

**FINAL MINUTES ESWA PLANNING MEETING**  
**January 13, 2022 5:30 VIA ZOOM**

**OPENING MATTERS**

- Welcome/Introduction of Guests: Present - Mike Browning, Steve Elder, Jim Alexander, Dave Owens, Ken Harper, Karn Stiegelmeier, Emily Elder, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Frances Hartogh, Kat Bazan, Tom Copper
- Agenda was reviewed and approved.
- 12/9/21 Minutes were approved.

**IMPACT MATTERS**

- Celebration of 2021 and Mike Browning: Steve and meeting attendees recognized Mike Browning's contributions to ESWA as 2020-2021 Chair

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom): Steve said that as 2022 Chair, he is focusing on engaging volunteers and new members, how to bring urgency to ESWA's work and message the import of ESWA's mission, and having fun (especially once Covid is past). Steve reiterated his three 2022 focus-area bullets from the December newsletter: (1) Recruiting and engaging a diverse group of partners, volunteers, and leaders; (2) strengthening the training and support of our volunteers to provide a rich experience for them; and (3) continuing to build financial and operational capacity.
- Reviewed and approved Committee Structure, including keeping THH as separate committee to get program up and running, though in future it may be melded into VWR program.
- Intern: introduced Kaylin Lilly, volunteer for ESWA and Karn's daughter, currently in Master's Program in Ecopsychology. Kaylin will work on outreach on Nuchu letter writing, creating social media content for Emily, working with A-Basin, and completing a literature search to determine carbon sequestration numbers for our local Wilderness Areas.
- Mail and banking changes: Karn agreed to handle PO box and deposit checks electronically; Chris T had been doing this but is traveling too much, and has resigned from the board.
- USFS Reports: Kat Bazan reported that she has been focused on (1) hiring 3 new Wilderness Rangers plus returning Wilderness lead Mark, and a 5<sup>th</sup> USFS Wilderness Ranger being funded by VVMTA; (2) WSP scores – how well USFS is managing Wilderness; and (3) developing llama projects. Kat said she can use ESWA's help with the Booth Lake trail realignment, campsite monitoring, providing info on Wilderness awareness to outfitters who take youth groups out, solitude monitoring on 3 required trails (Holy Cross, Missouri, and Timberline Lake), LNT education, and providing a "VWR-lite" session for VVMTA (to include a Wilderness Adopt-a-Trail discussion). Tyler was on vacation through the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer's Report: Tom provided end-of-year report; \$60 k in account; \$500 in Paypal; \$26,000 from individuals. Jan 22 donations exceed Jan 2021.

- 2022 Budget Review and Approval: Mike B said Jan 11 budget incorporates changes since last meeting; also will reduce weed funding from \$500 to \$250 to put \$250 in sawyer 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training. Kat said she is looking for llama-transport funding of \$1,720; next year will look for closer llamas. Mike B said he took out publicity costs because we won't do CO Gives Day ads again; increased funding for trail projects; added CMC internships \$3k. Bill asked about Development funding examples – these are for recruitment events, member appreciation, donor reach out, and other expenses that may arise. Mike B moved to approved the Jan 11 budget with the change of moving \$250 from weeds to sawyer 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved unanimously.
- Jim and Kat discussed NFF funding for weeds, trail projects, llamas, saws, swag, uniforms – Jim thinks boots on the ground expenses are more likely to meet grant requirements.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Signature Programs:

- Advocacy: Frances reported that she, Tim, and Mike B are working with Kat Bazan on sign design and text for HX educational signs being funded by ESWA, and will meet with Kat again Jan 18.
  - CORE Act - Susie Kincade will provide a new strategy for getting CORE passed after Republicans stripped it out of the NDAA.
  - ESWA letter-writing function - Krista communicated with Cindy L to see if our WIX platform could support a letter-writing function; Bill and Cindy L were pursuing a basic function.
  - ESWA has endorsed several campaigns, and the AC is developing a spreadsheet of groups to liaise with.
  - Tim introduced Mike B to VD's LaConte, so that LaConte might consult with ESWA on issues concerning Wilderness.
  - Gore Renaming - With Kaylin's assistance, Karn is working on developing and recommending next steps on Gore Renaming (Nuchu) campaign, including reaching out to new TOV Council and Eagle County Commissioners. Through winter, Karn will get authors for historic articles about how geographic features were named - goal to gain receptivity to concept of Gore Range name change.
- Sawyer: Zach reported that a 2 1/2-day sawyer training is scheduled for June 10-12; let Zack know if you need to train or retrain. We will note these dates in the upcoming e-newsletter. Zach said we could do either an Eagle or Summit training location. Zach said that his Subcomm is investigating uniforms, and is open to ideas on branding (stitching on vests and applique on helmets). Zach asked if the sawyer budget should include a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid class. Without knowing the numbers or costs, it was opined that we could leave it up to individuals to obtain 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training, offering funding as needed. After hearing that Zach had around 20 people interested in a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid class, and the costs are low, \$250 was allocated towards 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training.
- Trailhead Hosting: Mike B has heard from Tyler what trails to THH, and committee will meet soon.
- Trail Project/Weeds: Jim referenced signage, weeds, trail projects, llama trips.
- VWRs: Ken said he needs to meet with Mike M to get started. Mike B and Steve will join. Ken agreed to set up dates for monthly meetings between now and VWR training.

#### Support Committees:

- Communications:
  - Publications – Karn said that Nicole wants her to meet with SD’s new Sports and Outdoors reporter Cody Jones, particularly regarding SD’s Trail Guide. Frances reported that ESWA has four columns in the Vail Daily through the WMSC’s Curious Nature column.
  - Website: Frances reported that Cindy L has made the AC’s updates to the Advocacy section of the ESWA website.
  - Social Media: Frances reported that Bill had trained her to update ESWA’s FB page to include posts on Summit Daily Get Wild columns.
- Fund Development: Steve/Jim will provide an update at Feb meeting
  - Individual Giving
  - Grants
  - Sponsorships
- Membership:
  - Dues: Mike B said he’s reached out to 80 lapsed members, and received 15 signups.
  - Events & Swag: Joan said that maybe ESWA should consider something other than notecards for the 2023 renewals, though notecards are popular.

FUTURE MATTERS: Karn mentioned that there is a blank sign at the beginning of the Ptarmigan trail that ESWA might adopt.

ADJOURN: 7:26pm

#### **TO DO:**

Frances: update “draft” minutes for website

Steve: Add details to committees; ask Committee chairs to tighten up membership and structure.

Kat, Steve: Schedule follow-up call re Booth realignment, Piney

Ken: Schedule dates for monthly VWR-training prep meetings.

Karn: talk to Tyler about taking over Ptarmigan sign; add semi-permanent ESWA sign (order more if needed).

Frances & Mike: Add sawyer training dates to Feb-May e-newsletters.

Steve, Mike B, Jim: Coordinate response to Kat’s request for ESWA help on Booth Lake trail realignment, campsite monitoring, providing info on Wilderness awareness to outfitters who take youth groups out, solitude monitoring on 3 required trails (Holy Cross, Missouri, and Timberline Lake), LNT education, and providing a “VWR-lite” session for VVMTA (to include a Wilderness Adopt-a-Trail discussion).

**FINAL ESWA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 10, 2022 5:30 VIA ZOOM**

**OPENING MATTERS**

- Welcome/Intro of Guests: Steve Elder, Mike Browning, Ken Harper, Krista Hughes, Mike Harrison, Mike Mayrer, Karn Stiegelmeier, Frank Gutmann, Dave Brewster, Zach Kauk, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Dave Owens, Jim Alexander. Guest Mike Nathan, Sustainability Manager for A-Basin
- Agenda was reviewed and approved.
- 1/13/22 Minutes were approved.

**IMPACT MATTERS**

- Featured Guest Mike Nathan, A-Basin Sustainability Manager: From Springfield, Mass. A-Basin Sustainability Manager for over 7 years. Also on board of High Country Conservation. A-Basin has partnered with ESWA for 18 years. Payroll deduction is matched by A-Basin, shared with CO Open Lands. Over \$60,000 to ESWA to date. Sha started the Sustainability program. How to get employees more engaged: Mike B suggested getting A-Basin employees involved in llama-supported trips; sawyer training. Mike N said any events ESWA has he'd like to send to employees, including adopt-a-trail by hand clearing; native seed collection; working with multi-generational A-Basin employees. Peak winter employment 350-380; year-round 100. April & Fall are best times for an event, or mid-week après ski (Krista, Mike H, and Karn volunteered for April event). A-Basin supports a monthly community free dinner at the Elks in Silverthorne.
  - Mike Mayrer suggested giving an ESWA membership to employees who've donated.
  - Mike B suggested asking Mike N to write an article on history of A-Basin sustainability program.
  - Joan suggested that A-Basin long-time employees could be interviewed for ski-area management from the 70s.

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)
  - What to call monthly planning meeting: Decided "Business Meeting" was most descriptive; elected to adopt that term, and revisit later if needed.
  - Committee structure updates: Steve explained that he'd combined THH & VWR and put this committee first on the chart. Steve is revising Leadership page on ESWA website to be "Who We Are." Steve and Mike B are finalizing Committee list. No separate communications "committee" for now; communications area includes Website (Steve, Cindy L, Bill), Publications Committee, and Social Media (not a committee). Keep sending routine website changes to Cindy L, while Bill works on more complicated updates. Current project is working on a letter-writing function for the Advocacy efforts.
  - Mail/Banking updates: Karn has been picking up ESWA mail, and depositing checks.
  - Joan and Zach reported on how to sign up for Amazon Smiles and City Market – Pubs Committee needs to include this in next e-newsletter.
  - CO Gives Day figures: Steve will work with Tom to get numbers for how much was given through the CGD website and through ESWA's Membership/Donation web page.
  - Joan said we need to update CGD entry on their website; Steve said he'd do this.
  - Frank talked about setting up donations through IRAs – Zach said he would add to donation page on website
- USFS Reports: Neither Kat nor Tyler attended.

- EHX educational signs: Kat emailed to Steve that she has sent language for the signs to Eagles Nest landscape architect, and is awaiting comments to share with us.

#### FINANCE AND BUDGET

- Tom Copper wasn't able to attend, but had e-mailed everyone financial updates.
- Mike B said there were no budget updates, as 2022 budget was approved at January meeting.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Signature Programs:

- Advocacy: Frances reported that:
  - ESWA had submitted comments to the USFS on 3 new trails in Vail Valley proposed by the USFS and VVMTA, and sent an Eaglet asking ESWA members to also submit comments. Fragmentation of wildlife habitat is chief concern.
  - CORE Act: Senate will be marking up bill soon, but not much hope that it will get out of Senate this year. Susie Kincade, who's spearheading CORE passage, needs several letters to the editor written for the Vail Daily from Vail residents.
  - Vail Daily Column: Mike B met with John LaConte, VD reporter, about getting a regular column.
  - Letter-writing function: At the AC's request, Krista Hughes reached out to Bill and Cindy to see what functionality WIX might have for letter-writing. This function would make letter writing quicker and allow ESWA to track responses.
  - Gore Range name change: The CO Geographic Naming Board may take up the Nuchu name change in March or April.
- Sawyer: Zach provided a presentation on ESWA branding for Sawyer teams. Meeting attendees approved blue helmets and vests, with ESWA logo, and thanked Zach for his work.
- Trailhead Hosting: Mike B reported that the THH Committee and Ken Christie, ESWA member, met with USFS Dillon RD Tyler Kirkpatrick. No fixed hosting day this year; THHs can select their days. Anyone who does at least 4 shifts/year can get their own kit. Will still need one trained VWR at table.
- Trail Project/Weeds: Steve said that Jim is working on NFF grant. Dave B provided llama trip dates: July 15-17 Nolan Lake, July 22-24 Willow Creek, Aug 12-14 either Gore Creek/Red Buffalo Pass or Lake Charles, Aug 19-21 Upper Cataract. Krista and Ken Christie offered to work together to coordinate llama trips. Krista and Steve offered to lead trips. Dave B said Tyler has requested help erecting new signs and providing maintenance for new trails that lead up to Wilderness; Dave B needs volunteers trained to do trail maintenance – Dave B may get certified to be a trainer.
- VWRs (Mike B, Mike M and Ken): May 21 training will follow the same format as last year, with choice of morning or afternoon session; possible 3<sup>rd</sup> session in summer for folks who can't make May. Mike M secured the Eagles Nest HOA pavilion for training. Dave O met with vets group, and they're eager to start; also, Mike B talked to Webb, also a vet, about a spring event for vets.

##### Support Committees:

- Communications area
  - Publications: Karn reported that the Summit Daily articles are in good shape. Frances said that ESWA has been publishing one article/month the in the Vail Daily through Walking Mountains' *Curious Nature* column.

- Fund Development: Steve said the Development Committee will seek business sponsorships starting at \$500 – let Steve know of any businesses that might be interested.
- Membership:
  - Recruiting: Mike B said that VWRs will need to also be ESWA members.
  - Events & Swag: Mike B emphasized the need for summer social events Covid permitting, and to let him know if any member wants to run an event. Joan wants to look into new swag – perhaps reusable shopping bags.

ADJOURNED 7:10.

TO DO:

All: Let Frances know if you have contacts in the Town of Vail who would be willing to write CORE Act letters of support.

All: Let Steve know of any businesses that might be ESWA sponsors.

All: Let Mike know if you're interested in organizing an ESWA summer social event.

Zach: Work on an update to ESWA website donation page for IRA donations.

Krista, Mike H, & Karn: Coordinating with Steve, follow up with Mike Nathan about ESWA support for and presence at April employee event at A-Basin.

Karn: For Nuchu name change, advise when a letter-writing campaign is needed, and draft updates to ESWA Nuchu website page for AC.

Joan & Karn: Coordinate following up with A-Basin's Mike Nathan to write an article on history of A-Basin sustainability program and also interviewing A-Basin long-time employees for article on ski-area management from the 70s.

Pubs Committee: Joan to write up instructions for signing up for Amazon Smiles and City Market programs; to be included in March e-newsletter.

Steve & Tom: Steve will work with Tom to get numbers for how much was given through the CGD website and through ESWA's Membership/Donation webpage.

Steve: Update ESWA's entry on the CO Gives Day website.

## **MINUTES - ESWA PLANNING MEETING 5:30 March 10, 2022 VIA ZOOM**

**Attendees:** Steve Elder, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Mike Browning, Tim Drescher, Frances Hartogh, Zach Kauk, Frank Gutmann, Susie Kincade, Mike Mayrer, Dave Owens, Karn Stiegelmeier, Tyler Kirkpatrick (USFS), and guest Jessica Foulis.

**Introductions & Featured Guest:** Chair Steve Elder welcomed attendees, and, with Susie Kincade, introduced Featured Guest [Jessica Foulis](#), ED of the Eagle Valley Land Trust (EVLT) and representing the Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable (ECWR). Discussion followed about how ESWA and ECWR might work together. ECWR's mission is to ensure that wildlife habitat issues are prioritized proactively in decision making in Eagle County at all levels. Jessica will follow up with Steve and Susie about ESWA joining the ECWR.

Tim enquired about planning for Sweetwater Lake, a recent EVLT acquisition earmarked for becoming a state park, expressing concern about too much park infrastructure, since it is a gateway to the Flat Tops Wilderness. Jessica said it is not too late for ESWA to submit comments (Tim and Frances will work on comments).

### **Officer/USFS Reports**

Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)

- Karn was congratulated for receiving HCC's Lifetime Achievement award in sustainability.
- Jim Alexander has been appointed to the Colorado Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee.
- Website: Steve thanked Bill for updating Who We Are and Trailhead Hosting pages of ESWA's website.
- Partnership updates
  - VVMTA - Mike B reported on meeting with VVMTA's ED, Ernest Saeger, including VVMTA's hiring a seasonal Wilderness Ranger for the USFS.
  - BHA – Steve reported on recent conversations with BHA, a possible ESWA partner.
  - CMC – Karn & Mike B reported on their communications with the CMC campuses on having ESWA summer interns.
- USFS Reports (Tyler Kirkpatrick)
  - Project updates: The FS has scheduled June 25-26 and July 23-24 crosscut events, location TBD.
  - Planning items for the season
    - Tyler requested assistance with erecting several signs and shields. Dave O and Frank will coordinate with Dave B and Tyler.
    - Tyler requested ESWA's assistance in tracking status of projects.
    - Signs for ENW: Since the Booth Lake trail redesign has been delayed, Frances asked if Tyler could use some signs on the Dillon sign. She will send the text of the ENW signs to Tyler for consideration.
  - Cost-Sharing Agreement: Mike B asked Tyler about the status of these agreements for DRD and EHX

**2/10/22 Business Meeting Minutes:** Frances asked for comments/changes to the February minutes. There were none, and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer's Report: In Tom's absence, Mike B said that Tom had distributed his budget report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Signature Programs:

- VWRs: Mike B and Mike M reported on the status of preparing for the May 21 new VWR training. Trainees can choose a morning or afternoon training session, preceded by on-their-own viewing of last year's 2-hour zoom session (will need to redo 2 videos). Eleven VWRs have signed up, and we are hoping for total of 24-30 once ads have appeared in SD and VD.
- Trail Project/Weeds: Tim shared the great news that he and his wife are expecting a baby this summer, and that he has therefore delegated managing the llama trips to Krista. Jim is working with FDRD to host two weed pulls - July 9 (probably Hunters Knob) and July 12 (probably Maryland Creek).
- Trailhead Hosting: Dave O and Mike B reported that Hosts may now choose their trailhead, day, and time of hosting.
- Sawyer: Zach reported that ESWA purchased a new crosscut saw and that sawyer uniforms have arrived and are being screen-printed.
- Advocacy: Frances thanked everyone who submitted comments to the USFS asking for better wildlife-impact analysis for the 3 proposed new trails in the Vail Valley. USFS has agreed to reevaluate 2 of the 3 trails. A full report of the AC's activities was not provided due to the Business Meeting being scheduled to end in a few minutes – contact Frances for details.

### Support Committees:

- Membership: Mike B said plans are underway for an Eagle- and a Summit-side kickoff event for new and returning VWRs, and that an order has been placed for additional Swag.
- Fund Development: Steve said that Jim is working on applications for grants from the National Forest Foundation, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, and The Summit Foundation. Steve is working on a sponsorship from US Bank and Mike Harrison from Copper Mountain. Several other businesses were suggested as possible sponsors for consideration by the committee.
- Communications area
  - Publications: Frances said that Get Wild articles are being regularly published in the Summit Daily by a range of authors organized by Karn. ESWA articles are appearing approximately monthly in the Vail Daily through the Curious Nature column. Frances asked for e-newsletter submittals by the middle of each month, including suggestions for the Member Forum – Karn could be the April member to be highlighted.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Karn provided an update on the Nuchu renaming process.

## **ADJOURN 7:30**

### **TO Dos:**

All: Send Frances and Mike B e-newsletter submittals by the middle of each month

Steve and Susie: Follow up with Jessica Foulis about ESWA joining the ECWR

Frances and Tim: Draft Sweetwater comments



Mike and Karn: Follow up with CMC about internships

Dave B, Dave O, Frank, Tyler: Coordinate sign and shield erection on Summit side

Frances: Send ENW educational sign text to Tyler.

## MINUTES ESWA PLANNING MEETING

April 14, 2022

5:30 to 7 pm VIA ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85901120596>

### OPENING MATTERS

- Welcome / Introduction of Guests (Steve): In Attendance – Susie Kincade, Steve Elder, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Zach Kauk, Frances Hartogh, Mike Browning, Frank Gutmann, Mike Meyrer, Dave Owens, Ken Christie, Tom Copper, Dave Brewster, Krista Hughes, Jim Alexander, Mike Harrison, Tim Drescher, Karn Stiegelmeier. Ken Christie introduced himself. He will be leading Upper Cataract llama trip, is a coder by profession, and will be ESWA's new website-support volunteer. Attendees introduced themselves to Ken.
- 3/10/22 Minutes: Approved with 2 corrections provided by Joan.

### IMPACT MATTERS

- **Grants/Weeds Update:** Jim Alexander reported ESWA received a grant from NFF for weeds \$30k (\$26k for weed treatments (Osborne), and \$4k for llama rentals). Jim has applied for a Summit Foundation grant for \$8675 and a National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance for \$5950.  
Weed pulls July 9 & 12. Additional on Eagle side, maybe hosted by Mike and Frances. Jim is talking to Copper and A-Basin about seed gathering, maybe also with Alpine Garden's seed bank – also an opportunity with Alpine Garden conservation scientist Emily Griffoul to id plants.  
Next grant season is fall 2022 for large projects, like new trail system, Lily Pad Lake. Everyone thanked Jim for his great work.

### OFFICER/USFS REPORTS

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom):
  - Frances reported that she and Mike met informally with EHX District Ranger Leanne Veldhuis on Monday. Great meeting, complimented Leanne on her fine staff, and made a pitch for ESWA getting a seat on the Eagle Co Wildlife Roundtable. Frances sent meeting notes to Steve. Frances, Karn, and Mike, attended FDRD's very successful Casino Night; said to have netted \$50k for FDRD.
  - Mike reported that the VD article on ESWA VWRs (also reprinted in the SD) resulted in 5-6 new applicants in each county.
  - Karn reported that the CGNAB had approved "Nuchu" as the new name for Squaw Creek in Summit County and "Colorow" for Squaw Creek in Eagle County. Frances thanked Karn and Susie for their successful efforts.
  - Business Sponsorship Updates: Steve - US Bank gave \$500 sponsorship and invited ESWA to apply for more through their national grants program. Bank is interested in employee-engagement events, *e.g.* seed collection.
  - Website help – Steve and Bill thanked Ken Christie who answered the e-newsletter request for a volunteer to help manage ESWA's website. Bill said to send website updates to Bill while Ken is first focusing on developing the

Trailhead Hosting online signup sheet. Cindy Levin is leaving website work, but will remain involved with ESWA, and is interested in event planning.

- Summer Monthly Business Meetings: It was decided to meet in person June-August. Need someone to take June minutes, in Frances's absence.
  - ESWA Zoom Account: Steve said ESWA will obtain its own professional Zoom meeting account for \$150 or less. Zach recommended Google business account, so we could use Google docs. Steve doesn't like GoogleMeets, but recognizes need for way to archive ESWA docs, likely on GoogleDocs
- USFS Reports (neither Tyler nor Kat attended)

### **FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer's Report: Tom reported on ESWA's finances per the email he sent. Tom will be out of the country until May 19.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Signature Programs:**

- **VWRs:**
  - Mike M - 38 VWRs are confirmed returning. Mike M is working on recertification of existing VWRs – started with 60 on Summit side; of 40 responses, only 2 are not returning – other 20 haven't responded.
  - Mike B - Nearly 50 people have expressed interest in May 21 training, 33 confirmed, 10 can't make it and we may try to do a July training for them. Mike B encouraging trainees to become members. VWR party for new & existing VWRs at Highside, June 8. Mike B talked to Etown for Eagle-side June 1 VWR social event.
- **Trailhead Hosting:** Mike B thanked Ken Christie for working on signup forms. On Sunday May 15 we will be assembling kits for THH and new VWRs at Betz cabin. Mike B is ordering new tables, Dave O ordering more banners, and Joan ordering other supplies. Frank coordinating July 2 Joint THH with FDRD Doozie, will try to cover 20 THs, with one FDRD, one ESWA THH. Ltd packet of handouts.
- **Sawyer:** Zach has 27 helmets and 40 vests. Training June 11-12, had some people bow out so 15 confirmed. Room for 2 more. Ann DalVera will train; Kat Bazan and Dave Brewster will assist on Sunday. Purchased a new felling saw, lighter than crosscut, but it's what was available – will see how it works. Zach will check if FDRD wants their helmets back.
- **Advocacy** (Frances) – will be reaching out to Bill for website Advocacy updates.
  1. Protect East Vail Bighorn Sheep winter habitat: This issue, long an ESWA Advocacy issue ESWA, came to the forefront this week with Vail Resorts' announcement of plans to construct high-density employee housing on the only critical winter habitat for bighorns in the valley. Mayor Langmaid requested emails to TOV Council encouraging them to condemn the property for wildlife habitat. Mike B and Frances submitted guest ops/LTEs to VD, and Mike, Susie, and Frances emailed council. Attendees agreed this issue merits a letter-writing campaign TOV/VR. Frances will send Bill text of Eaglet and email and Bill will finalize and mail, after deleting VIPs from mailing list.

2. Sweetwater Lake: ESWA filed comments with EVLT/CPW/USFS asking that any state park development be done in a minimally invasive manner, since Sweetwater is a gateway to the Flat Tops Wilderness and has important wildlife habitat and cultural resources
  3. Safe Wildlife Passages has been an Advocacy issue; now state bill CO SB22-151 Safe Crossings for Wildlife and Motorists would provide CDOT with funding.
  4. CORE Act & Booth fuels reduction: Mike B working on Booth comments, coordinating with Will Roush at Wilderness Workshop. ESWA won't oppose Booth burn, because it's in the WUI and we need to support fuels reduction so people won't object to future Wilderness designations. But important to have limited definition of WUI, and each future site to be considered on its own basis. On CORE, Susie said there's a last-minute scramble about boundary modifications to the Spraddle Creek addition to CORE, with a Senate markup scheduled for early May.  
Dave Brewster said FS fails to note importance of carbon sequestration in old-growth forests. Frances noted that intern Kaylin Lily has provided a literature search on this topic.  
Karn reported the FS is replanting lodgepoles rather than aspen in the Ptarmigan burn area.
  5. GNAB Renaming Campaign Nuchu-Squaw-Colorow: covered by Karn and Susie above.
- **Trail Project/Weeds:** Krista thanked Mike B for recruiting signups for llama trips, with more signups currently on Eagle than Summit side. Nolan has most with 10. Krista will email last year's attendees. Mike B will advertise in final set of ads and June e-newsletter. Tim mentioned VVMTA training available. Dave B and Tim are trained as Trail construction leaders; may do light training this year for Tyler's interns and ESWA
  - **Support Committees:**
    - Communications area
      - Publications: Karn and Frances provided a brief update.
      - Website:
      - Social Media:
    - Membership: Mike B
      - Recruiting is going well
      - Swag – ordered with Chris Turner's help
- Fund Development (Steve/Jim) have used US Bank Sponsorship to create program and info sheet

**FUTURE MATTERS:** Karn said that Emily Elder is putting together an Earth Day program for CMC students

**ADJOURNED: 7:30 pm**

**TO DO:**

FH send sign info to Dave B.

Steve follow up with Tyler about signs

Steve address ESWA system for records management

Frances work with Bill on East Vail Bighorn letter-writing campaign

## MINUTES ESWA BUSINESS MEETING

May 12, 2022

5:30 VIA ZOOM

### OPENING MATTERS

- Welcome/Introduction of Guests (Steve): Guest Adam Fenton. Attendees: Steve Elder, Frances Hartogh, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Mike Browning, Ken Harper, Tom Copper, Karn Stiegelmeier, Frank Gutmann, Dave Owens, Mike Mayer, Tim Drescher, Kat Bazan
- Agenda: Approved.
- 4/14/22 Minutes: Approved

### IMPACT MATTERS

- **Briefing on a Summer Pilot Project with kids!** Adam Fenton, ESWA VWR and Elementary Programs Manager for YouthPower365, a Vail Valley Foundation initiative that provides out-of-school support for students through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in underserved communities, presented his vision for a summer pilot program with ESWA. ESWA VWRs would lead hikes, with YouthPower365 in charge of logistics and liability. Adam said research shows that providing youth positive outdoor opportunities helps lead to valuing the natural environment. Proposed 4 hikes June 20-July15, for ages 9-12, 2-4 miles, 2.5-3 hours. Ken and Karn volunteered to lead hikes. Mike B and Frances will aim new VWR trainees to these volunteer positions. Kat said she supports, and will facilitate if needed.

### OFFICER/USFS REPORTS

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)
  - ESWA work in the Flat Tops: Steve reached out to FOW; they would welcome ESWA's work, since FOW doesn't focus on the area. Tim said this has been a dream of his for a long time, to grow ESWA. Tim said let's start with getting educational signs, and then VWRs out on patrol on trails out of Sweetwater. Kat is supportive, and sees a need, especially with new state park. Kat said Hilltop TH is a good place to start, and we could add hunting patrols this fall. Next time Kat modifies cost-sharing agreement, she will add Sweetwater/Flat Tops. Lead FS manager is from Blanco RD. Invasive weeds are the big issue, so weed-free feed is required. Paula Peterson is working on Sweetwater plan.
  - June 9 Business Meeting in person. Need a volunteer to take minutes; Frances will be traveling. Venue is Meadow Ck Park behind Frisco Whole Foods; Steve will reserve. DRD backup if inclement weather.
  - ESWA Video Call Update - Steve consulted with Zach, and thinks we should try Google Meets. Attendees agreed.
- USFS Reports –
  - Hiring - Kat said she is busy "onboarding" new employees including Mark Stenberger, but is still trying to hire a permanent Wilderness Ranger.
  - Extending USFS Ranger season - Kat asked if ESWA is interested in supporting the extension of rangers into the hunting season; \$5K to extend two seasonals 2 weeks. She would prepare collection agreement and send ESWA a bill. Oct 7-21 week in Flat Top; remainder day trips in Eagles Nest. Rangers would check hunting camps, which tend to be messy and waste poorly managed. Steve suggested we could ask Backcountry Hunters and Anglers to partner; Kat is supportive of that. She will need to know by July 1 if ESWA will support.
  - Wilderness Character Baseline assessments – Kat said she could use financial support to complete Wilderness character baseline assessment. Could use ESWA

funding to match a NWSA/WSP grant. Timeline may be fall application for 2023 money.

- Cost-sharing agreement – will be done by mid-June; ESWA should **NOT** bill to funds until new agreement is in place.

## FINANCE AND BUDGET

- Treasurer's Report – Tom summarized ESWA's financial situation, which is sound.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Signature Programs:

- Trail Project/Weeds – Tim, Ken, and Kat attended VVMTA's Adopt-a-Trail kickoff. ESWA now has a partner on Deluge, Reliable MC – Ken is in touch with them. Might do more-major work, like construction of steps. Karn said that Jim is working with several groups on weed projects, and projects are open to all.
- VWRs (Mike B, Mike M, and Ken): Ready for 5/21 training; may do 2<sup>nd</sup> training in July. Will have an observer from VVMTA at May 21 training.
- Trailhead Hosting (Dave O and Mike B): 3 more kits each side, total 6 each side. Ken Christie working on new signup program, similar to VWR signup program, but avoids multiple signups. Mike B will reach out to Ken Christie to make sure Kat can access the signup forms. Dave O has signs made for joint THH day. Frank is coordinating joint THH day with Doozie at FDRD.
- Advocacy (Frances) – *Update on approved Advocacy campaigns:*
  - CORE Act received 10-10 split vote in Committee, so will get vote in Senate.
  - East Vail Bighorns – Town of Vail passed 4-3 motion to begin condemnation action. Frances & Mike attended the May 3 Council meeting to formalize condemnation resolution, and thanked Council for moving forward to protect the sheep habitat.
  - Nuchu - Mt. Evans will be considered soon. ESWA could send support for name Blue Sky Peak, which was approved by both tribes. Good precedent for Nuchu.
  - Berlaimont - Wilderness Workshop had meeting in DC with USDA staff to try to urge them to kill the project. Mike will ask Peter Hart for an update.
  - - *Update Miscellaneous Advocacy-related:*
  - Eagle County Wildlife Roundtable: Mike B and Frances working with Leanne Veldhuis to get ESWA seat on Roundtable; Kat will check in with Leanne on status.
  - Rincon Mine (Dotsero gravel): Susie Kincade asked individuals to write letters and speak at May 18 planning board meeting.
  - Booth Fuels Reduction: Mike B filed ESWA comments by May 3 deadline.
  - EHX Educational Signs – Kat is waiting for cultural review to finalize language.
  - Winter Patrols – Initial discussions about developing pilot winter patrol program for Lily Pad and North Ten Mile trailheads.
  - Safe Wildlife Passages – State bill passed.
- Sawyer – 18 people signed up for Sawyer training. Discussion of whether ESWA should adopt Upper Piney as one of our sawyer trails; Ken says it gets a lot of downfall, and Ken agreed to be lead sawyer. ESWA will also take Pitkin, but not Deluge for now. Kat will help on day 2 sawyer training. ESWA is adopting two new trails on the Summit side as well. Zach sent a full report prior to the meeting.

### Support Committees:

- Fund Development (Steve/Jim);
  - Individual Giving – ESWA received \$1K anonymous gift through Summit Fdn.

- Grants - still waiting to hear from two. Agreed to renew NWSA membership \$75 - approved.
- Sponsorships: local US Bank gave \$500, and Steve is applying to national level for additional. Steve and Jim have developed a working list of potential sponsors, e.g., ski resorts, real estate.
- Communications area
  - Publications (Frances/Karn)
    - Summit Daily - Several summer articles will focus on ESWA programs: weeds, llamas, LNT, THH, VWR.
    - Vail Daily/Curious Nature article on Keep Your Dogs on Leash in Wilderness and Alpine Areas
    - E-newsletter: Send Frances and Mike B e-newsletter items by May 23. Will include Dave O's THH article.
  - Website (Steve/Bill). We are looking for a web-update person to help. Ken Christie is working on larger, web-related projects.

**FUTURE MATTERS:** Discuss process for selection of Advocacy campaigns.

**ADJOURN: 7:40 pm**

**TO DO:**

**Steve: Address logistics for June meeting**

**Add Annual Meeting to June Business Meeting Agenda**

**Reserve Meadow Ck Park for June 9 Business Meeting**

**Add to June agenda decision making for 2-week seasonal ranger extension**

**Kat: Follow up with Leanne re ESWA ECWR membership.**

**Let ESWA know estimated costs for Wilderness baseline assessment**

**Dave O: Send final THH story to Frances for e-newsletter**

**Mike B: Reach out to Ken Christie to make sure Kat can access THH signup forms.**

**FINAL MINUTES ESWA BUSINESS MEETING**  
**(prepared by Emily and Steve Elder)**  
**June 9, 2022**  
**5:30 to 7 pm**  
**Meadow Creek Park, 828 Meadow Creek Dr, Frisco**

**OPENING MATTERS: 5:45 pm**

- Attendees: Steve Elder, Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Tom Copper, Karn Stiegelmeier, Frank Gutmann, Dave Owens, Mike Mayer, Zach Kauk, Dave Brewster, Emily Elder
- Agenda: Approved
- 5/12/22 Minutes: Approved

**IMPACT MATTERS**

- **Wilderness Presentations** report (Bill): Bill has been invited to give seven talks about the Wilderness thanks to Cindy Levin, who is very active in the Rotary Club. Four of those talks have been on the Front Range, two in Summit County, and a seventh arose from an article in Vail Daily that took place in Minturn. Tom, Mike, Frances, and Susie all attended a presentation. At least two volunteers have joined as VWRs after these talks. To support his presentation, Bill has created a database comparing the five Wilderness protection organizations active in the area and their volunteer opportunities, which he can share upon request. This also presents an opportunity to capture a video of the presentation for on-demand viewing and other uses.

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)
  - At its most recent meeting, the EC took up the question from the May meeting of **supporting the E-HC Ranger District in extending the Wilderness Ranger season deeper into the fall**. The EC has identified funding to cover the \$5,000 cost, and would recommend we ask Kat to proceed to extend the ranger season in 2022. After this, we would ask her to assess with us how this went, and we would then make decisions about future years. \$5,000 to extend two additional rangers for two weeks. They would be checking hunting camps and doing other patrolling. We will do this on a one-year basis.

*From the May minutes: Extending USFS Ranger season - Kat asked if ESWA is interested in supporting the extension of rangers into the hunting season; \$5K to extend two seasonal 2 weeks. She would prepare collection agreement and send ESWA a bill. Oct 7-21 week in Flat Tops; remainder day trips in Eagles Nest. Rangers would check hunting camps, which tend to be messy and waste poorly managed.*

- The motion from Bill to support the extension was seconded by Karn and Tom.
- Discussion:
  - Summit County: Bill raised the question of whether the same extension would be possible in Summit County. Dave believes that Tyler already has the East side covered for the extended season, but Steve will confirm this with Tyler.



- Pilot Opportunity: Zach and Dave B requested that we treat this year as a demonstration project for the extended season, to show the usefulness and need in support of future funding. Future funding could come from the government or a grant that ESWA may identify and help apply for.
    - County Funding: Karn believes there may be an opportunity for funding through the county. Eagle County has Front Country Rangers for dispersed camping. She will follow up with more information.
      - Vote: Unanimously approved
  - Save the Bighorns: Steve sent out a report via email on the event he attended. He came away with the impression that there is a lot of community support for preserving that land. The town has voted to condemn it, but activist groups plan to buy it while appealing the town's decision. There are also plans to buy permits from domestic sheep herders. Being at that table will be very good for ESWA in building relationships and getting on the radar in the Vail area. We do not need to be part of the fundraising efforts. This work will be mission-aligned for us because the bighorn sheep's range includes our Wilderness.
- USFS Reports (Tyler and Kat): *not in attendance*
  - Llama Trips: Llamas will be delivered to Kat on the Eagle/Holy Cross Side on June 30
  - Reach out to Steve if there are any questions for Kat or Tyler

## **FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer's Report (Tom): Tom summarized ESWA's financial situation, which is sound
  - \$88K bank balance
  - \$37K Endowment after market declines

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Signature Programs:

- VWRs (Steve, Mike M and Ken)
  - Final June 11 planning
    - Logistics: Food and set-up are covered, but additional tables are welcomed.
    - Attendance: We will have 14 trainees and 6 Forest Service to train in the morning, 10 new trainees in the afternoon, and 12 trainers.
    - Specialized training: There are seven VWR trainees who cannot attend the June 11<sup>th</sup> or July 9<sup>th</sup> training (some because they are doing the sawyer training). These trainees will be viewing June 11 training and participating in robust mentor hikes to include delivery of their VWR shirt.
    - Videography: Ian Zinner will record the training on Saturday morning, likely with two cameras. He will do basic editing and create a version with captioning. We can use this content for recertification and special cases. This asset will cost \$500.
    - Waivers: If anyone shows up who has not completed the DocuSign, get their email and Zach will re-send the package to them. Zach will manage a single repository and a single process for the waivers.
    - List: Zach will send the most up to date list on the afternoon of June 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Report on VWR gatherings

- Eagle: The VWRs met at the E-Town Brewery in Edwards (Karn, Zach, Steve attended). An older CMC student in the Sustainability program was very fired up about getting involved with ESWA and will be at the training on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The attendance indicated that participation is growing on the Eagle side.
  - Summit: The VWRs met at the Highside Brewery in Frisco. Zach signed up a pair of young men to volunteer as sawyers. They are friends of Jack Divney (a new ranger who will be training in the special group). Dave O talked to several new members and one of them heard about ESWA when skiing with a friend and noticing the sticker on his ski.
- Trailhead Hosting (Dave O and Frank)
  - July 2 planning and promotion: we currently have 1 signed up, FDRD has 21
    - Frank will send out an email to all experienced VWRs, and get the list from Mike
    - We will change the VWR training sign-up sheet to general THH sign ups
    - The goal is to make sure we have at least one ESWA ranger at each Wilderness trailhead: need an additional 9 or 10 who have been rangers for at least a year
  - Q&A: Dave O has finalized a Q&A to let people know how the process works
- Sawyer (Zach and Ken)
  - Final June 11-12 planning
    - Sawyers meet on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 for classroom training led by Ann Del Vera.
    - Saturday and Sunday sawyers will be working on the new Maryland Creek Trail to start clearing the 120 trees (to be completed on Tuesday by certified sawyers).
    - The training will add about 15 new sawyers this weekend
  - Progress to date: 9 clearing events this season between Eagle and Summit
    - 131 volunteer hours
    - 163 trees cleared
    - 5 of 10 Summit trails have been touched
    - 3 of 6 Eagle trails have been touched
  - DocuSign: Please report issues with DocuSign to Zach
    - Noted that if two people share an email, they can't both fill out a separate form
    - Need to include Krista with Llama Trip sign ups – Dave B will connect with her on that
  - Lists: Zach recommends that we keep a live list of all volunteers in Google Sheets
    - Can link to it rather than sending it around
    - Can set up custom permissions
    - Has different columns for programs and tracking key statistics, which can be used to filter the list
    - Errors, unsubscribes, and updates will be available to everyone using the list immediately
    - All agreed: Zach will lead the effort in the short term and we will find a manager in the near future (e.g. Volunteer Coordinator).
- Trail Projects/Weeds (Dave B, Jim, and Tim)
  - Dave and Tyler are walking Maryland Creek Trail on June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - There are many signs to install this year

- Dave B is planning a sign installation day on July 16<sup>th</sup> (to be defined with Tyler)
- Advocacy (Karn)
  - The Nuchu Range renaming has been pushed back on state naming board, we are unsure when that will happen.
  - Sierra Club Beaver Film at CMC: There was a lot of interest in making beaver restoration happen. The advocates in attendance determined that CPW needs to lead the effort, and they need money to do so. This would require legislation specifically funding the process. This is a future matter for the Advocacy Committee to discuss.

#### Support Committees:

- Communications area
  - Publications (Karn)
  - Website (Steve/Bill)
  - Social Media
- Membership (Steve)
  - Events & Swag
    - Volunteer Fair on June 14<sup>th</sup> – Steve will bring it to the committee to investigate for current and future years
- Fund Development (Steve/Jim)
  - Grants: Jim secured a grant from The Summit Foundation for \$4,300

#### **FUTURE MATTERS**

- The Summit Foundation grant expenditure (Jim Alexander)
- Beaver Restoration advocacy efforts (Karn)

#### **ADJOURN: 7:22 PM**

#### **TO DO**

- Steve: finalize the agreement to extend the Ranger season with Kat/Tyler
- Zach: create a training on the new Master Volunteer List in Google Sheets
- Frank: send an email to the experienced rangers for the joint THH day on July 2<sup>nd</sup>

## MINUTES - ESWA BUSINESS MEETING

July 14, 2022

5:30 to 7:25 pm

By Zoom

### OPENING MATTERS

- Steve welcomed attendees Kat Bazan (USFS), Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Mike Browning, Frank Gutmann, Zach Kauk, Tyler Kirkpatrick (USFS), Mike Meyrer, Dave Owens, Karn Stiegelmeier
- **Action:** Approved Agenda
- **Action:** Approved 6/9/22 Minutes

### IMPACT MATTERS

- **Surprise Lake Trail Building** report: Zach reported that ESWA Sawyers cleared path for reroute of new trail, with 16 volunteers on Saturday and 14 Sunday, cleared over 500 trees (see email). Zach noted that it was important to scout trail ahead of time, especially with large groups coming. New vests and helmets worked well, but more smaller vests are needed. Tyler reported that with ESWA's and RMYC's efforts, Surprise Lake reroute is cleared. Tyler thanked ESWA for our work, and asked that we not publicize the new trail corridor. Tyler predicts 2-3 more seasons for completion. Tyler mentioned that Pitkin Creek and East Lake Creek need sawyering. Zach is in touch with Ken about both trails.

### OFFICER/USFS REPORTS

- Executive Committee Report
  - Steve provided an update on Extension of Eagle Holy Cross Wilderness Rangers through October
  - **Action:** ESWA attendees reviewed and voted unanimously to approve ESWA liability and D&O insurance.
  - Financials provided by Tom prior to meeting.
- USFS Reports (Tyler and Kat) Kat thanked everyone for their hard work. Steve said he signed cost share agreement. Kat has sent agreements for extending season with ESWA funding.
  - Kat discussed the need for funding and support for Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Wilderness Character baselines as part of new WSP (Wilderness Stewardship Performance). She proposed (1) loading ESWA's agreement with \$25k of USFS money to complete baseline assessments for EN & Ptarmigan, with ESWA providing \$5K match; and (2) using Society for Wilderness Stewardship fellow(s) to provide work (ESWA would help select and then contract with a SWS fellow). **Action:** ESWA attendees reviewed and voted unanimously to approve Kat's proposal. Mike, Frances, Karn, Steve, and Joan will serve on subcommittee to oversee process. Big thanks from Kat for approving.
  - Project Updates: Tyler requested update on grant funding for signage and Boulder Bridge; Steve confirmed we have funding, and will connect Jim with Tyler.
  - Planning Items for the Season: July 16 trail project with Brewster, starting to install signs. Tyler said first llama trip to Slate Lake is planned; Boulder Creek bridge will be hauled in by packstring. 2<sup>nd</sup> llama trip not going to Willow but to Slate instead; Krista leading; Steve thanked Tyler for communicating so well.

- WRV is doing crosscut weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>, and ESWA is welcome to join – in S. Gore including Summit side to Gore Creek graves. FH sent pix of logs above graves to Tyler, Kat, and Zach.
- Steve asked about Willowbrook TH volunteer rangers and parking problems. Tyler says the TH is Town of Silverthorne land, not USFS. Dave Owens suggested Silverthorne provide better signage. Karn said the signage is adequate, but folks need to walk 1.5 miles through subdivisions to access. Tyler agreed the parking is not an ESWA VWR problem. Steve and Karn will draft a note to VWR's for the e-newsletter, telling VWRs what to advise the public about parking.
- Karn will send Tyler draft Ptarmigan sign.
- Flat Tops update: Almost ready for patrols!

## FINANCE AND BUDGET

- Treasurer's Report (Tom)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Signature Programs:

- VWRs (Steve, Mike M)
  - Report on VWR trainings – trained 42 new VWRs
  - Mentor hikes are almost complete.
- Trailhead Hosting: July 2 joint hosting with FDRD was a success.
- Sawyer (reported above)
- Trail Projects/Weeds (Dave B, Jim, and Tim): 2,000 weeds removed at 2 weed pulls. Jim and Steve will attend July 27 Play Forever conference at Copper
- Advocacy (Karn/Frances): CORE – Susie Kincade received funding from Wilderness Workshop to support CORE passage through end of year, and will direct 2 CORE hikes: Camp Hale August 12 and Hoosier Ridge August 18. Nuchu – Karn predicts no further action until next year.

### Support Committees:

- Communications area
  - Publications (Karn/Frances): Frances needs e-newsletter updates by morning of 7/27.
  - Website (Steve/Bill): send website updates to Jane Collignon with cc Bill and Steve. Mike M requested new picture on website to replace that of FDRD ranger.
- Events & Swag: **Action:** Unanimously decided that Annual Meeting will be held Sept 24, 4-7pm (Zach booked venue) at HOA clubhouse, and will be merged with VWR and Sawyer event. Joan and Mike B organizing. Swag: Joan says we need to order more t-shirts.

## FUTURE MATTERS

Next meeting Bighorn Park Aug 11

## TO DO'S:

**All: Send Frances e-newsletter content by morning of July 27.**

**Ellie and Joan: Order more ESWA t-shirts.**

**Steve and Karn: Draft a note to VWRs for the e-newsletter about Willowbrook parking.**

**Karn: Send Tyler draft Ptarmigan sign.**

**ADJOURN 7:25**

**MINUTES - ESWA BUSINESS MEETING**  
**August 11, 2022 5:30pm**  
**Bighorn Park, East Vail**

**OPENING MATTERS**

- Welcome (Steve): Attendees Kat Bazan, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Tim Drescher, Steve Elder, Ellie Finlay, Frank Gutmann, Frances Hartogh, Susie Kincade, Mike Mayrer, Karn Stiegelmeier, Dave Owens, Ken Harper. Guests Kelly Drescher, Samuel Drescher, Linda Palmer
  - Happy Birthday was sung to newest ESWAn, Samuel Drescher, and a cake was consumed.
- Approved 7/14/22 Minutes

**IMPACT MATTERS**

- During a recent patrol, a VWR encountered a 40-person highschool Nordic ski club on Uneva, trampling the tundra and playing loud music; Steve spoke with team leader, who apologized.

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)
  - Annual Business Meeting Planning – Sept 24, 4-7 pm
    - Planning Items: Who to invite?: VWRs, dues-paying members, other volunteers. Organizers are Susie, Joan, Mike B, Karn, Dave Brewster.
    - Currie Craven Award Committee: Mike B, Chair; Frank G, Dave B, and Ellie.
    - Photo Contest Committee: Jean Decesaris has been invited to Chair; Dave O has agreed, Tim D has agreed, Stan Wagon has been asked. Moved and approved to open photo submittals to anyone who isn't on the selection committee, and to let the committee consider prize categories (e.g, close-ups vs distance).
- USFS Reports (Kat was present; Tyler was unable to attend)
  - Project Updates
    - Wilderness Character Baseline Assessments: FS has \$40k and can fund fellows to conduct baseline assessments - ESWA funds not needed this time. But a future opportunity for ESWA to fund assessments for HX and FT. Wilderness Stewardship Performance is how FS tracks management of Wilderness Areas – water, wildlife, air quality, solitude – e.g., how's Wilderness character doing in Wilderness? To develop trends. 2 assessments over 6 months in Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan
    - Surprise Lake: Dave B reported that the RMYC had completed clearance of the new route, and were starting on the tread.
    - Signs: August 25 sign erection for EHX educational signs, USFS needs 4 ESWA volunteers; for grant purposes, Kat welcomes ESWA charging cost of new sign-erection supplies to replenish current supplies.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer's Report (Tom – submitted). Steve and Jim working on grant opportunities.

- Steve added to the minutes afterwards that we received \$1,555 from A-Basin the day of the meeting, taking their YTD contribution to \$5,602, well over the \$5,000 projection for the year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Signature Programs:

- VWRs: Mike B. said ESWA is on track with patrols, but needs more Trailhead Hosting. Next year, mentor hikes will be organized before the training. Working on VWR of the year award.
- Trailhead Hosting (Dave O): Numbers are down for 2022. How to bring back up? One thing he will do is contact people – about 20 - who hosted last year, but have not this year.
- Sawyers (Zach and Ken): Steve complimented the Sawyer program on its accomplishments this season.
- Trail Projects/Weeds (Dave B): Steve complimented Dave B's report, including the section on negative effect on environment of people using apps to create unsanctioned trails and his concept of "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" concept around trail maintenance.
- Advocacy (Karn/Frances)
  - Old-Growth Endorsement: On Earth Day, Pres Biden announced an EO to require Depts of Interior and Ag to define "mature and old-growth forests" and define where they are on public lands within one year. Comments due Aug 15. Frances will write.
  - Steve asked the AC to look into detriments of use of apps, e.g., sending folks off trail and creating new trails.

### Support Committees:

- Communications area
  - Publications (Karn/Frances): Frances thanked Emily Elder for her help with the e-newsletter. For upcoming SD Get Wild articles, Mike B will write on llama trips; Dave B trails and weeds; Steve mountain lions; Steve ESWA activities. Frances will reach out to WMSC to see if they need authors for Curious Nature.
  - Website (Steve/Bill): Still need help on website; Jane C is helping some.
- Fund Development: Steve and Jim are working on grant opportunities. They will also update text and design for ESWA Colorado Gives Day materials.
- Swag: Mike B and Dave O will get digital version of artwork from Chris Turner, and send to Ellie. Ellie will order additional t-shirts and hats. Ellie is also obtaining info on shopping bags and embroidered patches.

## **FUTURE MATTERS: Sept 1 meeting will be via Zoom on Sept 8, 5:30**

### **TO DO'S:**

All: Volunteer for August 25 EHX sign erection.

All: Volunteer for Trailhead Hosting.

Steve, Mike B, and Dave B: Write articles for Summit Daily.

Steve and Emily: update text and design for ESWA Colorado Gives Day materials.

Mike B and Dave O: Get digital version of swag artwork from Chris Turner, and send to Ellie.

Ellie: Order more swag, as needed.

Frances & Jim: Coordinate grant expenditures for EHX signs and materials

Frances:



- Coordinate apps research with AC.
- Contact WMSC to write future articles in Vail Daily.
- Draft comments on old-growth forest EO and on big-game issues.

**ADJOURN: 7:40pm**

**FINAL MINUTES - ESWA BUSINESS MEETING**  
**September 8, 2022**  
**5:30 Via Zoom**

**OPENING MATTERS**

- Welcome: Steve Elder, Chair, welcomed attendees Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Mike Browning, Mike Mayrer, Frank Gutmann, Ken Harper, Dave Brewster, Tom Copper, Frances Hartogh
- Agenda approved with no revisions.
- 8/11/22 Minutes approved with no revisions.

**IMPACT MATTERS**

- New Endowment: Tom reported an upcoming significant contribution to the ESWA endowment. Entitled The Alan D. and Dian H. Wilson Endowment for Wilderness Endowment for Wilderness, the purpose is to “support ESWA’s work in stewarding, educating, and advocating for our local Wilderness Areas and the principles of Wilderness preservation. There is a particular interest in, though not a restriction to, engaging youth in Wilderness and Wilderness principles.” Tom said that the funds will not be required to exist in a specific subfund of the Summit Foundation-ESWA funds. A discussion ensued on how to recognize large donors – e.g., with a lifetime ESWA membership, recognition in a Legacy Society, or similar. Steve will follow up with the Fund Development Committee.

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

- Executive Committee Report:
  - Steve and Mike B reported on status of planning the September 24 Annual Celebration. Joan reported 40 RSVPs. Awards: Only 13 photos submitted, and editing services may be warranted and will be offered. A \$25 gift certificate will be provided to award winners. The Rookie of the Year Award may take into account other services to ESWA, such as promotion, in addition to number of patrols.
  - Wild & Scenic Film Festival: Steve proposed that ESWA participate with A-Basin in next year’s Festival, to be offered at the Riverwalk Center in Summit County. Board concurred, on condition that a satisfactory agreement be reached with A-Basin as to finances and time commitment.
  - Grant Funding Strategy update: Steve reported that Jim met with Kat and Tyler regarding their short-term grant needs, most of which have been met, and will meet again with them in the winter to determine long-term needs. Tom said there are approximately \$4000 more in NWSA grant funds to be spent in the 5 months following August 1. Joan suggested printing additional trifold brochures. Steve will also check with Tyler about any needed signs.
- USFS Reports (Kat & Tyler were unable to attend)

**FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer’s Report: Tom submitted his report in advance of the meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Signature Programs:

- VWRs: Mike B submitted a report in advance of the meeting.
- Trailhead Hosting: Dave O was unable to attend. Mike B submitted a report in advance of the meeting.

- Sawyers: Zach submitted a report in advance of the meeting.
- Trail Projects/Weeds: Ken said there is a need for one more Adopt-a-Trail Work Day on Deluge, and September 29 was selected. Dave B and Mike B can attend, and an Eaglet will be prepared to recruit additional volunteers. Dave B expressed hope that an ESWA Adopt-A-Trail on the Summit side could become a reality.
- Advocacy: Frances provided an update on the CORE Act. The Act can't pass the current US Senate, prompting recent efforts by state and national elected officials to protect some of the CORE lands by urging President Biden to create the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument. Locally, this would provide protection from development for Camp Hale and portions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Range. The board agreed that ESWA would provide a letter of support for this approach, but strongly urging that the monument be expanded to include additional Wilderness lands in Eagle and Summit County and that our elected leaders continue to fight for passage of the full Act.

Support Committees:

- Communications area
  - Publications: Frances requested authors for Tuesday's column in the Summit Daily and for three upcoming articles in the Vail Daily.

**ADJOURNED 7:30 pm**

**TO DO:**

**Steve: Follow up with Fund Dev on best ways to recognize large donors.**

**FINAL MINUTES - ESWA BUSINESS MEETING**  
**August 11, 2022 5:30pm**  
**Bighorn Park, East Vail**

**OPENING MATTERS**

- Welcome (Steve): Attendees Kat Bazan, Bill Betz, Joan Betz, Dave Brewster, Mike Browning, Tim Drescher, Steve Elder, Ellie Finlay, Frank Gutmann, Frances Hartogh, Susie Kincade, Mike Mayrer, Karn Stiegelmeier, Dave Owens, Ken Harper. Guests Kelly Drescher, Samuel Drescher, Linda Palmer
  - Happy Birthday was sung to newest ESWAn, Samuel Drescher, and a cake was consumed.
- Approved 7/14/22 Minutes

**IMPACT MATTERS**

- During a recent patrol, a VWR encountered a 40-person highschool Nordic ski club on Uneva, trampling the tundra and playing loud music; Steve spoke with team leader, who apologized.

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

- Executive Committee Report (Steve, Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)
  - Annual Business Meeting Planning – Sept 24, 4-7 pm
    - Planning Items: Who to invite?: VWRs, dues-paying members, other volunteers. Organizers are Susie, Joan, Mike B, Karn, Dave Brewster.
    - Currie Craven Award Committee: Mike B, Chair; Frank G, Dave B, and Ellie.
    - Photo Contest Committee: Jean Decesaris has been invited to Chair; Dave O has agreed, Tim D has agreed, Stan Wagon has been asked. Moved and approved to open photo submittals to anyone who isn't on the selection committee, and to let the committee consider prize categories (e.g, close-ups vs distance).
- USFS Reports (Kat was present; Tyler was unable to attend)
  - Project Updates
    - Wilderness Character Baseline Assessments: FS has \$40k and can fund fellows to conduct baseline assessments - ESWA funds not needed this time. But a future opportunity for ESWA to fund assessments for HX and FT. Wilderness Stewardship Performance is how FS tracks management of Wilderness Areas – water, wildlife, air quality, solitude – e.g., how's Wilderness character doing in Wilderness? To develop trends. 2 assessments over 6 months in Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan
    - Surprise Lake: Dave B reported that the RMYC had completed clearance of the new route, and were starting on the tread.
    - Signs: August 25 sign erection for EHX educational signs, USFS needs 4 ESWA volunteers; for grant purposes, Kat welcomes ESWA charging cost of new sign-erection supplies to replenish current supplies.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer's Report (Tom – submitted). Steve and Jim working on grant opportunities.

- Steve added to the minutes afterwards that we received \$1,555 from A-Basin the day of the meeting, taking their YTD contribution to \$5,602, well over the \$5,000 projection for the year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Signature Programs:

- VWRs: Mike B. said ESWA is on track with patrols, but needs more Trailhead Hosting. Next year, mentor hikes will be organized before the training. Working on VWR of the year award.
- Trailhead Hosting (Dave O): Numbers are down for 2022. How to bring back up? One thing he will do is contact people – about 20 - who hosted last year, but have not this year.
- Sawyers (Zach and Ken): Steve complimented the Sawyer program on its accomplishments this season.
- Trail Projects/Weeds (Dave B): Steve complimented Dave B's report, including the section on negative effect on environment of people using apps to create unsanctioned trails and his concept of "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" concept around trail maintenance.
- Advocacy (Karn/Frances)
  - Old-Growth Endorsement: On Earth Day, Pres Biden announced an EO to require Depts of Interior and Ag to define "mature and old-growth forests" and define where they are on public lands within one year. Comments due Aug 15. Frances will write.
  - Steve asked the AC to look into detriments of use of apps, e.g., sending folks off trail and creating new trails.

### Support Committees:

- Communications area
  - Publications (Karn/Frances): Frances thanked Emily Elder for her help with the e-newsletter. For upcoming SD Get Wild articles, Mike B will write on llama trips; Dave B trails and weeds; Steve mountain lions; Steve ESWA activities. Frances will reach out to WMSC to see if they need authors for Curious Nature.
  - Website (Steve/Bill): Still need help on website; Jane C is helping some.
- Fund Development: Steve and Jim are working on grant opportunities. They will also update text and design for ESWA Colorado Gives Day materials.
- Swag: Mike B and Dave O will get digital version of artwork from Chris Turner, and send to Ellie. Ellie will order additional t-shirts and hats. Ellie is also obtaining info on shopping bags and embroidered patches.

## **FUTURE MATTERS: Sept 1 meeting will be via Zoom on Sept 8, 5:30**

### **TO DO'S:**

All: Volunteer for August 25 EHX sign erection.

All: Volunteer for Trailhead Hosting.

Steve, Mike B, and Dave B: Write articles for Summit Daily.

Steve and Emily: update text and design for ESWA Colorado Gives Day materials.

Mike B and Dave O: Get digital version of swag artwork from Chris Turner, and send to Ellie.

Ellie: Order more swag, as needed.

Frances & Jim: Coordinate grant expenditures for EHX signs and materials

Frances:

**ADJOURN: 7:40pm**

- Coordinate apps research with AC.
- Contact WMSC to write future articles in Vail Daily.
- Draft comments on old-growth forest EO and on big-game issues.

**FINAL MINUTES ESWA BUSINESS MEETING**  
**November 10, 2022 5:30 Via Zoom**

**OPENING MATTERS**

- Welcome by Steve: Attendees Joan Betz, Bill Betz, Mike Browning, Tom Copper, Frank Gutmann, Frances Hartogh, Dave Owens, Karn Stiegelmeier
- Review/Approve Agenda (Steve)
- Review/Approve 10/6/22 Minutes (Frances) – approved with no changes

**IMPACT MATTERS**

- What was your favorite ESWA accomplishment of 2022? Attendees shared highlights of the 2022 season. Kat said that she especially enjoyed working with the Sawyer training.

**OFFICER/USFS REPORTS**

- Executive Committee Report (Karn, Mike, Frances, Tom)
  - Budget Update (Tom/Mike B): Tom and Mike B put together a spreadsheet and table, and EC is reviewing. Will consult committee chairs. Will submit proposed budget to board at December meeting, for board to approve by February
  - Committee and Leadership Updates (Karn): Karn is working with coordinating committees and committee leadership in preparation for 2023.
  - Wild & Scenic Film Festival (Karn/Steve): Contract signed with A-Basin. Ready to start reviewing films. Confirming January 14 date with the venue. Will sell concessions - swag and refreshments. Riverwalk venue will sell alcohol.
- USFS Reports (Kat)
  - 2023 initial planning for grants and projects: Had a productive meeting with Mike B, Jim, and Steve.
    - Wilderness Character Baseline Assessment for HX is top priority, hopefully funded by National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance grant.
    - Preliminary planning is taking place for 2023 llama trips.
    - Flat Tops WA USFS-VWR hike planned for summer
    - Hunting patrol extension was for one week only, due to Camp Hale requirements for rangers – one week in Flat Tops, 1 day in HX – so some money that ESWA granted will be rolled forward to 2023. WRs contacted 22 hunters.
    - Will plan outreach to hunting guides and others, through brochure and otherwise. Hoping to hire Mark Steinbrecher on as FT Wilderness ranger.
    - Booth Lake trail bighorn closure May – June 20 – had “small NEPA” day and decided to do more scoping since it’s a big deal to close trail for 6 weeks, and will go on SOPA schedule of proposed action.

## **FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- Treasurer's Report (Tom): Steve thanked Tom for his great budget update.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Signature Programs:

- VWRs (Mike B): Planning to combine VWR and THH committees. Dave O will prepare survey for VWRs who didn't do 2022 patrols.
- Trailhead Hosting (Mike B, Dave O): see above. Perhaps require each VWR to do at least 1 THH session
- Sawyers (Zach and Ken): Zach sent a report.
- Trail Projects/Weeds: Steve is excited about the llama trips and trail projects based on meeting with Kat, and will arrange meeting for same purposes with Tyler.
- Advocacy (Karn/Frances) AC sent a status report. Karn reaching out to tribes for continuing support for Gore Range name change.

### Support Committees:

- Membership (Mike B): Mike B sent status report. Mike B said some large checks have been received, but few member-renewals. HCN & e-newsletter feature CO Gives Day. Trying to clean up membership list. Steve suggested tying in with film festival – member discount, plus link to joining. Discussion held re whether to add reusable shopping bags to our swag. Dave O recommended buying 100 bags and gauging their popularity. Joan will get a sample bag.
- Communications area
  - Publications (Karn/Frances): Karn and Frances sent status report. Mike B will write an article on the history of the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan WA's, with reference to indigenous people who inhabited WAs. Susie will write article for Vail Daily-WMSC on Ute history in Eagle/Summit counties.
  - Website (Steve/Bill): Bill is working with Colleen to finalize user guides for website modifications, MailChimp, GoDaddy. Steve is working on Flat Tops content for website.
- Fund Development (Steve): Committee had great meeting. Focused on Jim's grants, and on film festival sponsorships.

**FUTURE MATTERS:** Dave O suggested that ESWA have more regularly scheduled social events, so we have a venue for inviting new members or interested others.

## **ADJOURN 7:14 pm**

### **TO DO:**

**All: Jim needs volunteers for grants and weed activities – see reports below for details.**

**AC needs volunteers to write LTEs to protect bighorn habitat.**

**AC needs volunteer to review FENW bylaws and adapt to ESWA.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**



## **Advocacy- Frances**

Some updates on our Advocacy campaigns:

**Nuchu:** Karn reports that we are moving forward with more Get Wild and Curious Nature articles focusing on the history of the Utes living here for thousands of years, the removal of the Utes from their homelands, and a reminder of the Squaw Ck name changes in Summit and Eagle to Nuchu and Colorow. We will be connecting with more Utes and other Indigenous people who can be speakers when our name change comes before the CO Geographic Naming Board. The Board members have shown great respect for Native peoples' comments. We know we need them to speak at the Gore-to Nuchu-meeting, which is likely this summer. Mt Evans changing to Mt. Blue Sky will take up the next meetings in Nov. and Dec. Then, other name-change candidates are scheduled for hearing before our Range change.

**CORE Act and Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument:** At Camp Hale on October 12, President Biden signed the document creating the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument. AC member Susie Kincade was with the president for the signing. Susie, Karn, Frances, and Mike B attended the celebration at Donovan Pavilion that afternoon. Special thanks Susie Kincade for her 14 years of work to protect the CORE lands, and to make the Monument a reality.

Creation of the Monument triggers a several-year process for negotiation of the Monument charter. ESWA will continue to be involved. While everyone would have preferred that the CORE Act had passed, the Monument will provide some protection for some of the CORE lands. ESWA will continue to work with Wilderness Workshop to keep pressure on Senator Bennet and others to secure eventual CORE passage.

**East Vail Bighorns:** Vail Resorts turned down the Town's offer of \$12 million to purchase the bighorn habitat. The Town has moved to commence condemnation proceedings, while also creating a fund to which the public can contribute to support the effort. Susie recommended that the AC facilitate a letter-writing campaign, especially from Vail Valley residents, supporting the Town's preserving the property and encouraging Vail Resorts to keep their "Epic Promise" by accepting the Town's purchase offer and multiple offers for alternate parcels for VR employee housing. The Vail Daily has published letters by Colleen Gauron and Frances, and Tim is working on a letter. Anyone willing to author a letter should let Frances know.

**Berlaimont:** In September, developers filed suit against the USFS to force WRNF Superintendent Scott Fitzwilliams to issue a final decision. Mike B has shared the Complaint and is working with Wilderness Workshop to stay on top of further developments.

**Whitney Reservoir aka Homestake III:** Mike B continues to work with the Eagle River Watershed Council and Wilderness Workshop. There are concerns about the reasons for delay of release of last year's drilling data. Susie is raising these

concerns with Bennet's staff in the hopes that the Monument charter will include conditions securing Eagle River continuing flows and no new diversions.

**Booth fuels:** The Town of Vail and USFS will release the proposed plan and Environmental Assessment in early 2023.

**Bylaws:** The bylaws are still FENW's – FENW precedes the transition to ESWA, done in part to allow ESWA to advocate. The bylaws should be updated.

### **Grants – Jim Alexander**

There are several grant opportunities coming up in 2023 with the National Forest Foundation, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, The Summit Foundation. This year we will focus the grants around specific targets. So far we have two projects in mind and one that needs further specification:

1. The regular WeedSpotter Project to be submitted to NFF
2. Kat is organizing a Wilderness Stewardship Performance Project to be submitted to NSWA.
3. I recommend we submit a grant to NSWA for supporting Llamas and LLama trip supplies... who can pull that together?

### **Membership – Mike Browning**

The Membership Committee met last week. Notes from that meeting are below. The Committee is currently working on dues renewals and going through our Master List to contact and perhaps cull out folks who have not paid dues or done any volunteer work for the last 2-3 years, or don't respond to our entreaties.

1. MFB is hereby asking Steve to put Swag on the agenda for our 11/10 Business Meeting so we can discuss what the leadership thinks about ordering ESWA branded shopping bags. JOAN - Can you present the costs, styles, possible swag for higher dues levels, sales price, etc. MFB will see where we stand currently on the budget.
2. JOAN will check with Ellie to see where we stand on ordering more patches.
3. JOAN will resend to MFB the sublist of non-paying, non-participating persons she and Zach prepared. MFB will look it over, talk with Merry Lynne, and email all of you his thoughts on culling. We can discuss this at the 11/10 meeting and get Leadership buy-in.
4. MFB will call a VWR Committee meeting after the first of the year and we will discuss reviewing non-or under-participating VWRs and what to do about them.
5. MFB will draft lead articles for the December and January e-newsletters about dues renewals.
6. We decided against sending any reminder to members on CO Gives Day itself, or any special Eaglet about dues renewal in December.
7. JOAN will let MFB know if he can help delivery the mini-HCN or photo notecards to Ellie.

### **Publications - Karn and Frances, Pubs Committee Co-Chairs**

1. Hard Copy Newsletter: Joan did a great job preparing the "mini" (one-page front and back) hard-copy newsletter, focusing on a recap by Chair Steve Elder, an update on Colorado Gives Day, and a thanks to member-donors who've donated through October 1, 2022. The mini-HCN is at the printer, and will be ready this

week. Joan and team will fold the mini-HCN into thirds, and insert them into envelopes with the ESWA return address. Thanks to Joan and team for all the fine work!

2. E-Newsletter: The e-newsletter went out on November 1. Thanks to Emily Elder for her desktop publishing skills.

3. SD Get Wild updates: Nuchu - Karn is coordinating with Frances and the Advocacy Committee on a series of articles to pave the way for the proposed Nuchu name change. Mike Harrison wrote a great article on the history of the Ute people in Summit County, and the need for renaming the Gore Range.

4. Vail Daily Curious Nature columns – Frances: These appear approximately monthly. The October column was on *Animal Eyeshine*. Frances submitted the first November column, *Shifting Winters and Climate Change*, on Nov 7. The next assigned topic is the *Science of Colors*, but we have asked WMSC if we could switch to an Indigenous Peoples topic, which Susie Kincade has offered to author.

#### **Volunteer Wilderness Rangers – Mike Browning**

VWR Committee will meet again in January to start planning for the 2023 VWR Training and mentor program. This winter we will also sort through all of the VWRs who have done no patrols or TH Hosting over the last 2-3 years, contact them, and see if they still want to be part of the program. If not, we will ask them to return their shirts.

#### **WeedSpotter- Jim Alexander**

We are planning 4 efforts for next year, and looking for volunteers to help plan them:

1. The regular hiring of a contractor to treat large infestations.
2. Support for a Summit County wide Weed Pull (John Taylor is getting this going). Does anyone want to organize an Eagle County version?
3. Development of Weed-Free Feed educational materials, and distribution to hunters, and pack animal users. (Steve has suggested this be part of a larger effort to educate hunters on backcountry etiquette).
4. Bio control experiments - I've ordered biocontrols for Musk Thistles, Canada Thistle and Yellow toadflax. This year we will probably distribute them outside USFS lands (working with the Summit County Weed Manager, Ryan) to test their effectiveness.

I'm looking for anyone interested in helping with these.

Jim