

El Dorado National Forest Interpretive Association

Established in 1987, promoting Education, History, and Interpretive Programs
on the El Dorado National Forest.

Board Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023

Board members present:

Stan Trevena, Ken Nieland, Lisa Irving-Peterson, Phil Hartvig, Bruce Odelberg

Board members absent: None (Phil lost power and connection to meeting during the meeting)

Others present: Karen Heine, Keli Gwyn, Carl Gwyn, Kristi Schroeder

Others absent: Chris Sailor (USFS) , Mark & Robyn Sandperl

1. Stan opened meeting at 9:08
2. Lisa moved to approve agenda for May 18, 2023 meeting, Ken seconded motion.
3. Lisa moved to approve minutes from April 20, 2023 meeting, Bruce seconded motion.
4. **Manager/President Report:** (Stan Trevena)
 - A. Regular Report - ENFIA business

Stan visited CP station on May 13 and reports damage to one of the two new solar panels installed in 2022. Stan donated \$200 to add a third panel in December 2022 and now has donated an additional \$300 to replace the one damaged panel. He has contacted the solar installer from last year and is waiting to confirm a date for repairs. Estimates for the 2 new panels are \$500. (Would be covered by his two donations). He proposed that the cost of repair/installation would be covered by our donation account. The California Alpine Club would donate \$2000 to ENFIA via a grant program last year has reached out and is likely to donate to ENFIA again this year. Deadline for CAC grant for this season is June 15. George Doty (USFS) is coordinating with Stan on the new grant in order to repair/replace some of the "legacy solar system" which used to run the USFS weather station and communication system. Stan is not concerned that damaged panels falling down. USFS wants to get inside station to check and reset the equipment. Karen thinks that station could maybe open by June 3. She will be out of town June 10-17. Will follow progress of snow melting. Karen will try to get 10 people on June 2 to work on opening. Stan asked Kristi (USFS) to get snow removal equipment to help open up a pathway to porch. Karen is concerned about need to move snow away from plywood sheets in order to allow access. Weather forecast over next 10 days shows warmer temperatures. Her goal is to open on June 3rd. Karen asked Keli to advertise a work party on June 1-2 to open on June 3. Ken commented that even if station can physically open on June 3, without electrical power from solar system there would be no way to operate sales via "square" system. Ken feels that there would be no point in opening station without power. Ken stated that installation/repair costs of solar contractors should be paid from donation account to speed up the repair process and get the existing solar power system up and running. Stan wants to purchase LED lights to provide lights. Karen thinks that station can run without additional lighting. Lisa agrees with Karen about lights. Stan's panels will arrive maybe May 22, solar install ASAP. Stan wants to use California Alpine Club grant to help George Doty to repair legacy solar system. Google workspace is progressing. Stan wants to get Google workspace set up next week. Jason (web designer) will help. Lots of discussion with Kristi about how and where to remove snow with "Bobcat" or Backhoe equipment and how to prevent damage to station and/or walkway leading up to station. Phil suggested having an ENFIA person on site to direct the snow removal crew to minimize the chance of damaging sidewalk and to ensure snow removal occurs correctly. Maybe providing a photo of the front of station without snow to help in directing the snow removal process. Stan stated he and others would be available to be on site the

day that snow equipment if they are notified in advance of date USFS was planning to be on-site. Keli moved discussion back to motion to vote on CAC grant and “legacy” solar system. Ken moved to use CAC grant for this “legacy project” to replace their two old panels and the old battery bank with new panels and batteries. Lisa seconded the motion. Vote was taken and motion passed. This system is separate from ENFIA system used to run the CP retail system. Their system runs the lights, weather station and radio communication system. Another topic-Stan asked Phil to add a section in next month’s Agenda for Ken to report out as Vice President. (Discussion ended at 38 min)

B. Other items - Phil moved discussion back to agenda item on the required vote on Dan Trevaskis life membership carried over from last season. Phil made the motion, Ken seconded. Vote was taken, motion was passed.

5. USFS: (Kristi Schroeder and Don “Chip” Morrill)

A. Updates from prior months

Very few campgrounds or other facilities will open by memorial day weekend due to heavy snow still present and damage from winter storms at sites without snow. Kristi directed ENFIA members to the USFS website for current conditions. Plans to open more facilities ASAP. Some in Crystal basin region to open the week after memorial day. High elevation sites (like Carson Pass area) are still under multiple feet of snow. Many high elevation facilities are not predicted to open until mid or late June or even into early July due to extreme snowfall this season. Staff updates included new recreation positions - Nathan Sailor. Many temporary positions becoming permanent. Many interns hired. Best staffing situation in many years. Good news!! No fire restrictions, lots if winter damage. Over 1400 volunteer hours in some locations already. Road damage repair and tree removal work is massive and keeping USFS crews very busy. Lisa asked about allowing the use of camp stoves during fire restriction times and camping restrictions being in effect even when snow is covering the designated campsites in Carson Pass Management Area. Kristi said yes to both questions.

6. ENFIA’s Treasurer’s Report (Lisa Irving-Peterson)

A. Checking account balance:

\$31,881 (Increased by \$222 from last month)

B. Donation account balance:

\$24,216 (Increased by \$10 from last month)

C. Other items/developments/needs

Lisa asked about how the donation account is broken down into sections with amounts dedicated to different areas/sections. Keli informed her that CPA breaks down those sections in monthly financial reports. Lisa stated that she gets monthly reports from US Bank of our accounts. Stan will follow up to make sure that all CPA reports are directed to him and given to Lisa in the future.

7. ENFIA Retail Coordinator Report (Keli Gwyn)

A. Regular report:

Improved sales receipts in May (\$1800 vs \$1200 in April). Ordering was begun for this season. No ordering took place over the winter due to a lack of authorization to make purchases at that time. New credit card has lower limit of \$5,000 vis old card with \$16,000 so credit card needs to be paid off quickly to allow for more ordering ASAP. Crystal Basin station will open operations on Memorial Day weekend and delivery of merchandise with new price labels will occur on May 25th. New prices

are requiring new labels and barcodes. Very labor intensive process. Keli has written a retail coordinator procedure booklet and is working on a “square” system inventory procedure booklet.

8. ENFIA Scheduler Report (Keli Gwyn)

Keli reported that the 2 docent training sessions were attended by 34 people. Reviews were positive. She is working on writing up a recap report on the sessions. 5 new docents have been added. Keli is working on new docent handbook and is updating it with current information from various ranger stations as they open up. Keli announced that on-line calendar is opening today for docent sign-ups for work at Carson Pass station this season. Mark Sandperl asked about new docent inquiries he receives via his Facebook posting. In the past he would forward them to station manager (Karen). Keli informed him that communication will now be forwarded to the scheduler (Keli). Mark was also informed that email communication to his Facebook account will soon have a “position-based” account so that he will no longer be using his personal email account.

9. Carson Pass Coordinator Report (Karen Heine)

A. Carson Pass Station Operations

No report given. Karen discussed her topics during Stan’s report. Karen was not present at meeting at this time. Lisa directed discussion to a text message from Karen about placing tables manned by docents outside Carson Pass during Memorial Day weekend since Station might not be open and operational at that time. Operations would not include sales but would allow information to be given to the public about snow park passes and free maps could be given out. After discussion it was decided NOT to send docents to Carson Pass on Memorial Day. Lisa suggested updating ENFIA website/Facebook pages to state that operations are delayed due to snowpack.

10. CPIS Maintenance Team Lead (Phil Hartvig)

A. Carson Pass Station projects (Repairs/future needs)

Report given via phone call-his power at home was out so he could not be present on Zoom meeting. Recent snow conditions (May 16th) would prevent digging out station. 10-12 ft of snow blocking access.

B. Silver Lake Cabin projects (Repairs/future needs)

Road to cabin is not plowed (May 16th). Access to cabin requires skis or snowshoes. Door will need to be dug out. Maybe in a couple weeks that will be possible. Dates of May 30-June 3 he is available to work on Cabin and station if accessible. Communication with docents - Gaylin Fleming and Liz Lucas and others will need to occur to get work party organized on June 2. Phil will attempt to get into cabin by June 2. Water delivery by Dean will be delayed until road is cleared to cabin. Docents will need to know that very limited water is available at cabin and they will need to bring their own for their personal use.

C. Other-

Stan stated that propane tank at station needs to be accessible to allow inspection at Carson Pass station and at Silver Lake Cabin before they can be turned on and used by docents. Phil commented that he and others will give an update after work party on June 2. Keli asked for date to communicate with docents about opening of station and cabin, keeping in mind that power needs to be restored along with telephones, internet network (and propane). Suggested June 9 as best case scenario? More discussion occurred about lack of water at cabin and suggestions were made to NOT open up the cabin until water

has been delivered to the large storage tank in the garage rather than have them carry in their own water. Lisa made a motion to NOT allow general docent use of cabin until water is delivered, Ken seconded.

11. Highway 50 Corridor Development Report (Carl Gwyn)

A. USFS needs - updates -

Discussions of hikes lead by Carl to Swan Henry toll road and Holly Grade this summer. Discussion of setting up a table at REI in Folsom to promote ENFIA and give out free Forest Service items donated by Georgetown Ranger Station. Mark asked if ENFIA was providing docents to Placerville Ranger station and Carl said that discussions are continuing on that possibility. Ken mentioned discussions on docent lead presentations at Wrights Lake campground this summer. Carl said discussions are continuing on that.

B. Other developments -

12. Website Update: (Stan/Carl)

A. Updates/developments/needs -

Stan is still working on setting up google account, will use it to promote ENFIA and help with on-line communication. Carl has connected Crystal Basin to square system so they are ready to open on memorial day weekend for sales. Phone lines (volcano) at Carson Pass to be connected ASAP. Stan asked for pages dedicated to docent leads hikes. Lists of interpretive hikes could be added to website as soon as leaders provide Carl with photos and content for those pages. Stan asked to have posters describing hikes to be posted at local businesses along highway 88.

13. Membership update: (Stan/Ken Nieland)

A. Coordinator status report-

Four new members this past month. 183 total members. Stan mailed out 15 new member packets. Keli will resupply Stan with items needed for packets. Dean was added as new life member by Carl.

14. Facebook/Newsletter Update: (Mark/Robyn Sandperl)

A. Update/Needs-

No news- 7,000 people on two social media sites

15. Old Business: (As per board's request - items to be carried over from previous meetings)

A. Google Workspace/protected information concerns (Stan) *In progress*

B. Business cards, credit cards, new checks (Stan/Lisa/Carl/Keli) *In progress*

C. Docent Training/Orientation/Appreciation gathering-location & dates (Board) *In progress*

Other items not on agenda but discussed included Carson Pass Hiking book which Bruce said he is working on and should be completed this month. Keli also discussed Desolation Ranger district posters on being "bear aware" and other topics such as wildflowers and birds. Four posters total. Carl suggested paying for lamination of posters that Forest Service would be printing up. Mark suggested using donation account dedicated to Desolation Wilderness. Lisa did not approve of spending funds since she was not aware of how much was in that account due to not having financial reports in-hand from CPA. Lisa suggested that desolation pay for posters and lamination. Bruce moved to pay for lamination of 4 posters at \$22 @. Ken seconded. Vote was taken (3-1 in favor)

16. New Business: (Things to plan/work on for next meeting)

A. Next meeting date and time *NO date or time was discussed- secretary will guess date*

B. Other items - *none at this time*

Meeting was ended by motion, second, and vote at 10:53

Next ENFIA meeting: THURSDAY June 15th at 9:00 am

Minutes prepared by ENFIA secretary Phil Hartvig _____ June 3, 2023