dave Brewster)
- f. Noxious Weeds (Jim Alexander)

-Do these committees cover what we need to cover?

-Are there other committees we should be listing?

-Swag Committee

-Events/Hospitality committees

-Annual meeting

-Possible events at brew pubs

-lectures

-other misc. events to promote involvement in ESWA

-It would be ideal to have a representative on each side of the pass

-If you are interested please contact Mike B. as these issues will take time

## 18. Outreach to Like Minded Organizations/Press

- i. While we have some relationships with like minded organizations, we should work towards strengthening this relationships

a. USFS

b. FDRD

c. Vail Valley Trail Alliance

d. Wilderness Workshops

e. Summit and Vail Daily Editors

-Consider a column in the paper; could we get a monthly?

-Summit Daily reached out to Bill and will be writing an article

f. Town of Vail re East Vail Trailheads

g. Vail Foundation/Vail Chamber?

h. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

h. Summit Chambers

-We can do a 4-minute commercial

-They have a great contact with Summit Daily

## 19. Increase Visibility and Membership

- a. Another issue Mike B would like ESWA to focus on; we have a core group that is working hard but the more bodies we can have the greater the impact we will have

a. New Signs at Trailheads

b. Vail and Summit Daily Articles

c. Events

- a. Would be beneficial to get a more diverse and younger crowd involved

- d. Booths at Trailheads?
  - a. Love to staff a booth at high impact trailheads for the busiest weekends. Great opportunity to educate and increase visibility
- e. Campsite Rangers?
  - a. At Gore Lake they took out almost one hundred illegal fire rings. It might be beneficial to send out rangers on super busy weekends
- f. Diversity on the board:
  - a. How can we get more women & younger folks involved?
  - b. Frances Hartogh (Mike's wife) and Joan Betz (Bill's wife) are willing to serve to get the fire started; will submit applications for consideration at February meeting. Tim will provide application form.
  - c. If you have any ideas on how to promote diversity on the board, please let Mike know
- g. How can we improve the video conference capabilities?

Next Planning Meeting Thursday February 13th



**February 13, 2020 at 5:30 pm**  
**Copper Mtn Metro District Office in Copper Mountain**

**Welcome (Mike Browning)**

**Roll Call / Introductions (Mike Browning)**

- Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Jim Alexander, Dave Owens, Dave Brewster, Ken Harper, Tim Drescher, (Katherine Bazan and Currie Craven via conference call)
- Tim Drescher is Dan Siebert's proxy, Bill Betz is Frank Guttman's proxy

**Review/Approve Agenda (Mike Browning)**

- Two "New Business" items were added to the end of the agenda
- Approved

**Review/Approve Minutes (Mike Browning)**

- Maryann's last name was misspelled in one or two places
- Dan had "agenda" still listed on the meeting minutes
- Has Dan received feedback from the previous minutes, and will they be amended and sent out?

**Review/Approve Treasurer's Report (Chris Turner)**

- Chris is not present. We will cover the current and 2020 budget under "New Business" for all budget items discussions.

**REPORTS & UPDATES**

**Chair's report (Mike Browning)**

- Mike has been busy meeting with various folks. He has had meetings with both Cindy Ebbert and Katherine Bazan. Notes from these meetings have already been distributed.
- USFS Wilderness Winter Meeting is being held next Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Fort Collins. Mike will give a 15 minutes presentation about ESWA during that meeting.
- Eagle County Gives Consortium: ESWA (Mike & Tim) is now on the communication list. We will be involved with this group to enhance our 2020 Colorado Gives efforts and get visibility among other Eagle County nonprofits.
- Gore Range Group of CMC: Mike is currently conducting outreach to this group.
- Mike had a good meeting with Mike Connolly. Much good information obtained.
- Mike is trying to setup meetings with Indian Peak Wilderness Alliance (IPWA) and Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV) for further organizational outreach.

**USFS reports (Cindy Ebbert, Katherine Bazan)**

- Cindy not present. Heal up well Cindy!
- Katherine: Not a whole lot to report on her end, except that HCRD just finished up hiring 3 new Wilderness rangers for summer 2020. HCRD and DRD will be conducting wilderness inventories for Eagles Nest Wilderness this summer. One ranger based out of Dillon and one based out Silverthorne to lead and complete this work.

### **VWR Program - Training (Mike Browning, Ken Harper)**

- The committee is making progress. A meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> for committee members. Ken talked about getting new wooden name tags for the newer Volunteer Wilderness Rangers. Bill said that it would be beneficial to put something out in the Vail Daily and Summit Daily to advertise that the application window process is open for new VWR's. Mike Browning would like to place an ad in the VD and SD papers to bring in new volunteers so we can expand the program. Ads are not cheap, but they are effective.
- Discussion was had about developing a more "hands on" training program similar to what PWV does (training stations), but this will need to wait until we have more training program volunteers. The group agreed to try and recruit VWR's on the overnight trips and other summer ESWA activities – e.g. weed pulls, day work trips.
- The board discussed VWR program manuals, the desire to make them thinner, digitize the manual, and encourage people to review them in advance of the annual training. Jim Alexander brought up the idea of buying a thistle ID book for all VWR's. Jim and Dave Brewster are hoping to make the VWR training in June, so that they can give quick presentations about noxious weeds.

### **Llama and Trail Work Programs (Tim Drescher, Dave Brewster, Ken Harper)**

- Tim is trying to put a date together to meet with Katherine, Dave Brewster, and Cindy Ebbert to plan the logistics of this summer's trips. There is a need to standardize how people sign up for these trips and give good, clear communication to our volunteers. Tim and the group discussed adopt-a-trail summer plans (ESWA will be getting a new trail sign to reflect our new name), national trails day, and trails hosting day. Michael Conolly would still be interested in doing joint projects with ESWA. Again, we will try to promote these events in the papers.

### **Noxious Weed Program (Jim Alexander)**

- Grants: Jim has started looking for money for the Surprise Lake trail realignment, and maybe the Booth Creek trail alignment as well.
- Thistles ID books: Jim recommended buying 100 copies at \$5 apiece (this cost is reflected in his budget request). Jim has many good ideas for the weed program including public presentations that discuss the issue.
- ESWA has "provisional approval" for \$33,000 from the NFF grant! Around 31k for spraying weeds, another \$2k for tools, food for weed pull, material, etc.... Great job Jim! Congratulations!
- Jim would like to do a public presentation on the weed program in May to publicize the program, educate the public about noxious weeds, attract additional volunteers and promote our other summer activities. We will buy an ad in the SD and VD to promote the event.

### **Regular ESWA Meeting Space & Reliable Video Conferencing**

- Dave Owens brought up possible new Summit County locations for Board meetings, including the Summit County Library system and Summit County Senior Center. We need good videoconferencing on the Summit County side! Bill will assist Dave in finding possible locations. Chris Turner has stated that we could purchase equipment to make this happen for approximately \$200 if need be. All that is required is a reliable meeting space and a good internet connection.

### **Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media (Bill Betz)**

- Next eNewsletter: Frances Hartogh will be writing about dogs in Wilderness for March. In April Frank will be writing about the sawyer program.
- Bill will be sending out requests for hard copy newsletter articles in March (HCN copies typically go out in May & November). We will use the May newsletter to promote our summer programs and seek participants.
- Social media: Instagram issues are sorted out, and we believe Dan will be running this account.

### **Membership Committee (Mike Browning)**

- Mike gave a brief update on the membership program that the committee has been discussing. They will send out a report to the board in early March. This will be a major agenda item for the March meeting.

### **Swag Committee Report (Dave Owens)**

- Dave gave an update on the latest t-shirt concepts, prototypes, costs, etc.... We need to investigate the possible tax implication of selling swag on-line or at booths. Dave showed concepts of a sticker, hat and vests. Board members suggested looking into beanies / stocking caps, nametags with the logo (for staffing a table, or showing up to an event). Dave showed an iteration of the new ESWA banner. The Board approved the purchase of (2) 6' long banners in color of the style presented by Dave.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Vote on New Board Members – Joan Betz and Frances Hartogh**

- The board voted unanimously to approve both Joan and Frances to be on the board of directors.

### **2020 Budget (Chris Turner and Mike Browning)**

- Mike reviewed budget line items as detailed in the draft budget. Much discussion was had regarding grants and how they affect the budget.
- An additional \$1000 will be budgeted for trail projects (refreshments and food) which would reduce the contingency line item to \$3000. The Mesa Cortina/Schuette line item will be renamed the Mesa Cortina/Surprise Lake Projects so that it could also include design of the Surprise Lake trail realignment and because the USFS may not need the funds for the Mesa Cortina project this year.
- Bill moved to approve the 2020 budget as revised above, Tim seconded. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously. The approved revised budget is attached.

### **Strategic Planning**

- More to come from Mike on the ESWA vision and how to increase our long-range viability

### **Trail Host and Campsite Host Ideas (Mike Browning)**

- Support seems to be building for these. They are dependent on getting additional volunteers to staff them

### **National Trails Day and other One Day Events/Social (Mike Browning)**

- Budget has been designated for these events. National Trails Day is June 6. There is money in the budget to host a social event following these and other trail projects.

**Sawyer Program (Mike Browning)**

- The group discussed getting more volunteers for big trail clearing events / days. We need to get some interest generated in the sawyer program for non-certified sawyers. We will promote this opportunity as part of the April newsletter that Frank will be writing.

**Quarterly Meetings and Social Event at Copper Mountain (Mike Browning)**

- Mike encouraged the Board to meet at least quarterly at Copper Mountain to promote comradery and social interaction among Board members.

**Eagle River Memorandum of Understanding (ERMOU) Meeting / Whitney Reservoir (Tim Drescher)**

- Tim recapped the meeting he attended. Tim sent out presentation notes and material earlier in the week. Tim told the attendees that our local and national groups will oppose the idea of building a new reservoir in the Homestake drainage, especially because of the bad precedent it would establish of adjusting wilderness boundaries for development projects.

**Fundraising opportunity by volunteering for the Triple Bypass (Ken Harper)**

- Triple Bypass gives money to local non-profits for people that volunteer (The Evergreen to Avon bike ride - 120 miles). Ken said that "sagging" would be a possibility for us and could raise up to \$5,000. Staffing an Aid station would be a possibility as well but is less likely. Ken will look into submitting an application for sagging. There was general support for the idea. However, the dates of the bike ride are July 11 & 12 which conflict with the July 11 trail hosting and weed pull projects that ESWA has planned. Ken will write something up that would be included in the next Eaglet to see if we could get enough volunteers for this sagging.

Next Board Meeting Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> at Copper Mountain



## **MINUTES - ESWA PLANNING MEETING**

**March 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm**

**(held by conference call due to venue being closed for COVID-19)**

### **Welcome (Mike Browning)**

### **Roll Call / Introductions (Mike Browning)**

- Mike Browning, Currie Craven, Jim Alexander, Tim Drescher, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Ken Harper, Cindy Ebbert, Frank Guttman, Chris Turner, Mike Mayrer, Frances Hartogh, Dave Brewster

### **Review/Approve Agenda (Mike Browning)**

- One "New Business" item was added to the end of the agenda
- Approved

### **Review/Approve Minutes (Mike Browning)**

- Approved

### **Review/Approve Treasurer's Report (Chris Turner)**

- Chris reported on the budget (see report sent 3-12)

## **REPORTS & UPDATES**

### **Chair's report (Mike Browning)**

- Mike reported on several meetings he had attended:
  - USFS Wilderness Managers Meeting
  - Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado Meeting
  - Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance Meeting
  - Gore Range Group of CMC Meeting
  - Summit Daily Editor Nicole Miller cancelled due to COVID-19; but her ad person sent ad costs; Mike Browning is meeting with Vail Daily 3-13

### **USFS reports (Cindy Ebbert)**

- Cindy reports they have hired their two interns to work with Abby and her colleague, so there will be a 4-person team, whose responsibilities will include campsite inventories, education plan for ENW, the crosscut saw program, etc. Cindy is working on agreements and grants, lots of paperwork, and had a FS recreation staff meeting for WRNF. She says that Rich Stokes is retiring, and taking with him 30 years of recreation planning. Kaye Hopkins will also be retiring, so lots of expertise will be lost on recreation issues.

### **VWR Program - Training (Joan Betz, Ken Harper, Mike Mayrer)**

- Joan reported that they had a good meeting with Cindy Ebbert, Katherine Bazan, and Doozie about streamlining the training manual. The goal is to make the manual more

like FDRD's, with a focus on what new VWRs need. Other info would go on the ESWA website. Doozie will make the initial effort. The new manual will include role-playing scenarios in training. New VWRs will sign up for subsequent mentor hikes at the training session.

- Mike Browning reported that ads for the training day will be put in both Summit and Vail papers.
- Recertification of VWRs: Ken Harper will coordinate. Ken will send the list of current VWRs on the Eagle side to Mike Browning. Frank asked about 1st aid training for VWRs. There was a discussion of the discounted (\$35) advanced wilderness first aid course currently available; Mike Mayrer will follow up with Doozie.
- Mike Mayer stated that he likes the scenario training program. Mike Mayrer noted that we have received 7 applications so far. Bill Betz offered to update his list of VWRs with input from Mike Mayrer and Ken Harper.

#### **Llama and Trail Work Programs (Tim Drescher, Dave Brewster, Ken Harper)**

- Four trips are on calendar. Existing VWRs will have priority to sign up first.

#### **Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Opportunity**

- Mike Browning mentioned that we might use Corp workers for the Mesa Cortina project or Gore Lake trail. He will set up a conference call with Cindy Ebbert, Jim Alexander, Dave Brewster, Tim Drescher, and Bill Betz to discuss how best to use the 2 days available to us.
- Cindy noted that this is not a typical crew, but more of a community development group, targeting local high school students for one-day projects. It's a younger group whose capabilities vary from year to year, so best to plan not too far of a hike in.

#### **Noxious Weed Program (Jim Alexander)**

- Jim reported that he had had a useful meeting with Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, and Dave Owens regarding WeedSpotter training
- Jim will continue the WeedSpotter program from last year, with training a larger group and providing more thorough training
- Concentrated weed pull/training on July 11 at Hunter's Knob in Summit County
- Discussion was held about a possible Betty Ford Garden visit in July as ESWA outreach with some discussion of noxious weeds
- Mike Browning mentioned the need to calendar weed events

#### **Other Grants (Jim Alexander, Dave Brewster)**

- Jim Alexander reported on the NSWA grant application for trail maintenance. The grant would be for \$4-5,000, and would be used to purchase saws and a ladder, as requested by the Forest Service. Jim is about to submit the grant application.
- Dave Brewster reported that the \$5-6,000 grant for a trail designer will have to wait until next year, because more advance planning was needed than had been thought. He suggested that the Board consider funding this design work from ESWA's own money if

Jim is able to get grant money to cover some of the other projected budgeted expenses. Mike B. also noted that we do already have a \$5,000 line item in the budget for "Surprise Lake/Mesa Cortina" so that if money is not needed for the Mesa Cortina project it could be directed to the Surprise Lake trail design instead. Dave noted that if the Surprise Lake design is not funded this year, it will have an unwelcome ripple delay on other USFS trail improvement projects. Mike B. will include this matter for further discussion on the agenda for our April planning meeting.

- Cindy mentioned that she has sent an email to Kaye Hopkins enquiring about another possible source of money for trail design - if she can get the money, she would put it into an ESWA agreement and ESWA would pay the trail design contractor. Cindy said that the Surprise Lake trail needs to be reconstructed, but would need NEPA planning due to scope of reconstruction. Cindy's knee might not allow her to get out there, so having a trail designer could help. Cindy said that the Forest Service might be able to pay for the NEPA planning portion, which is required because of the proposed total trail realignment. Cindy noted that this is a 4-year project - no trail construction until 2022. Booth Trail also an issue. Cindy said that the Black Lake drainage needs to be protected, and so the realignment of the Surprise Lake trail would not go there.

#### **Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media (Bill Betz)**

- Bill reported on his recent contacts with the Eagle Valley Land Trust, Dale Pfaff, and Lee Leusberger, CMC, and reported on the upcoming article in the works.

#### **Membership Committee Report and Vote (Mike Browning)**

- Mike Browning discussed the Membership Committee's recent report on reestablishing ESWA as membership-based organization, with memberships to start on calendar-year basis, and CO Gives Day donations qualifying for membership.
- Bill Betz commented that the report is terrific. Currie agreed with the idea of membership.
- Mike Browning will proceed with implementing the membership program.

#### **Swag Committee Report and Vote (Mike Browning)**

- The Swag Committee report summarized the possible swag purchases, which were organized into two packages, one at budget, one a bit higher. Vests would be ordered and sold at cost, on a per-order basis.
- Chris Turner stated that ESWA would have to pay 50% upon ordering.
- Joan Betz raised the issue of paying taxes on swag sales. If we sell at booths, sales tax is due quarterly based on where we are selling.
- Dave Brewster said he likes the t-shirts; and wants to buy a bunch of stickers so VWR can pass out on trails.
- Tim Drescher said that the bigger sticker is worth the slightly higher price, and that we should buy 1,000; also likes the black lip balm; prefers mesh-back hats but get some cloth, too; likes the t-shirt but with the circular logo.

- Frances Hartogh suggested that the t-shirt back state “Keep Wilderness Wild.” Cindy Ebbert said that it is ok to use that phrase.
- It was agreed that we would delay ordering the beanie caps to the fall, when we would hopefully have some proceeds from swag sales.
- Mike Browning will discuss these issues with Chris and Dave O and provide a final proposal the Board. Absent strenuously objection, we will go with that.

#### **Summit County Meeting Venue (Mike Browning)**

- Dave Owens had reported on several possible venues. The Frisco Senior Center, at \$10/hour, was the least expensive but we would have to pay extra for A/V.
- On 3-12, Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, and Dave Owens toured the Frisco Senior Center and the CMC-Dillon facility. Mike reported that the CMC room is really small and way up the hill. The senior center room is adequate and conveniently located.
- Chris Turner and Bill Betz will look at purchasing our own AV.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Save Our Snow Event at A-Basin - March 28 (SINCE CANCELLED/POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19)**

- Agreed that ESWA needs to participate, since A Basin is one of ESWA’s biggest supporters.
- Event would be 9-3 outdoors. Dave O can staff noon-3. Need someone from 9-12, arrive 8:30. Dave Owens has the ESWA banner. Mike Browning has the table and canopy, but would need weights for canopy, in Bill’s garage.

#### **Sawyer Program and Certification Training (Mike Mayrer and Frank Guttman)**

- Frank Guttman will write the article for the April ESWA newsletter.
- Mike Mayrer suggested getting people to help out who might later seek certification, or who don’t want to bother with certification but would be willing to help a certified sawyer.
- Cindy Ebbert said she wants to expand the sawyer program, with Abby’s guidance on dates that wilderness crew needs help, even if not quite certified, and ESWA-certified folks could train. Cindy would like to meet with the sawyer group in May to set up procedures and would really like to have Ann do training in Summit or Eagle County, and to do a FDRD-ESWA collective training program. Cindy would like ultimately to have one of ESWA’s members become a certifier.
- Mike Browning recommends that we should take Ann up on her offer, and if we don’t have enough people, we could include FDRD.
- Cindy said that if we need to add a second instructor (more than 8), Cindy can offer someone for 3rd week of June.
- Have a signup clipboard at the VWR training, both for people who want certification and people who are just willing to help.

### **Beaver Believers Social Event (Bill Betz and Mike Browning)**

- Bill and Mike went to a great one-hour documentary about the role of beavers in ecosystem.
- One possibility would be to show the film as part of an ESWA fundraising event. Mike Browning reached out about co-hosting an event with Walking Mountain, but they have not yet responded.

### **Partners in the Outdoors Event in Vail April 27-29, 2020 (Mike Browning)**

- This looks like a great conference that Colorado Parks & Wildlife puts on each year. Would be good for someone from ESWA to attend, if the event is not cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **Eagle County Beer Can Release Event (Mike Browning)**

- Mike Browning requested a volunteer to organize a can release with ESWA's logo.

### **Tax return and fed gov registration (Ken Harper)**

- Ken Harper said that SAM - system for award management - requires annual registration. Ken will file annual tax return.

### **Currie Craven leaving**

- Currie announced that he will be moving to southern Colorado in June. He is very happy that ESWA is in such good condition and hands.

**Next Board Meeting Thursday April 9, 2020 at 5:30.** Location TBD.

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES FROM ESWA LEADERSHIP MEETING**  
**April 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm**  
**Held Via Zoom due to COVID-19**

**Welcome:** (Mike Browning)

**Roll Call / Introductions:** (Mike Browning): Present: Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, Joan Betz, Currie Craven, Bill Betz, Dave Brewster, Frank Gutmann, Tim Drescher, Jim Alexander, Ken Harper, Cindy Ebbert.

**Agenda:** Approved without changes.

**Review/Approve Minutes of 3/12/20 meeting:** Corrections were made to indicate that Dave Brewster was at the 3/12/20 weed meeting (not Dave Owens) and that Dave Owens also was at the training manual meeting. The Minutes as revised were approved.

**Review/Approve Treasurer's Report:** Chris Turner had submitted the 3/31/20 Financial Statement by email but was not present. Mike B. suggested that anyone with questions contact Chris directly. Dave Owens thanked the Board for reimbursement of the cost of the dinner he had with our guest speaker for the 3/12/20 who had travelled to Copper from Denver but could then not attend due to COVID-19.

## **REPORTS & UPDATES**

### **Chair's Report:**

Chair Mike Browning discussed COVID-19 impacts to ESWA. Discussion followed on what impact COVID-19 will/could have on our plans, including VWR training. Mike Browning reported that he attended a telephone conference call with other outdoor nonprofits hosted by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. Other groups are suffering more than ESWA because they have paid staff and projected-completion-related funding.

**USFS reports:** Ranger Cindy Ebbert stated that seasonal USFS employees and their start times will be affected by COVID-19, along with bunkhouse accommodations and vehicles. Start dates for some have been pushed back to May 26-27. The USFS may use Keystone housing with Vail Resorts for seasonal employees. Cindy received funding for two interns from Mobilize Green, plus two regulars. The big question is when the stay-at-home order will be lifted. If not lifted in April, summer plans will need to be modified re crews, RMYC, and volunteers. If all else fails, Cindy will use only regular USFS employees and revise projects accordingly. Cindy said Katherine Bazan sends greetings, and that they had received funding for one llama from the RMYC, so ESWA will only need to fund one llama this year. Cindy said all developed sites are closed - campgrounds, picnic areas, etc. The Vail Pass Recreation Area is open, but there is no access from Vail Pass, only from Redcliff and Camp Hale. She said it would be hard to close additional trailheads due to lack of enforcement personnel. Cindy said that although parking is very congested, people are more spread out on trails than parking would indicate. USFS is doing a lot of risk assessments. Fire restrictions are in place and will probably last through summer.

**VWR Training:** Mike Browning reported that we have a new set of cards for Wilderness regs and for dogs, with different cards for Eagles Nest/Ptarmigan and for Holy Cross. Thanks were given to Frances Hartogh, Joan Betz, and Dave Owens for all their work on this. Mike B. reported that ESWA had run ads for the VWR training in the Summit and Vail Daily and received a few more applicants. Mike B. is working on the scenario training. Joan reported that we have received good volunteerism from existing VWRs to help with the training. Joan is working to make the new training manual more ESWA specific. Cindy Ebbert promised to send comments on the manual soon. Currie volunteered to write a one-page account of ESWA for the manual. Joan will try to get the number of new VWR shirts needed for new rangers to Cindy by May 1 and needs names with sizes. Mike B. will provide these to Joan. Joan asked about Ken and Mike Mayrer's materials for the training. Ken said he orders in early May.

**VWR Recertification Process:** Ken said that we should start planning the returning VWR training to be virtual, perhaps by Zoom, so we can get rangers out on early hikes. Cindy liked this idea but cautioned that she can't have volunteers in official capacity out on trails during the stay-at-home order, though VWRs are free to go out on trails (without uniforms) and report about conditions.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

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**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next Planning Meeting will be Thursday May 14, 2020 at 5:30. Site or means TBD.

## **MINUTES - ESWA PLANNING MEETING**

**March 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm**

**(held by conference call due to venue being closed for COVID-19)**

### **Welcome (Mike Browning)**

### **Roll Call / Introductions (Mike Browning)**

- Mike Browning, Currie Craven, Jim Alexander, Tim Drescher, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Ken Harper, Cindy Ebbert, Frank Guttman, Chris Turner, Mike Mayrer, Frances Hartogh, Dave Brewster

### **Review/Approve Agenda (Mike Browning)**

- One "New Business" item was added to the end of the agenda
- Approved

### **Review/Approve Minutes (Mike Browning)**

- Approved

### **Review/Approve Treasurer's Report (Chris Turner)**

- Chris reported on the budget (see report sent 3-12)

## **REPORTS & UPDATES**

### **Chair's report (Mike Browning)**

- Mike reported on several meetings he had attended:
  - USFS Wilderness Managers Meeting
  - Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado Meeting
  - Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance Meeting
  - Gore Range Group of CMC Meeting
  - Summit Daily Editor Nicole Miller cancelled due to COVID-19; but her ad person sent ad costs; Mike Browning is meeting with Vail Daily 3-13

### **USFS reports (Cindy Ebbert)**

- Cindy reports they have hired their two interns to work with Abby and her colleague, so there will be a 4-person team, whose responsibilities will include campsite inventories, education plan for ENW, the crosscut saw program, etc. Cindy is working on agreements and grants, lots of paperwork, and had a FS recreation staff meeting for WRNF. She says that Rich Stokes is retiring, and taking with him 30 years of recreation planning. Kaye Hopkins will also be retiring, so lots of expertise will be lost on recreation issues.

### **VWR Program - Training (Joan Betz, Ken Harper, Mike Mayrer)**

- Joan reported that they had a good meeting with Cindy Ebbert, Katherine Bazan, Dave Owens, and Doozie about streamlining the training manual. The goal is to make the

manual more like FDRD's, with a focus on what new VWRs need. Other info would go on the ESWA website. Doozie will make the initial effort. The new manual will include role-playing scenarios in training. New VWRs will sign up for subsequent mentor hikes at the training session.

- Mike Browning reported that ads for the training day will be put in both Summit and Vail papers.
- Recertification of VWRs: Ken Harper will coordinate. Ken will send the list of current VWRs on the Eagle side to Mike Browning. Frank asked about 1st aid training for VWRs. There was a discussion of the discounted (\$35) advanced wilderness first aid course currently available; Mike Mayrer will follow up with Doozie.
- Mike Mayer stated that he likes the scenario training program. Mike Mayrer noted that we have received 7 applications so far. Bill Betz offered to update his list of VWRs with input from Mike Mayrer and Ken Harper.

#### **Llama and Trail Work Programs (Tim Drescher, Dave Brewster, Ken Harper)**

- Four trips are on calendar. Existing VWRs will have priority to sign up first.

#### **Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Opportunity**

- Mike Browning mentioned that we might use Corp workers for the Mesa Cortina project or Gore Lake trail. He will set up a conference call with Cindy Ebbert, Jim Alexander, Dave Brewster, Tim Drescher, and Bill Betz to discuss how best to use the 2 days available to us.
- Cindy noted that this is not a typical crew, but more of a community development group, targeting local high school students for one-day projects. It's a younger group whose capabilities vary from year to year, so best to plan not too far of a hike in.

#### **Noxious Weed Program (Jim Alexander)**

- Jim reported that he had had a useful meeting with Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, and Dave Brewster regarding WeedSpotter training
- Jim will continue the WeedSpotter program from last year, with training a larger group and providing more thorough training
- Concentrated weed pull/training on July 11 at Hunter's Knob in Summit County
- Discussion was held about a possible Betty Ford Garden visit in July as ESWA outreach with some discussion of noxious weeds
- Mike Browning mentioned the need to calendar weed events

#### **Other Grants (Jim Alexander, Dave Brewster)**

- Jim Alexander reported on the NSWA grant application for trail maintenance. The grant would be for \$4-5,000, and would be used to purchase saws and a ladder, as requested by the Forest Service. Jim is about to submit the grant application.
- Dave Brewster reported that the \$5-6,000 grant for a trail designer will have to wait until next year, because more advance planning was needed than had been thought. He suggested that the Board consider funding this design work from ESWA's own money if

Jim is able to get grant money to cover some of the other projected budgeted expenses. Mike B. also noted that we do already have a \$5,000 line item in the budget for "Surprise Lake/Mesa Cortina" so that if money is not needed for the Mesa Cortina project it could be directed to the Surprise Lake trail design instead. Dave noted that if the Surprise Lake design is not funded this year, it will have an unwelcome ripple delay on other USFS trail improvement projects. Mike B. will include this matter for further discussion on the agenda for our April planning meeting.

- Cindy mentioned that she has sent an email to Kaye Hopkins enquiring about another possible source of money for trail design - if she can get the money, she would put it into an ESWA agreement and ESWA would pay the trail design contractor. Cindy said that the Surprise Lake trail needs to be reconstructed, but would need NEPA planning due to scope of reconstruction. Cindy's knee might not allow her to get out there, so having a trail designer could help. Cindy said that the Forest Service might be able to pay for the NEPA planning portion, which is required because of the proposed total trail realignment. Cindy noted that this is a 4-year project - no trail construction until 2022. Booth Trail also an issue. Cindy said that the Black Lake drainage needs to be protected, and so the realignment of the Surprise Lake trail would not go there.

#### **Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media (Bill Betz)**

- Bill reported on his recent contacts with the Eagle Valley Land Trust, Dale Pfaff, and Lee Leusberger, CMC, and reported on the upcoming article in the works.

#### **Membership Committee Report and Vote (Mike Browning)**

- Mike Browning discussed the Membership Committee's recent report on reestablishing ESWA as membership-based organization, with memberships to start on calendar-year basis, and CO Gives Day donations qualifying for membership.
- Bill Betz commented that the report is terrific. Currie agreed with the idea of membership.
- Mike Browning will proceed with implementing the membership program.

#### **Swag Committee Report and Vote (Mike Browning)**

- The Swag Committee report summarized the possible swag purchases, which were organized into two packages, one at budget, one a bit higher. Vests would be ordered and sold at cost, on a per-order basis.
- Chris Turner stated that ESWA would have to pay 50% upon ordering.
- Joan Betz raised the issue of paying taxes on swag sales. If we sell at booths, sales tax is due quarterly based on where we are selling.
- Dave Brewster said he likes the t-shirts; and wants to buy a bunch of stickers so VWR can pass out on trails.
- Tim Drescher said that the bigger sticker is worth the slightly higher price, and that we should buy 1,000; also likes the black lip balm; prefers mesh-back hats but get some cloth, too; likes the t-shirt but with the circular logo.

- Frances Hartogh suggested that the t-shirt back state “Keep Wilderness Wild.” Cindy Ebbert said that it is ok to use that phrase.
- It was agreed that we would delay ordering the beanie caps to the fall, when we would hopefully have some proceeds from swag sales.
- Mike Browning will discuss these issues with Chris and Dave O and provide a final proposal the Board. Absent strenuously objection, we will go with that.

#### **Summit County Meeting Venue (Mike Browning)**

- Dave Owens had reported on several possible venues. The Frisco Senior Center, at \$10/hour, was the least expensive but we would have to pay extra for A/V.
- On 3-12, Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, and Dave Owens toured the Frisco Senior Center and the CMC-Dillon facility. Mike reported that the CMC room is really small and way up the hill. The senior center room is adequate and conveniently located.
- Chris Turner and Bill Betz will look at purchasing our own AV.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Save Our Snow Event at A-Basin - March 28 (SINCE CANCELLED/POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19)**

- Agreed that ESWA needs to participate, since A Basin is one of ESWA’s biggest supporters.
- Event would be 9-3 outdoors. Dave O can staff noon-3. Need someone from 9-12, arrive 8:30. Dave Owens has the ESWA banner. Mike Browning has the table and canopy, but would need weights for canopy, in Bill’s garage.

#### **Sawyer Program and Certification Training (Mike Mayrer and Frank Guttman)**

- Frank Guttman will write the article for the April ESWA newsletter.
- Mike Mayrer suggested getting people to help out who might later seek certification, or who don’t want to bother with certification but would be willing to help a certified sawyer.
- Cindy Ebbert said she wants to expand the sawyer program, with Abby’s guidance on dates that wilderness crew needs help, even if not quite certified, and ESWA-certified folks could train. Cindy would like to meet with the sawyer group in May to set up procedures and would really like to have Ann do training in Summit or Eagle County, and to do a FDRD-ESWA collective training program. Cindy would like ultimately to have one of ESWA’s members become a certifier.
- Mike Browning recommends that we should take Ann up on her offer, and if we don’t have enough people, we could include FDRD.
- Cindy said that if we need to add a second instructor (more than 8), Cindy can offer someone for 3rd week of June.
- Have a signup clipboard at the VWR training, both for people who want certification and people who are just willing to help.

### **Beaver Believers Social Event (Bill Betz and Mike Browning)**

- Bill and Mike went to a great one-hour documentary about the role of beavers in ecosystem.
- One possibility would be to show the film as part of an ESWA fundraising event. Mike Browning reached out about co-hosting an event with Walking Mountain, but they have not yet responded.

### **Partners in the Outdoors Event in Vail April 27-29, 2020 (Mike Browning)**

- This looks like a great conference that Colorado Parks & Wildlife puts on each year. Would be good for someone from ESWA to attend, if the event is not cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **Eagle County Beer Can Release Event (Mike Browning)**

- Mike Browning requested a volunteer to organize a can release with ESWA's logo.

### **Tax return and fed gov registration (Ken Harper)**

- Ken Harper said that SAM - system for award management - requires annual registration. Ken will file annual tax return.

### **Currie Craven leaving**

- Currie announced that he will be moving to southern Colorado in June. He is very happy that ESWA is in such good condition and hands.

**Next Board Meeting Thursday April 9, 2020 at 5:30.** Location TBD.

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES FROM ESWA LEADERSHIP MEETING**  
**April 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm**  
**Held Via Zoom due to COVID-19**

**Welcome:** (Mike Browning)

**Roll Call / Introductions:** (Mike Browning): Present: Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, Joan Betz, Currie Craven, Bill Betz, Dave Brewster, Frank Gutmann, Tim Drescher, Jim Alexander, Ken Harper, Cindy Ebbert.

**Agenda:** Approved without changes.

**Review/Approve Minutes of 3/12/20 meeting:** Corrections were made to indicate that Dave Brewster was at the 3/12/20 weed meeting (not Dave Owens) and that Dave Owens also was at the training manual meeting. The Minutes as revised were approved.

**Review/Approve Treasurer's Report:** Chris Turner had submitted the 3/31/20 Financial Statement by email but was not present. Mike B. suggested that anyone with questions contact Chris directly. Dave Owens thanked the Board for reimbursement of the cost of the dinner he had with our guest speaker for the 3/12/20 who had travelled to Copper from Denver but could then not attend due to COVID-19.

## **REPORTS & UPDATES**

### **Chair's Report:**

Chair Mike Browning discussed COVID-19 impacts to ESWA. Discussion followed on what impact COVID-19 will/could have on our plans, including VWR training. Mike Browning reported that he attended a telephone conference call with other outdoor nonprofits hosted by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. Other groups are suffering more than ESWA because they have paid staff and projected-completion-related funding.

**USFS reports:** Ranger Cindy Ebbert stated that seasonal USFS employees and their start times will be affected by COVID-19, along with bunkhouse accommodations and vehicles. Start dates for some have been pushed back to May 26-27. The USFS may use Keystone housing with Vail Resorts for seasonal employees. Cindy received funding for two interns from Mobilize Green, plus two regulars. The big question is when the stay-at-home order will be lifted. If not lifted in April, summer plans will need to be modified re crews, RMYC, and volunteers. If all else fails, Cindy will use only regular USFS employees and revise projects accordingly. Cindy said Katherine Bazan sends greetings, and that they had received funding for one llama from the RMYC, so ESWA will only need to fund one llama this year. Cindy said all developed sites are closed - campgrounds, picnic areas, etc. The Vail Pass Recreation Area is open, but there is no access from Vail Pass, only from Redcliff and Camp Hale. She said it would be hard to close additional trailheads due to lack of enforcement personnel. Cindy said that although parking is very congested, people are more spread out on trails than parking would indicate. USFS is doing a lot of risk assessments. Fire restrictions are in place and will probably last through summer.

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**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next Planning Meeting will be Thursday May 14, 2020 at 5:30. Site or means TBD.

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**May 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/4732124622>**

Chair Mike Browning opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Roll Call / Introductions: Present via Zoom were Tim Drescher, Frank Gutmann, Mike Browning, Mike Mayrer, Frances Hartogh, Ken Harper, Jim Alexander, Dave Owens, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Ellie Finlay, Tyler Kirkpatrick (USFS), Katherine Bazan (USFS), and Cindy Ebert (USFS).

Meeting Agenda was reviewed and approved without revisions.

4/9/20 Minutes were approved.

**REPORTS:**

1. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Turner's report was reviewed and approved after discussion of how expenses for swag appeared.
2. Chair's report: Mike B. briefly reviewed the changes announced today by the USFS for ESWA summer programs due to COVID-19, and turned the floor over to USFS Rangers Katherine Bazan and Cindy Ebbert.
3. USFS reports (Cindy Ebbert, Katherine Bazan): Cindy said that all local volunteer groups have reevaluated summer plans in light of COVID-19, and most boards have decided on their own to cancel summer programs, including all overnight programs (Youth Corps is different, because they have decided to operate as a family unit). ESWA's desire to proceed with summer programs puts the FS in a challenging position. The District Rangers say that the focus must be on the safety of FS staff and volunteers and avoidance of raising the risk of COVID-19 spread. The District Rangers' orders are to move forward slowly, continue to evaluate risk vs. reward, and minimize activities that could promote spread. Cindy apologized for the late update, saying the FS has been extremely busy adjusting their plans in light of the pandemic.

Regarding ESWA's upcoming programs, Cindy and Katherine reported as follows:

Volunteer Ranger Program:

- a. Returning VWRs can begin patrolling on June 1 after VWRs have (1) had refresher training; (2) e-signed the JHA agreement; and (3) e-signed the COVID-19 protocols. FS is delaying all patrols until June 1 to avoid the busy Memorial Day weekend. ESWA will develop COVID-19 protocols with guidance from FDRD's and VVMTA's protocols.
- b. ESWA must cancel New Volunteer Ranger Training for the summer. Hopefully, we will resume in 2021.

Volunteer Sawyer Program:

- a. Current certified sawyers can go out with 1-person saws but may not use 2-person crosscut saws this summer.
- b. Virtual training for new sawyers is scheduled but FS won't be able to provide field certification this summer.

#### Overnight Llama Trips:

- a. These trips must be canceled for the summer.
- b. When evaluating risk vs. reward it was determined to not move forward with these projects. This is consistent with other non-profit volunteer groups in the state who have canceled overnight projects.

#### Weeds Program:

- a. ESWA may continue with existing VWRs and ESWA members to work solo on the weeds program. Steve Elzinga does not want to bring anyone new into the weeds program.
- b. We must cancel the educational/weed pull days.

Several members, including Chair Mike Browning, expressed regret over these developments, but also general understanding of their necessity. Tim Drescher asked about the Adopt-A-Trail program. Katherine said that we will hear more after June 1. Mike B asked if we could go ahead with the Trailhead Hosting, if proper distancing and other precautions are taken. Cindy recommended against it, and Mike M agreed. Katherine says it's not recommended that people in high-risk categories participate in outdoor programs. Tim said that Eagle County is recommending that people over 60 stay home. There was discussion about how Trailhead Hosting could go on with safety precautions – e.g., hosts stay masked, tables used to promote distancing, etc.

4. VWR Training Day Update: There was discussion about how to keep our new recruits interested and motivated, since in-person training must be postponed until 2021. Ideas included: (a) Sending new recruits a packet with swag (lip balm & stickers), Wilderness regulations cards, a thistle book, and either a hard-copy or e-copy of the training manual; (b) proceeding with the online sawyer training; (c) having a virtual happy hour/training session to get to know the recruits and give them some training tips; and (d) continuing with the mentored hikes. Frank suggested that we leave the mentoring up to the individual VWRs, and that our COVID-19 protocols should be followed for mentored hikes.

5. VWR Recertification Process Update: Cindy suggested sending returning VWRs the recertification info and documents to be signed, and then holding only one Q&A session that Cindy and Katherine could join in on. Cindy and Katherine are ok with e-signatures. They also want returning VWRs to sign a COVID-19 pledge. Cindy and Katherine said she would send the ones from FDRD and VVMTA. Ken and Mike M. agreed this approach will work. Jim suggested

and Cindy agreed that VWRs can sign both agreements and send a photo of the signed agreements.

6. Sawyer Certification Program: Cindy and Katherine said that VWRs who are currently certified can go out with Silkies, etc., but not with FS crews – FS crews need to avoid exposure to volunteers because if one gets sick, the whole crew has to be quarantined for 14 days. VWRs may only use single-person saws this season. Ken suggested trying Katana saws, and purchasing a few if VWRs like them. Katherine said we can try one of the FS's Katana saws first. Mike B asked whether we should still do the virtual training. Joan said we should. Frances agreed, and thought the trainer could do a refresher next year for those who've done the virtual training this year.

7. Mesa Cortina Boardwalk Update: Tyler said the RYC has a 22-page document of protocols for doing any outdoor work. He noted that much can change in the next three months. However, it appears that it may not be possible to do any field work on the boardwalk this summer, although supplies can probably still be ordered.

8. Surprise Lake Design Funding: Cindy said the project is TBD, and she hasn't received funding yet.

9. Noxious Weed Program (Jim Alexander); Mike B said Jim gave a great presentation at the Weedinar, with 44 people attending. Jim said he may do a more-detailed PowerPoint. Katherine said this would be a good idea. Jim asked about the possibility of continuing with the Hunters Knob weed pull in July. Cindy deferred to FS's Steve Elzinga. Cindy says she has some one-day trail projects in July that have not been canceled, but FS will follow protocols. Katherine noted that Steve Elzinga says there should be no group weed pull: One or two people is ok, if limited to existing VWRs. Jim asked about whether the mules & spraying will go ahead. Cindy and Katherine said that, yes, the contracts have gone out.

10. Llama and Trail Work Programs: Katherine says these overnight trips must be canceled because it is too hard to maintain social distancing, ESWA needs to align with other organizations that have already canceled overnight trips, and all equipment has to be regularly disinfected. Hence, adding volunteers to the trip gets too complicated.

11. Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media: Bill reported that the hard-copy newsletter had gone out. Mike B. thanked Bill and his family for working on the mailing. Bill thanked the proofreaders.

12. Swag Committee Update: Joan asked if the Wilderness cards were printed. Dave O. confirmed. Stickers and lip balm have arrived. We are still waiting for the hats and shirts.

13. Summit County Meeting Venue: It was agreed that the need for a physical meeting venue has been made moot for the time being by the pandemic. It was further agreed that the ability to consume alcohol is not a deal breaker for selecting a future venue.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Election of Secretary – Frances Hartogh was elected as ESWA Secretary.

Currie Craven Event: Bill noted that this event has been canceled due to the pandemic.

Annual Meeting/Social Event: Tentatively scheduled for Sept 11, 2020.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday June 11, 2020 at 5:30 via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**MINUTES FOR ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**June 11, 2020 at 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

1. Welcome – Chair Mike Browning welcomed attendees.
2. Roll Call / Introductions: Present - Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Cindy Ebbert, Ellie Finlay, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Frances Hartogh, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens, Chris Turner
3. Review/Approve Agenda: approved with no changes.
4. Review/Approve Minutes: approved with no changes.
5. Treasurer's Report: Mike B says he needs to clarify some questions with Chris – will follow up.

**REPORTS & UPDATES**

6. Chair's report: Mike Browning
  - Changes to Summer Programs: By request of the Forest Service, (1) new Volunteer Wilderness Ranger (VWR) training is on hold, but mentored hikes between existing VWRs and trainees are being arranged by Mike B; (2) llama-supported maintenance trips have been canceled; and (3) the field portion of the sawyer certification program is on hold.
  - Vail Bike and Hike magazine ad: We received a number of new donations and memberships, but it is hard to tell why, because folks tend not to fill out the “how’d you hear about us” section of the membership application.
  - New members & donations: Thomas Copper tried to send a \$1,000 check, which did not come through; Chris is expecting a replacement check. Bill reported on members who want to donate stock – Tom and Sally Kaesemeyer. ESWA needs to figure out how to manage receipt of stock donations (do we sell the stock and convert to cash?). Bill, Chris and Mike B will get more details and figure out how to accept the transfer.
  - Received an invitation to join the National Forest Foundation webinar on field activities during COVID-19; Mike B is signed up to attend. Anyone can sign up.
  - New District Ranger for Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District – Leanne Veldhuis: Cindy says Leanne will start in July. Cindy will send Mike B Leanne’s contact info. Cindy recommends that some ESWA folks take Leanne out for a hike. [Note: The Vail Daily reports that Leanne has lots of “experience working on high visitation, complex forests” and has a BS in materials science from MIT and a Master’s in environmental science from UCSB].
7. USFS Reports: Cindy Ebbert - Teams are formed and have adjusted to COVID-19 planning. Cindy apologizes for being buried and not responding to emails. Abby will reach out to Dave B re Summit trails that need sawyering – lots of clearing needed due to high winds. Continual maintenance, and ESWA’s help, are needed. Bill Jackson will become Deputy Director of Renewable Resources – Sam Maffmen will be acting. Tyler Kirkpatrick had a phone conference with Bill and Mike B about the Mesa Cortina boardwalk project. Dillon RD is not

open yet – up to 10 employees at a time can be there. Bill asked about mountain bikes on NF trails that lead into Wilderness. Cindy says most such trails are not open to mountain bikes but the Ptarmigan Trail is since bikers use the initial section of the trail as the first part of a looped trail that never enters the Wilderness. Cindy agreed to post a sign on the trail by Bill's house that mountain bikes are not allowed on that trail.

8. Adopt-A-Trail Signage and Work: Mike B reported that VWRs had cleared Deluge Lake trail (adopted by ESWA) up to snowline. Ken reported that we can do whatever trail maintenance we need to do on the Deluge Lake trail – clearing trees, waterbars - and he will set up three work days, with the work already done by VWRs probably counting as one day. Ken noted that 62 trails in Eagle County have been adopted by various organizations. Mike B noted that it's great publicity, and that our sign at Deluge Creek has now been updated to ESWA, thanks to Tim. Dave O said the USFS needs to put up a new Wilderness sign on the Willow Lakes Trail and Cindy said she would look into it.

9. VWR Recertification Process Update: Mike B, working with Ken and Mike M, have 52 people who've sent in the paperwork. Nine people said they are not going to ranger this year, and 16 have not responded. Mike M will call the ones on the Summit side who've not yet responded, and Mike M will call those on the Eagle side. Cindy sent Mike the Volunteer Agreement form needed for ESWA which he will print and send back to Cindy. Bill Betz explained that the VWR patrol report page has been updated to 2020 & FENW replaced with ESWA.

10. VWR Mentor Hikes: Mike B reported that he has a list of existing VWRs who have offered to do a patrol with new recruits and he will match them up next week

11. Sawyer Program: Mike B reported on the sawyer training virtual class held with instructor Anne Dal Vera. There were 17 registrants, including 9 from ESWA, four from the USFS, and the rest with FDRD (including Doozie). Mike B asked Cindy about opportunities for completing the field training portion of the sawyering training. Cindy said that's still "up in the air." Cindy confirmed that the Dead Dog & East Lake Creek trails will be ESWA's for sawyering this season.

Ken reported that he purchased two Silky Katana saws for ESWA from Big Supply Shop.com. These have been useful so far, and are available for VWR use from Ken on the Vail side and Dave B on the Summit side. Mike B mentioned that we had not received the NFF grant for llamas and saws – but that Jim says the NFF now say that they have another \$100k available, so we may wish to rewrite the grant for tools.

12. Mesa Cortina Boardwalk Update: Bill Betz reported that he had talked with FS trail specialist Tyler Kirkpatrick, and that 90 feet of materials had been ordered, with two weeks of a RMYC crew scheduled in August to carry in the material and start construction. Tyler wants to rent a mini-excavator for about \$2,000. Since materials cost will be \$7,000, and we have a Summit Foundation grant for \$10,000, Bill will ask if we can add the mini-excavator cost to that grant. The cost of the RMYC labor will be paid from the Schuette Family funds this year, with an additional two weeks to be paid next year by a NFF grant to the USFS. We will evaluate closer to the date if there is a need/opportunity for ESWA volunteers to assist.



13. Noxious Weed Program: Dave B talked about noxious weed training by Steve Elzinga. The weed pull has been postponed but might be scheduled for later with social distancing. Elzinga will send the contract soon for weed treatment. There will be a visit to the Betty Ford Gardens in August that we may want to advertise via an eagle.

15. Trailhead Flyers: Mike B noted that we need to have our new ESWA flyers laminated and posted. Tim posted one at the Gore/Deluge Trailhead. Mike B, Frances, and Tim will divide posting on the Eagle side. Dave O, Bill, and Joan will coordinate placement on the Summit side.

16. Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media: Bill Betz reported that the Leave No Trace youth program will be the subject of the July essay, and that Katherine Bazan will provide the essay for August. The HCN finally went out after some issues with the Post Office, and Bill thanked the proofreaders. Mike B thanked Bill for all of his work on the HCN.

17. Swag Update: Chris Turner reported that we have received the t-shirts, and are waiting for ball caps, which should be delivered soon. Joan asked about handing out our trifold pamphlets, but FS says we can't hand out anything this season due to COVID-19. Joan asked about the cost of t-shirts for leadership committee members. Chris suggested that everyone in the leadership group should get a t-shirt and hat, and extras would be at cost. It was so agreed. Mike B asked for suggestions on how to distribute swag, both to committee members and others who wish to purchase. It was suggested that our July meeting could be in person, and swag could be distributed there to committee members. Mike B requested a volunteer to handle disbursement of swag. Bill suggested Marilyn Hamilton, and will ask her.

18. Annual Meeting/Social Event: Mike B mentioned that the Annual Meeting is required by ESWA's bylaws, but that COVID-19 restrictions present a challenge. The point of having a social event is intermingling, which is complicated by the current need for social distancing and masks. Bill and Joan suggested holding the event outside, and inviting new recruits. We may not be able to serve alcohol and would have to serve individually pre-packaged food and refreshments. The VWR fall event may be stymied by hut restrictions, since only folks in the same "bubble" may use the huts this season. Ken suggested Copper Chapel as a possible location. Mike M and Ken will brainstorm, wait a bit to see where we are with COVID-19, and make recommendations at the July meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday July 9, 2020 at 5:30: Location TBD. A majority thought we should try to meet in person at an outdoor location. Joan suggested the Frisco or Meadow Creek park. Mike B agreed this may be possible, but with social distancing. Bill will check to see if Copper Mountain space is available or other Frisco parks. Dave O mentioned that Frisco is closing Main Street so Frisco park isn't a good idea

Meeting adjourned at 7pm

## MINUTES FOR ESWA PLANNING MEETING

July 9, 2020 - 5:30 pm

BIGHORN PARK - EAST VAIL

1. Welcome: Chair Mike Browning welcomed the 16 participants, including two guests.
2. Roll Call / Introductions: Present were Ellie Finlay, Dave Owens, Mike Browning, Frances Hartogh, Chris Turner, Ken Harper, Jim Alexander, Laurie Alexander, Tim Drescher, Dave Brewster, Dan Siebert, Frank Gutmann, Joan Betz, Bill Betz. Guests: Melissa Wills, Warren Hern
3. Agenda was reviewed and approved.
4. Minutes of 6/11/20 meeting were reviewed and approved.
5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Turner presented the report, and will provide an e-copy to the boss list.

### REPORTS & UPDATES

6. Chair's report: Chair Mike Browning introduced speaking guest Dr. Warren Hern from the Holy Cross Wilderness Defense Fund, who attended the meeting to discuss the proposed Homestake III project (see below).
7. Homestake III: Dr. Warren Hern provided a useful history of Homestake I and II. When Homestake II was proposed, Dr. Hern founded the Holy Cross Wilderness Defense Fund, organizing a protest movement that resulted in denial of the 1041 permit for the project. The currently proposed SUP seeks permission to drill holes to determine the feasibility of the Whitney Reservoir (Homestake III). The drilling project would destroy wetlands that are irreplaceable. According to Dr. Hern, the proposed reservoir site is in an earthquake zone. ESWA thanked Dr. Hern for his work and his presentation. Meeting attendees thanked Tim Drescher for helping to get the Whitney Reservoir story in the Vail Daily.

8. USFS reports: Neither Cindy Ebbert nor Katherine Bazan were available for the meeting. Frances asked how we can provide the summary of sawyering that Katherine has requested. Jim confirmed that the hours VWRs spend on patrol where we clear trees can be used as volunteer labor for grant purposes.

9. VWR Program: Ken Harper reported on mentoring of VWR trainees who were not able to complete training this year due to COVID-19. He noted that several VWRs had had successful mentor hikes with trainees. Ken reported on sawyering progress, noting that VWRs have been especially productive this season.

10. Mesa Cortina Boardwalk Update: Bill Betz reported that the lumber has been ordered, and that the RMYC will commence construction this summer, supported by funds from the Schuette family.

11. Surprise Lake Design Funding: Cindy Ebbert was not present to provide an update.

12. Noxious Weed Program: Weed Czar Jim Alexander reported on the excellent field trip on June 30 with USFS weed expert Steve Elzinga. Six ESWA WeedSpotters met in Minturn to view examples of 14 invasive/noxious weeds, and then traveled up Martin Creek to review last year's progress on sprayed areas. WeedSpotters have adopted and will check treated areas 2-3 weeks after spraying. Jim discussed the August 13 Betty Ford Alpine Gardens tour, noting that the tour is already half full – anyone still wishing to attend should let Jim know.

13. Trail Work Programs: Tim Drescher, Dave Brewster, and Ken Harper reported that the USFS has given permission for ESWA to conduct day programs limited to 10 people. Possible trail maintenance projects were discussed, including the Wheeler Lake Trail. Tim brought up the issue of doing some trail work in the Holy Cross Wilderness. Mike B will call Katherine Bazan to ask for a trail on which a day trail project can be done. Ken reported that ESWA's Adopt-A-Trail, Deluge Lake, was the beneficiary of bucking and lopping by several VWRs. Mike B suggested talking to FDRD about an Adopt-A-Trail program for Summit County.

Dave B said that Cindy Ebbert would like ESWA's crosscut saw to be more accessible. It was opined that this may not be a good idea, since good crosscut

saws are rare. It was proposed that ESWA should purchase two extra Katanas and crosscuts; the motion was adopted.

14. Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media: Bill Betz reported that the next hardcopy newsletter will go out in November, but after that, the HCN will go only to paid members. Tim suggested Dr. Warren Hern for an upcoming essay for the newsletter. Katie Browning has agreed to help with ESWA media presence, and to post on Facebook and Instagram. Bill encouraged everyone to have a Facebook account, and to “like” ESWA, and also to provide Katie with content – photos, stories about patrols, so that she can create 2-3 new postings/week.

15. Swag: Thanks to Chris and Dave O for acquiring ESWA t-shirts, hats, lip balms, and stickers (vests available upon order). Mike M has the lip balms and decals, but was unable to make it to the meeting due to an accident on I-70. Each leadership committee member present received a free t-shirt and hat. Ellie has agreed to be the ESWA swag fairy godmother, and will store and help distribute swag going forward. Mike B, with input, will figure out how to sell swag via the ESWA website. Tim presented the idea that since we have more budget money than expected (due to expenses decreasing as a result of COVID-19-related program cancellations) we should get more stickers printed, and then get in touch with local sport stores and put our stickers there for free to get our name out. Motion passed to print \$500 worth of stickers and give them to stores to be distributed along with the ESWA pamphlets. We may also distribute but charge for lip balms. Chris & Tim will work out details of distribution.

Bill noted that we will be receiving two more complimentary boxes of Restop Wag Bags from NRS.

16. Photo Contest: Dan Siebert reviewed last year’s contest. Dan will email draft rules for this year’s contest. He suggested making notecards from the winning photos as awards for the winners. Mike B said the notecards would also be useful as thank you notes to ESWA donors. Mike B will work with Dan to establish the rules and timing for this year’s photo contest.

17. Annual Meeting/Social Event: It was decided, with regrets, to suspend planning for any Annual Meeting as an in-person social event this year, due to

COVID-19. A discussion ensued about continuing the Currie Craven award, how often to make the award, who should judge, and who should be in the pool of possible recipients. Ken suggested we could allow nominations via the ESWA website. It was suggested that we should consider expanding the pool of possible recipients outside ESWA membership. Mike B agreed to work with Bill and others to come up with a plan for this year.

18. Gore Range Renaming: Bill noted that Governor Polis has created a geographical renaming committee, and that there is support for renaming the Gore Range in light of Lord Gore's negative history. There was general support from the meeting attendees for the renaming, subject to input from the Ute tribes, however this input may be delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 on tribal members.

19 End of Year VWR Event: The same concerns were expressed as for the Annual Meeting, and the general consensus was that this year it may be best not to hold this event.

20. Next Board Meeting Thursday August 13, 2020 at 5:30. It was decided to look for an outdoor location on the Summit side.

The meeting concluded at 7:45.

**MINUTES OF ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**August 13, 2020 at 5:30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

1. Welcome: Mike Browning welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.
2. Roll Call: Jim Alexander, Mike Browning, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Dave Brewster, Curry Craven, Ellie Finlay, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens, Chris Turner, Melissa Wills, and guests Barb & Mandy Schuette.
3. Agenda: The Agenda was reviewed and approved.
4. Minutes: The Minutes of the 4/9/20 planning meeting were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report: Chris Turner, Treasurer, reported that the balance in ESWA's account is \$49,394.13 as of 8/13/20. The report is attached. Chris encouraged everyone to sign up for City Market's/King Soopers' fundraising (register), as it's an easy way for ESWA to raise funds.
6. Chair's Report: Chair Mike Browning thanked all of the VWRs for accomplishing so much under the challenge of COVID-19; he noted that the work stats are quite impressive. Mike B reiterated the need for weekend backcountry hosts at the more popular Wilderness lakes, and to interest more young people in being hosts and, generally, involved with ESWA. Mike introduced VWR Melissa Wills, who has offered to help form a younger person's group to include backcountry lake weekends. Melissa noted that with COVID-19 has come an awareness of the increased number of people entering Wilderness and an increased interest in "giving back." USFS Cindy agreed that we need more presence at backpacking lakes and high-use lakes both on weekends and during the week.

Bill Betz reminded everyone that we received a generous donation of wag bags from Restop that are available to VWRs and USFS Rangers. Cindy says the USFS has a good supply, but could still use a few – the Dillon Ranger District office is closed, but we can call 970-468-5400 to reach Cindy. Availability of the wag bags will also be included in the August Eaglet.

7. USFS Reports: Rangers Cindy Ebbert and Kat Bazan noted the Stage 2 fire ban, which prohibits all outdoor fires and allows smoking only indoors or in vehicles – anything with an on/off valve is OK to use.

Cindy reported that, on the Summit side, her Wilderness crew of one intern and two rangers has done a lot of work, with all trails cleared in Eagles Nest Wilderness as of last month and campsite inventories completed in the Ptarmigan Wilderness. On the Mesa Cortina trail, the RMYC will replace the Lily Pad bridge, and that trail will be closed

from Meadow Creek for a while. Cindy reminded everyone that hunting starts at the end of August. Cindy noted that the Surprise Lake realignment will likely have to wait until next year. Regarding grant opportunities, Cindy will work directly with Jim – one possibility for a grant is for the Arctic Placer Trail, which goes right up to Wilderness boundary and needs \$3,000 of mini-excavator time (this trail begins at the Mesa Cortina Trail and will not be mountain-bike friendly). Cindy announced that she has just accepted a 5-month detail (temp work assignment) in the lands and minerals program, beginning August 31, so she will be passing some work to her supervisor and to Tyler Kirkpatrick.

Kat reported that, on the HX side, her Wilderness crew of three rangers lost one to another job three weeks ago, but have been quite busy. They've done rec site surveys and patrols, worked on the Cross Creek bridge for 8 days (5 more days are still needed for completion), and made headway on clearing fallen trees from the Missouri Creek avalanche area. She noted that trail use has greatly increased. She OK'd an ESWA day trip to Lake Constantine to dismantle illegal fire rings (Mike B will coordinate date and signup), with a 10-person limit and following COVID-19 protocols. Because Lake Constantine is above 11,000 feet, all fire rings can be removed (in HX no campfires are allowed within 100 feet of lakes or above 11,000 feet). Kat agreed that it would be good to erect a No Campfires sign at Lake Constantine, similar to the one ESWA put at Gore Lake last year. We will do this during one of our llama trips next summer. Kat will be in touch with Jim regarding grants. Kat will be on vacation August 19 to Sept 10.

Cindy and Kat said that VWRs should use their judgment about handing things out like wag bags and backpacking registration forms – OK to do if COVID-19 protocols can be observed.

8. Mesa Cortina Boardwalk Update: Mike B introduced Barb & Mandy Schuette. Bill gave an update on the work towards completing the 96-foot-long boardwalk. The work is going quite well, and Bill mentioned the great photos Mandy had taken of RMYC members hard at work, including hauling 300-lb lumber pieces. It was suggested that a laminated informational sign at the trailhead would be useful, and Bill agreed to draft language with Cindy's input. Cindy will provide Mike B additional info on the project, in the hopes that he can submit an article to the Summit Daily to be published. Cindy will work directly with Jim on any additional grant monies needed. The members thanked the Schuettes again for their generous contribution towards the Mesa Cortina Boardwalk.

9. Noxious Weed Program: Weed Czar Jim Alexander thanked his fellow WeedSpotters, who've been hard at work this season. WeedSpotters will need to review the 8-9 trails that Osborne's team has treated – Jim will provide the maps obtained from Steve. Jim has been reporting infestations to Steve, who's been changing his schedule accordingly when possible. Copper Mountain is organizing a native-seed collection on Sept 4, and there are a few openings left – anyone interested should

contact Jim. Mike B reported that the August 13 Betty Ford Gardens tour was a great success, with 12 attendees and lots of potential for collaboration - including a possible noxious-weed workshop to be chaired by Jim.

10. Trail Work Programs: Ken Harper suggested that the upcoming Eaglet should include signup info for the Lake Constantine work day clearing illegal fire rings and the August 28 Deluge Lake Trail work day clearing trees, lopping, and repairing water bars. Dave B mentioned the possibility of a work day on the Wheeler Lakes trail, and will follow up.

11. Colorado Gives Day (December 8): Mike Browning mentioned that he is part of the Eagle County Gives collaborative that promotes Colorado Gives Day in Eagle County. He will provide a plan for ESWA's Colorado Gives Day promotion at the September meeting. Joan and Dave O volunteered to reach out to the Summit Daily to determine what would be involved for ESWA to be included in its Colorado Gives Day supplement. Dave O said he has contacts at the Summit Daily.

12. Website, eNewsletter, Hard Copy Newsletter, Social Media: Bill Betz provided an update on upcoming essays: September – Amazing Llama Rescue; October – Walter Hern & the Homestake Valley; and November – Dave Brewster & old-growth forests/forest management.

13. Advocacy Update:

Gravel pit on Lower Blue River: Dave B asked what's ESWA's real interest in this project. Frank asked what are the alternatives to the project; for instance, are there other areas that can be mined for gravel? Bill said there are some ideas on alternatives, which will be made public now that Peak has announced details of the proposed project. Bill noted that, while not in Wilderness, the location of the proposed project is a beautiful valley nestled between two Wilderness areas.

Booth Heights: Mike B said that he had submitted written and oral comments on behalf of ESWA to the Town of Vail Council.

Renaming Gore Range: ESWA is waiting for the Ute Tribe to indicate agreement on an acceptable new name. Bill will write Karne to suggest that she or ESWA write a letter to the tribe.

Berlaimont: Bill will contact Wilderness Workshop to find out the status of the project.

USFS agreement with Town of Vail/TOV agreement with TNC: While not yet an advocacy matter, ESWA has asked for more information on (1) the forest management agreement recently signed with the Town of Vail (reported July 26 in the Vail Daily), and (2) The Nature Conservancy's partnership with Vail Resorts for forest thinning



(reported July 28 in the Vail Daily). Concerning the USFS agreement, according to the Vail Daily, 4.4 thousand acres (2,000 in Eagles Nest Wilderness), located between Spraddle Creek and Pitkin Creek and north to Bald Mountain, will require management, including thinning of mature growth. Frances has reached out to the USFS, and Kat says that her colleague Paula Peterson will provide the requested information. Cindy said that it's important to get all the facts before deciding whether to take an advocacy position on the project. Currie suggested that ESWA meet about the USFS project with Leanne Veldhuis, the new HX District Ranger; Currie also asked why ESWA, as a stakeholder, wasn't informed earlier about the USFS project, but, rather, had to find out about the project in the Vail Daily. Frances will reach out to Paula, and will also send both articles to Currie.

14. Swag: Ellie Finlay, swag fairy godmother and our swag handler, reported that the men's t-shirts are popular, and that the women's t-shirts are sized quite small. It was also mentioned that the t-shirts will shrink if dried at a hot temp. Mike B said that Tim suggested that we should be giving out t-shirts and hats to the USFS Rangers. Tim is also working with Chris Turner on an additional t-shirt design. Mike B mentioned the need for an online swag shop, which he will work on. Dave O offered to distribute stickers to outdoor sports stores on the Summit side; Tim has already agreed to do the distribution on the Vail side.

15. Currie Craven Award: Mike B thanked Bill for developing the draft Statement of Purpose and Process for the Currie Craven Award. Bill sought comments on the Statement of Purpose and Process; there were no comments, and the Statement was approved. Currie, Cindy, Mike B., Mike M, and George Resseque were appointed as this year's Award Committee.

16. Photo Contest: Dave O, Dan Siebert, and Ellie were appointed to the Selection Committee.

17. Annual Meeting/Social Event: It was agreed that the Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, Oct 8 by Zoom (due to COVID-19) as part of the monthly planning meeting, and will include announcement of the winners of the Currie Craven Award and photo contest. The presentation of award will wait until we can do it in person. It was agreed that the August Eaglet would include information about the Annual Meeting.

The next Meeting will be Thursday September 10, 2020 at 5:30. Bill will check on the availability of Summit-side sites, so that we can meet in person if the 10-person COVID-19 limit has been lifted.

**Draft MINUTES - ESWA PLANNING MEETING  
September 10, 2020, 5:30 pm - VIA ZOOM**

1. Welcome: Mike Browning, Chair, welcomed members to the meeting.
2. Roll Call: Present were Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Mike Browning, Jim Alexander, Dave Owens, Chris Turner, Dave Brewster, Frank Gutmann, Frances Hartogh, Ellie Finlay, and Tim Drescher.
3. Agenda: Approved with no changes.
4. 8/13/20 Meeting Minutes: Minutes were approved with one revision to correct spelling of “Karn”.
5. Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Chris Turner presented his report. Mike B explained that he had asked Chris to develop a new format regarding restricted funds. Chris said that instead of listing the total at the top of the report, current account balance now shows what is in the account as of today. Restricted funds now show what was projected, received, and spent. The endowment fund is listed at the end of the report. Mike B asked Chris what the RMYC amount should go against. Chris will discuss this with Mike B and Bill. Bill mentioned that the last-day RMYC party costs should come out of the Schuette funds. Dave O corrected typos – his food expense should be \$99.03; also “Corps” should end with an s. Dave B commended Chris for his work. Chris says he can make whatever adjustments are needed.

**REPORTS & UPDATES**

6. Chair's report: Mike Browning
  - Hike with new District Ranger: Mike B and Frances had an enjoyable hike to Gore Lake with new HX District Ranger Leanne Veldhuis. They had a very favorable impression, and are looking forward to working with Leanne.
  - Meeting on Ruby Ranch fire mitigation: Mike B and Bill participated in a call with The Wilderness Society. The locals are concerned about fire, and say they were asked to construct their houses within the forested area so as not to be too visible. Scott Miller wants to avoid a precedent of catering to people who build in/near Wilderness. The HOA has done a lot of mitigation, but wants USFS to do more mitigation in adjacent Wilderness. ESWA is not in favor of pulling the Wilderness boundary back, and also is not excited about mitigation; however, (1) the proposal is for thinning without chainsaws; (2) most of the trees are already dead or down; (3) residents aren’t asking for a full fire break; (4) the HOA will do the labor with inmates or RMYC; and (5) “only” 10 patches of 8-9 acres are planned to clear standing dead and down trees to provide defensible space for firefighters to work. Mike B said the plan seems reasonable. Dave B opined that the USFS needs a broader plan rather than addressing each situation piecemeal. Dave B said that removing deadwood changes the forest forever, and limits carbon sequestration. Mike B said the USFS said they weren’t going to remove all the deadwood. Dave B says ecosystem depends on deadwood, e.g. red woodpecker.

- NWSA October workshop: Mike B signed up for this event.
- Vail Pass Rest Stop/Wildlife Crossing: Mike B participated in another meeting, and reminded the study group about the Uneva Peak trailhead, need for info signs, and congestion with snowmobiles in winter. Wildlife crossings are planned for the east side of Vail Pass; CDOT will also add an uphill lane and wildlife crossing on the west side, and address water quality issues. Frances agreed to compile more info about the project.
- Year-end USFS reports: Mike B reported that, per Cindy Ebbert's request, ESWA volunteer hours have been compiled and number well over 4,000 hours. Mike B will forward to Cindy.

7. USFS reports: Katherine Bazan and Tyler Kirkpatrick were not available to join the meeting.

8. Mesa Cortina Boardwalk Update: Bill reported that over half of the RMYC work is now complete, and he commended the Corps members for their hard work. Mike B thanked Dave Owens for organizing the end-of-work party for the Corps.

9. Advocacy:

- Gore Range Renaming: Bill reported that the Summit Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution yesterday for the Gore Range to be renamed the Nuchu Range. County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier has drafted a 1-page letter, which ESWA will support, to be sent to Dan Gibbs. Mike B thanked Bill for his work. Dave O said he knows Dan Gibbs DNR, and has given him an ESWA business card.

- Homestake III: Tim says the USFS is still accepting comments, but the proposed work was supposed to start in August. A meeting is scheduled for September 14. Mike B will sign up to receive updates. Dave O pulled comments from 3 enviro groups: American Rivers, Colorado Headwaters, and Save the Colorado. Tim says Senator Donovan says she will fight to her last breath to oppose the project.

- Lower Blue Gravel Pit: Bill reported on the campaign to stop Peak's proposed new gravel quarry. Peak has submitted their proposal to the state agency. Photographer John Fielder, Harris Sherman (former DNR) and Karn Stiegelmeier want to block the project at the state level. Letters in opposition must be submitted by Oct 8; further information is in the upcoming Eaglet. Dave B asked what issues the LBR group have raised. Bill noted that John Fielder has provided talking points. Dave B said he has heard that wildlife migrate from the adjacent Wilderness Areas to the Lower Blue, which provides a nexus for ESWA involvement.

- TOV Bighorn Sheep Habitat: Dave O mentioned the Town of Vail's proposal to transfer bighorn sheep habitat into their open space program and build employee housing elsewhere. Mike provided an update. Dave B asked if this plan may have some connection to TOV's fire-mitigation plan.

- Fire Mitigation in Wilderness and Future Wilderness under CORE Act: Mike B said that we are expecting more information from Leanne Veldhuis's staff, and are planning a hike with her into the Spraddle Creek area.

10. Noxious Weed Program: Weed Czar Jim Alexander provided an update.

- Spraying: Weedspotters need to check sprayed areas.

- Copper Mountain Seed Collection: Several ESWA people attended, and reported that the event was both interesting and useful.

- Possible Blue River Watershed Project: Jim reported that he is interested in spearheading a lay research team to better understand how the health of native plants helps the health of the river and related wildlife. Jim will provide a summary. Joan recommended that Jim speak to Trout Unlimited. Dave B raised the issue of winter grazing and ungulate diet change. Bill broached the idea of tapping the endowment fund, possibly to fund grad students to do summer research. Mike B cautioned against using funds for non-Wilderness issues, and that it is important to focus on Wilderness. Mike B noted that ESWA can't spend endowment funds until the fund reaches \$50K, and then may only spend income from the fund. Bill mentioned Jeremy Deem at Colorado Mountain College as a possible resource.

Dave B asked about working with Betty Ford Gardens, possibly on seed collection.

11. Trail Work Programs:

- Adopt a Trail: Mike B reported that on August 28 ESWA had a successful work day on the Deluge Trail, lopping overgrowth, clearing trees, and repairing water bars.

- Lake Constantine Work Day: Mike B reported that 9 people volunteered and cleared over 40 illegal campfire rings.

Dave B noted that the Summit side may not have a project this year because he's out of town most of September.

12. Colorado Gives Day: The discussion involved where and what to pay for ESWA advertising. Mike B asked if the Summit Daily price might be closer to \$500, in which case we should purchase the ad as part of rebranding effort and getting our name and logo out. Dave O and Joan will follow up.

- Eagle County update: Mike B reported that the Vail Daily has yet to answer several questions, and their price seems quite high.

- Decision on purchasing ads in supplements: Yes for Summit Daily. For Vail, Vail Daily says they do an end-of-year supplement to be published four times in December. Mike B said he asked the VD if they might move the first publication up to Thanksgiving. Price is \$995. Mike B asked why the price is so high, but hasn't heard back. Bill opined that if we get a big bump on the Summit side, then we will have learned that it's worthwhile. Joan opined that we should go ahead and spend the money, because we haven't spent much this year and are trying to get our name out. The decision was made to go ahead with purchasing the Vail Daily ad.

Joan generously offered to write thank-you notes for donations; offer was accepted, with thanks.

13. 2020 Membership Campaign: Mike B discussed the attached Action Plan, and emphasized that we need to start promotions to our own membership to get ESWA members to renew their memberships, possibly associated with Colorado Gives Days. Dave O asked about the minimum donation - Mike B said it is \$25. Bill noted in 2019 we had a separate newsletter on advocacy, and donations doubled, and so he suggests doing that again; further, every newsletter will have a reminder and we can do an Eaglet a day or two before. Mike B agreed, and said he

will send individual emails to bigger donors. A discussion ensued on the issue of who will receive the hard-copy newsletter (HCN). Mike B said we shouldn't be draconian, and that it is important to find a new middle ground. Frank suggested putting "complimentary" on the HCN, with an explanation that it is for people who've shown a special interest even without contribution. Bill noted that 350 people receive the HCN, but only 120 or so of these are members. The question was raised about whether we should give photo gift cards to big donors; Dave B noted that thank-you cards are less expensive and have as much impact.

14. Website, eNewsletter, Hard-Copy Newsletter, Social Media: Bill Betz provided an update, noting that a mid-month Eaglet will go out, and also that there were 9 posts on ESWA's FB page this month. Mike B will send out a request this winter for ideas on improving the website, e.g., do we need a new platform; what about a backup for Bill; possibility of an online store? Bill said this is a good time for review, as the platform is several years old, and he suggested asking Chris to be involved; Chris said he is willing, and noted that there's potential to add a shopping cart.

15. Swag: Dave O said he talked with Tim about distributing ESWA stickers during the pandemic, and they recommend using vertical plastic brochure holders instead – Dave O received approval to buy 20 more holders for next spring. Tim lost connection to the Zoom meeting, so could not give an update on the topic of new t-shirts or pins.

16. Currie Craven Award: Mike B reported that two nominations had been received. It was agreed that the deadline for submittals would be extended to September 30.

17. Photo Contest: Mike B reported that several submissions had been received. It was agreed that the deadline for submittals would be extended to September 30.

18. Annual Meeting: A discussion was held about whether the October 8 Annual Meeting should be held before or after the October 8 board meeting, since both are via Zoom this year due to the pandemic. It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting first, at 5:30 pm.

19. Chair for 2021: Mike B noted that there is no Chair-elect, and that filling the Chair position will need to be discussed at the October board meeting.

20. Other Business: Frank Gutmann expressed a concern about the confusing disparity between regulations in the Eagles Nest and Holy Cross Wilderness areas. It was noted that the new District Ranger seems motivated to possibly conform the two sets of regulations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

**Final MINUTES ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**October 8, 2020 following 5:30 pm Annual Meeting**  
**VIA ZOOM <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/4732124622>**

1. Welcome: Chair Mike Browning welcomed everyone to the ESWA Leadership Committee October planning meeting.
2. Roll Call: Jim Alexander, Kat Bazan (USFS), Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Mike Browning, Dave Brewster, Tim Drescher, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Frances Hartogh, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens, Chris Turner, Melissa Wills. Guest: Mike Connolly, FDRD.
3. Agenda: The Agenda was approved with no revisions.
4. Minutes: The September meeting Minutes were approved with no revisions.
5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Turner presented his report. FDRD's Mike Connolly asked if ESWA had applied for the Summit Foundation grant by the October 8 deadline. Jim Alexander said we had not applied because there had been no requests. Mike Connolly said he had been on a call with the Foundation, and that they plan to pare back the number of grant recipients and to keep to their "core" mission, which includes "trails and the environment." Consequently, Mike Connolly recommended that ESWA submit a grant request in spring 2021 for trail work; he also noted that FDRD has changed their focus to youth development, since there is more funding there, which leaves funding for ESWA. Kat Bazan said the USFS always has trail projects they can come up with, especially in the high-alpine zones, where there is significant trail braiding. Kat agreed to work with the Dillon District to develop a list of possible trail projects for which ESWA could seek funding from the Summit Foundation and others.

#### REPORTS & UPDATES

6. Chair's report: Mike Browning reviewed a few follow-up items from the preceding Annual Meeting, including Colorado Gives Day; the winning-photos notecards to be provide to the winners and to higher-level donors; and the November meeting, which will be focused more on long-term planning.
7. Prizes for Award Winners: Mike Browning presented the gifts that will be given to recognize the 2020 ESWA awardees:
  - VWR of the Year – REI gift certificate
  - Sawyer of the Year – REI gift certificate
  - Currie Craven Award – autographed copy of John Fielder book on CO 14'rs
  - Photo Contest Winners – ESWA t-shirt and hat, and box of photo notecards
  - Lifetime Achievement for Sawyer Mentorship: REI gift certificateDave Owens asked if the winning-photo notecards will include the 2019 winning photo, for a total of four cards, which will cause the price to increase by about 25%. It was agreed to include all four photos in the notecards. Bill will send a high-res image of the 2019 winning photo to

Dave Owens, so he can add it to the printing order. Dave Owens agreed to pick up the REI gift certificates, which will be for \$100 each.

8. USFS reports: Katherine Bazan reported that her team members had a great summer. Their accomplishments include restoring the trail through the Missouri Lake Trail avalanche path, completing the 33-foot Cross Creek bridge at mile 7, and completing the Eagles Nest recreation site monitoring. Kat said she is looking forward to Tuesday's meeting with Mike Browning and Frances Hartogh to discuss how ESWA may help support completion of the USFS's Wilderness Character Baseline Assessment for ESWA's three Wilderness Areas plus the Flat Tops Wilderness Area. Kat noted that the USFS has learned a lot about managing work during the pandemic, and while she's not sure of next year's funding needs, she would like to get the llamas back, focus on repairing braided trails in the high-alpine region, and work on both the Booth and Pitkin trails.

9. Advocacy Updates:

- Berlaimont Objection/Comments: Frances Hartogh provided an update on the 9/24/20 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the USFS. The deadline for objections is 11/9/20. Tim Drescher will submit comments since he is eligible under 36CFR218.8 to file objections to the draft ROD because he submitted earlier comments during the 2016 window; it does not appear that anyone else from ESWA submitted comments during the 2016 or 2018 windows. However, objections will also be accepted from individuals and organizations wishing to object on the access road and south parking lot modification that occurred between the Draft EIS and the FEIS, even if they did not submit written comments during the earlier windows. In addition, everyone may submit comments to the County Commissioners and write letters to the Daily editor – Wilderness Workshop has provided a template for this. Tim noted that the Commissioners will need to decide whether to approve Berlaimont's 1041 permit.

- West Vail Pass Project Update: Frances Hartogh provided an update on CDOT's plan to add two lanes to I-70 over the west side of Vail Pass, and add safety features for wildlife, as discussed in her 9/29 email to the Leadership Committee. Tim noted that there is an important meeting on October 12 that he will attend, and that ESWA's comments should include a water quality issue, such as sediment load. Currie asked about comments from the Department of Wildlife, and compared this to the issue of Corral Creek and cutthroat trout on the Summit side. Currie said that ESWA should provide comments, because the Eagles Nest Wilderness boundary is so close to the project. Frances agreed to prepare bullet points for comments, and noted that the comment deadline is October 21.

10. Colorado Gives Day: Mike Browning reiterated the deadlines of Oct 15 and 30 for submitting ads to the Vail Daily and Summit Daily. Joan Betz said she has been working with Ian Donovan to see when they can get started on the Summit ad, and that the Summit Foundation might help fund the cost of the Summit ad for nonprofits. Mike Connolly said the Foundation will decide on October 9 whether to provide this funding. Mike Connolly says that other nonprofits aren't so sure that the ad provides benefits. Mike Browning noted that ESWA will go ahead with the ads this year in order to promote public awareness of our new name and logos and since we did not do so last year, and he thanked Joan for following up on the ads.

11. 2020 Membership Campaign: Mike Browning said that a benefit of the \$250 and up membership will be receipt of a complimentary set of the ESWA winning-photo notecards, which Dave Owens designed and had printed. Mike thanked Ellie and Joan for agreeing to write thank-you notes and send membership cards (designed by Maryann Gaug), an ESWA sticker, and letter of non-profit donation suitable for IRS donations to all members who sign up, and in addition to send the notecards to members who donate \$250 and up.

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13. Officers for 2021: Bill moved to continue with the current administrative structure for 2021; Joan seconded. The motion was unopposed. Mike Browning emphasized the importance of recruiting both new VWRs and new members of the Leadership Committee, with one of the goals being to have a new Chair for 2022.

The next Board Meeting is Thursday November 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Location to be determined.



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The next Board Meeting is Thursday November 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Location to be determined.

**Draft MINUTES ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**November 12, 2020**  
**VIA ZOOM**

1. Chair Mike Browning welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. Roll Call / Introductions: Jim Alexander, Kat Bazan, Mike Browning, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Dave Brewster, Currie Craven, Tim Drescher, Ellie Finlay, Ken Harper, Frances Hartogh, Mike Mayer, Dave Owens, Chris Turner
3. Agenda was approved.
4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved, with an amendment by Joan to clarify that, in connection with Colorado Gives Day, Ellie Finlay will work with Joan to write thank-you notes, and send to all members who sign up: membership cards (designed by Maryann Gaug), an ESWA sticker, letter of non-profit donation suitable for IRS donations, and (only for members who donate \$250 and up) box of notecards.
5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Turner reported on the budget. Joan asked where the thank-you cards and other purchases should appear in the budget. Regarding swag, Currie asked if when you sold it does it become a revenue stream, and when you give it away does it become a membership expense. This seemed like a generally acceptable approach.

**REPORTS & UPDATES**

6. Chair's report: Mike Browning thanked the leadership committee members for helping out while he has been away in Singapore.
  - Thank-you Notes & Photo Cards: Mike thanked Joan and Ellie for their work.
  - Sawyer Tree Count: Mike thanked all the sawyers.
  - Town of Vail.: Mike said that he spoke with TOV Councilmember Kim Langmaid. Currie says he has known Kim for a long time, and that it's a worthwhile relationship. Dave Owens agreed.
  - Endowment Strategic Plan: Bill noted that since ESWA's endowment is over the \$50K threshold, we need to start thinking about what we want to do with any earnings. We could leave them in the endowment to grow, put them into the annual budget, or find some special use for them. Bill suggested mentioned, as one idea, offering small project-specific scholarships similar to IPWA's in the \$1500 range each, to Colorado Mountain College (CMC) students, with the requirement for a short video at project end. Bill has spoken with the CMC officers, who are very enthusiastic and suggested the scholarships could be part of their new Sustainability major. The head of the Sustainability program turns out to be Kim Langmaid. Although the earnings on our endowment currently are too small, it was agreed that the CMC scholarship may be worth pursuing when the earnings increase enough to be useful.

7. USFS reports: Kat reported that she is waiting for her budget, but hopes to have two FT rangers and support from the RMYC. Her plan is to have them spend two weeks on the Cross Creek trail to clear avalanche debris, two weeks on the Goose Creek trail to fix braiding, a week clearing trails in the Flattops, and some time on the Booth Creek trail. The outfitter has reserved two llamas for the USFS but needs a deposit of \$500 by Thanksgiving; Kat will send the invoice to Mike B and Chris, and funds will go directly to the outfitter. Jim, Dave, Tyler, and Kat met about the NEEF grant, which would fund East Vail LNT and other educational signage; the \$2,500 grant application is due by Dec 1. The Wilderness performance issue is unfortunately stalled out, and Kay Hopkins has no further info on the Wilderness character study – and no funding; also, Kay is retiring in December, so this may affect WSP work. The USFS is planning a NEPA day in March.

Currie asked about the Vail fuels mitigation program, and emphasized the need for a full EIS. Kat promised more information soon.

8. Strategic Planning for Trail Projects: Dave Brewster noted that a meeting with USFS Cindy, Kat, and Tyler is set up for November 17, to develop better planning structure for future ESWA-USFS projects and grant funding. Dave B said we are planning two overnight trips each on the Eagle and Summit sides, and that he would like to see us do more day trips. Dave B would like a list of what trails USFS considers unsustainable. Jim suggested that for large projects, a more-effective multi-year process pipeline is needed to (1) in one summer figure out what work is needed, (2) obtain the grant the next summer, and (3) in the third summer complete the project. Kat agreed, but says there are also projects that “just come up” because a bridge washes out or something – she encouraged VWR to report on needed trail work, and said we should meet quarterly to focus on trail planning.

9. Grant Strategic Planning: Jim said he has written the NFF mid-term report for weeds; we have about \$1K left and will use it to purchase a backpack sprayer and tools for pulling weeds. The SCF grant is due soon. He said that, unfortunately, we did not spend the NSA grant, and doesn't think we can now spend the money. Jim wants to better schedule grant-based projects in the future, so there is a lead on each project, with an equipment list, list of materials needed, and budget that we can stick to (Feb, July, Oct are the 3 grant cycles). NFF is our biggest grant, and we need to look at that cycle and timing. He noted that grant groups favor boots-on-the-ground projects more than planning/design, so we need to adjust accordingly. Grant apps are due August, March, and December, and we need to plan for these deadlines.

10. Possible Updates to VWR sign up and reporting forms: Bill Betz suggested changes to (1) the start time and how many hours VWRs were out; and (2) the Comments section: we need VWRs to fill in more details. For trailhead hosting, Mike B said we need to have a place on the form to indicate that trail hosting was done, where, and for how long. Joan said that we also need signs and materials for trail hosting; Mike B asked if grant funding might be available for this.

11. Advocacy Updates: Bill said that the Advocacy Eaglet goes out on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and thanked everyone for their input. In connection with Berlaimont, Ellie will ask County Commissioner Cathy Chandler and Susie Kincaid when the 1041 decision will be considered. Frances gave an update on ESWA's advocacy activities for Berlaimont – ESWA filed objections to the FEIS and draft ROD with the USFS prior to the Nov 9 deadline – and will need to encourage our members to send comments to the Eagle County Commissioners and write letters to the editor.

12. Colorado Gives Day/Memberships: Mike Browning provided updates on the Vail and Summit Daily ads. Bill gave an update on upcoming newsletters and Eaglets, including the Colorado Gives Day Eaglet that will go out by December 1. Frances said that she is receiving so many Colorado Gives Day requests already, and wondered if ESWA's should go out sooner. Mike B. said that he will make thank-you calls to larger donors in December.

13. 2021 Budget Planning: Mike B noted that our previous budget plan was to spend each year only what was raised in the prior year. He suggested we put a wish list together in December, verify in January what our income is, and then be able to match revenue and expenses in order to approve the budget in January. Jim asked if ESWA should come up with a plan for what we know we will spend every year, e.g., llamas, bigger trail plans like Mesa Cortina. Bill agreed with the timetable.

14. Social Media - Bill Betz noted that (1) the November newsletter went out, and thanked Frances for editing and Dave B for his essay; (2) the Hard-Copy Newsletter (HCN) went out today, and thanked the editors and asked for folks to email him when HCN arrives; and (3) the December newsletter is almost ready, and thanked Frances for her essay on the American Pika. Bill requested help in finding essay authors. Frances mentioned that one possible author would be USFS Peak Manager, Loretta McElhiney, who had given a great recent presentation to FOMELC on the ecology of our high-alpine regions, and the importance of stopping off-trail use and off-leash dogs. Mike B and Bill mentioned the new HX District Ranger, Leanne Veldhuis, as a possible author. Mike B thanked Bill for his great work on the newsletters.

15. Recruiting New Board Members: Mike B emphasized the need for finding new board members. He mentioned the interest in a Winter Ranger program, and that Bill Hilley is interested in volunteering. Kat said she is working with CAIC and FODR, and that USFS needs to provide a winter-safety protocol for rangers. Currie said parking-lot monitoring and checking for snowmobile incursions is important. Kat said she is developing a high-use-monitoring winter survey program and new job-hazard analysis. Dave B suggested leadership training is merited.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm. Next Board Meeting: Thursday December 10, 2020 at 5:30 pm via ZOOM.

**Draft Minutes - ESWA Planning Meeting**  
**December 10, 2020**  
**5:30 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

1. Chair Mike Browning welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Meeting Attendees: Mike Browning, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Currie Craven, Tim Drescher, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Frances Hartogh, Tyler Kirkpatrick, Dave Owens.
3. Agenda was approved with new items, included below.
4. Minutes of the November meeting were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report: A brief discussion of the report was held in the absence of Treasurer Chris Turner. Ken asked about USFS Mike Beach's \$5,000 – does it go away at the end of the year? Mike B recalled that Mike Beach had said the sooner the better for that expenditure. Mike B asked Tyler about another additional new \$5,000. Tyler said he will ask Kat about both funds. Tim opined that we need to spend the funds and then get reimbursed.

**REPORTS & UPDATES**

6. Chair's report:
  - Mike B. thanked Bill, Joan, and Ellie for their great work for Colorado Gives Day.
  - Radio Free Minturn Interview: Mike B reported on his 10-min interview in support of ESWA for Colorado Gives Day.
  - Kim Langmaid call: Mike B noted that he will speak with Kim (Vail Mayor pro tem and Founder of Walking Mountains Science Center) on Dec 17, and will discuss monetary contributions (like Front Range Rangers receives), and collaborations with Colorado Mountain College, WMSC (joint programs for high school kids who might want to patrol). Currie concurred, and said we should also look at fire-mitigation issues with Kim re East Vail & Spraddle Creek.
7. USFS reports (Tyler Kirkpatrick): Tyler said that the expiration of the above-discussed funding appears to be 2022, but that the amount is listed as \$15K – Tyler will check with Cindy. We discussed the need for a January meeting to begin 2021 planning – Tyler will coordinate with Cindy & Kat. Tyler said that it's grant season right now, especially NFF ski money, and that the USFS is working with VOC on grants. Mike B noted that a Summit Foundation \$10,000 grant is a possibility – if we had a project. Tyler will try to come up with a project at the January trails meeting.  
Frank mentioned old trail counters that ESWA had placed, and asked if we should return these to the USFS when we find them. Tyler said yes.  
Tyler said that he's met with Summit Sky Ranch, and the Marilyn Creek Trail can be completed in 2021.

8. Colorado Gives Day/Memberships: Mike B said that due to lots of great preparation work by Bill and others, the program was successful: On December 8, \$6,564 was donated, which is double from last year, and there were 64 donors. In total, just under \$15,000 was raised in 2020 from 132 members. Mike B will call/email prior donors who didn't give this year as well as the larger donors. Dave O complemented the full-page ad in the Summit Gives magazine, and other efforts. Mike B. said we spent \$1,400 in ads including a full-page in the Vail Daily and Summit Daily, and this publicity seems to have paid off. Mike B noted that one of the photo prize recipients complained that we should have attributed his photo when using it in publicity.

9. Winter Patrol Program Concept: Mike B said he's been in touch with Ben Hilley, who's been involved in winter patrol programs for other organizations. Tyler said he has been working with FDRD on their program. Mike B asked for input on the possible program. Frank and Bill recommended starting with winter vehicle counts and trailhead hosting. Frances wondered if we could start "light" this season with patrols on avalanche-free trails that are popular in winter. Ken asked if Ben Hilley might start an ESWA subcommittee for creating a winter patrol program. Mike B said Melissa Wills might also be interested, and he will ask her. Mike B will see if Ben and Melissa might also be interested in starting a backcountry camp host program. Mike B asked if Tim were interested in either program – Tim said he's never been into VWR-patrolling, since he usually goes out into the woods to escape from people; Tim advocates reaching out to some of the younger VWRs. Frank Gutmann offered his help. Mike B said he will call Doozie at FDRD. Tyler noted that Doozie is working with the Vail Pass people on winter-management issues there.

10. Advocacy Updates: Frances mentioned the 30x30 program, which advocates for permanently preserving 30% of land undeveloped by 2030, and is being promoted by Senator Bennet, and the Wilderness Society and other groups. Mike B suggested having someone from ESWA adopt each of our advocacy positions. Ellie agreed to adopt Berlaimont. Bill agreed to adopt the effort to protect the Lower Blue River from another gravel mine. Bill noted that ESWA's advocacy Eaglet went out on December 15. Bill discussed the failure to pass the CORE Act, which had been stripped from the US defense authorization act. Bill noted, in connection with efforts to rename the Gore Range, that Karn's request was being provided in writing, but that it would be months before the issue is taken up. Mike B said that he's not aware of any new developments on Homestake III-Whitney Reservoir. Frank he would like to see the USFS simplify rules in the WRNF Wilderness Areas so the rules are more similar between Wilderness Areas, such as requiring dogs to be leashed, where fires can be built, etc.

11. 2021 Budget Planning: In Chris's absence, Mike reviewed the budget numbers for last year and this year. Budget-related discussion included:

- Dave O asked about vests, and whether we could pre-buy 12, and a discussion was held about what size. Frank opined that vests could be given as gifts, as could 1<sup>st</sup> aid kits.
- Mesa Cortina Boardwalk – it was confirmed that ESWA won't owe any money for 2021, except for a possible celebration party.



- Trailhead hosting - Bill said that it will be expensive to buy supplies and might cost approximately \$1,000. Dave O said it's a worthwhile expense. Joan, who participated in joint hosting with FDRD, recommends sandwich board signs. It was suggested that VWR expenses should be increased to \$5,000. Dave O recommended adding cost for plastic holders for ESWA folders. Mike B. said he will raise Publicity funding to \$3,000.
- Mike B will talk to Jim about the Grant Consulting line item, and ask if those funds should be moved elsewhere.
- Website consulting funds - Bill said he's working with someone for free, but requested that we leave \$1,000 in the budget.
- USFS project funding – As noted above, there is approximately \$10,000 in USFS funding. Mike B asked if we should add \$10,000 of ESWA funds – several attendees agreed.
- Endowment - Joan recommended adding an endowment category, to be added to each year, and a line item for income from the endowment. Mike B said he didn't think the endowment was producing much income, but that Chris needed to confirm this. Bill said the endowment is just sitting there – why not do mini-scholarships; he recommends ESWA consider funding a pilot program of \$1,500. Frank asked don't we get 4% interest from endowment once it reaches \$50K? Mike B said that there is no fixed return on investment; the return is based on the return of the overall Summit Foundation investments.
- Frances asked if we could vote on the \$29,600 proposed budget. Mike said we should wait until January to review a new draft and approve it then, or if necessary in February.
- 2020 Donations – Bill noted that the Schuettes had donated an extra \$10,000 in early 2020 for the boardwalk; acknowledgment of the additional donation has been made, but was unfortunately tardy.

12. Grant Status: Jim Alexander was unable to attend.

13. Social Media: Bill reported that the December newsletter had gone out with Frances's essay on pikas, the January newsletter will have Mike B's incoming/outgoing Chair message, February will have an essay by Bo Kickless of Conservation Colorado, and March will have an essay by new District Ranger Leanne Veldhuis. Bill is soliciting other topics. Possibilities include Dillon Fire & Rescue; Dr. Libby Pansing (white pines and other endangered plant species); Dave O (trailhead hosting); and Mike B (Tragedy of the Commons).

14. Recruiting New Board Members: Mike B emphasized the urgent need to recruit new and younger members to join the ESWA board.

The meeting ended at 7:24. Next Board Meeting: Thursday January 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm by Zoom.