

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

**ENFIA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 9, 2023**

Board members present:

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

Board members absent: None

Others present: Kristi Schroeder (USFS), Carl Gwyn, Jon Erickson, Mark Sandperl

Others absent: Chris Sailor (USFS), Karen Heine, Keli Gwyn,

1. Stan opened meeting at 9:05
2. Lisa moved to approve agenda for August 9, 2023 meeting, seconded by Bruce
3. Lisa noted where were no minutes from July 17, 2023 meeting - No official meeting due to 3 board members being absent. Informal discussions occurred that day
4. **President Report:** (Stan Trevena)
  - A. Regular Report - ENFIA business
    1. Solar Power at the station update:

Old batteries in loft are scheduled to be removed ASAP by USFS, USFS is purchasing new batteries and George Doty is working with Stan, Bruce, and Ken to connect old (legacy) panels to these new batteries.

2. National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Grant, IR Counters update:

Stan received funding to purchase new panels, batteries, & hardware components for Carson Pass Solar electric systems and is working with Chip Morrill (USFS) on ordering and setting up IR trail counters. Programming counters and placing them out in the Carson Pass Management Area for testing this season should be happening in the coming month. ENFIA is the sponsoring organization on the grant application and is loaning the \$3755 cost of purchasing equipment to USFS from our donation account. USFS will reimburse ENFIA in the coming months. Ken moved to approve the loan of \$3755 to USFS, Bruce seconded the motion. Vote to approve was 5-0 in favor.

3. ENFIA financial status update:  
(Discussed after item #5,6 during meeting but reported out here as per agenda order)

Item was discussed at length by Carl and Stan. Stan had supplied the board with charts showing the bank account balances over the last few years and trends during the season. With Carl and Keli Gwyn leaving their current positions running the retail operations for ENFIA at the end of the season, Stan wanted to focus attention on how the ENFIA organization moves forward with retail operations. We have had several seasons without a “normal year” of retail operations. Covid shutdowns, two major wildfires, and a heavy snowpack have closed or delayed the opening and operations of the Carson Pass Station. Sales revenues that helps pay the bills to run the station as well as fund interpretive and maintenance projects have been impacted by these closures. Covid grants that ENFIA received (40K) kept the organization from shutting down. Stan expressed concerns about how to design a business model that will be sustainable after the Keli and Carl leave. Main concerns are how

to staff the retail operations, how much merchandise to keep in inventory storage and at all current locations. Keli and Carl have set up a business model over the last few years that allows for all forest locations to have fully stocked inventory at or near the beginning and end of the summer season. The square technology inventory tracking system and a large storage facility in addition to long working hours by Keli and Carl allows ENFIA to maintain this business model. Discussion of how or if we maintain this business model will be discussed and decisions will be made by the board in the coming months.

#### 4. End of season retail ordering update:

Carl and Stan discussed this at length. How much inventory is needed and how fully stocked should the forest locations be maintained is part of the business model decisions that will continue in the coming months. Keli is working on getting an inventory report to Stan before she leaves at the end of the season.

#### 5. Google workspace update (discussed prior to items #3,4 during meeting)

Stan reported that the new google workspace emails are up and running. Shared google drives are set up to organize and store ENFIA documents and some quick training documents on using the shared drives will be generated and the board members will be trained in the future. Discussion of maybe switching away from Zoom meeting (Carl's account) to google meetings for ENFIA board meetings in the future. Stan will use his Zoom account until that new system is set up. Carl's responsibilities for running the ENFIA board meetings on zoom will end starting with the Sept 2023 meeting.

#### 6. Recruiting members for new positions (as current members rotate out of service)

(Station Coordinator/Manager-Karen, Retail Manager-Keli, Scheduler-Keli, Secretary-Phil, Treasurer-Lisa & Website/Business Technology-Carl)

Stan is sending out a recruitment letter to all current docents and active members on our email lists, Keli is recruiting via "sign-up" calendar communications, Carl is recruiting via our website. In person contacts were discussed as the most effective method and have been pursued by Stan, Karen, Phil, and others. Nominations and elections of new board members will occur at or after the end of season docent meeting in South Lake Tahoe location on Oct. 14th. New board members and support staff positions will be filled and logistics of running ENFIA will be decided in the coming months.

#### B. Other items - as per board member requests

1. Docent Issues (Lisa/Carl/Keli) - ***in closed session #17 at end of meeting. No notes in these minutes will reflect those discussions and decisions made. Board members will inform the parties involved after the meeting.***

#### 5. Vice President Report (Ken Neiland)

Work is continuing on developing an ENFIA presence on the highway 50 corridor. Ken is working with Lester L. on interpretive programs at Wrights Lake campground. The first program was to be piloted on July 15, 2023 but after Ken visited the site on July 8 it was discovered that the amphitheater facility was not in working order and would need a lot of repair before we could start running programs there. It was not been used in 4 years. Jon Erikson (Former USFS) joined the discussion and expressed interest in being involved in getting ENFIA docents to the Wrights Lake campground location. The amphitheater was build as a joint project between the USFS and the Wrights Lake Cabin owners association. Discussions were made about how Jon, Serena King (USFS-Pacific Ranger Station) and Dustin Bell (USFS) could help ENFIA volunteers to staff an existing information station on site during weekends ASAP. The current private company (Royal Elk) who runs the campground at Wrights Lake doesn't get involved in developing or managing interpretive campground programs. Wildflower walks have been organized by property owners in the past. The current building on site that could be used as an

information station at the campground is not a point of sale location such as Carson Pass due to the lack of electrical infrastructure. In the past ENFIA was offered a trailer in the administration area parking and discussions were made about providing a campsite for docents running interpretive programs at Wrights Lake. Jon expressed interest in having ENFIA volunteers staffing the information building and running interpretive programs. Kristi (USFS) added that they could get a trailer for ENFIA volunteers. Ken expressed a desire to continue the communication with USFS to develop some pilot programs in the future. Challenges include securing funding and getting all the stake holders together to develop a plan for next year. Carl expressed interest in assisting with these projects and helping to recruit docents to work at this location. Kristi expressed interest in setting up a planning meeting with stakeholders, securing a RV site for docents, rebuilding the amphitheater, and helping ENFIA get access to the “turn key ready” information building (built by Roger Filapelli).

**6. USFS: (Kristi Schroeder)**

A. Updates from prior months - Fire restrictions in place for entire forest (outside of developed campgrounds) No campfire allowed, even below 8,000 ft elevation.

B. Other items/developments/needs - New wilderness area maps are being developed this fall. Ken and Stan talked about improving communication and coordination with USFS by starting to have some meetings at USFS locations

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

A. Checking account balance: \$42,957 (up 1\$4,000 from last month due to sales)

B. Donation account balance: \$25,673 (up \$450 from last month)

C. Other items/developments/needs - discussions about moving funds between accounts and getting reports from CPA firm

**8. ENFIA Retail Report (Lisa Irving-Peterson)**

A. Regular report- Sales are going great. Limited ordering to occur for rest of this season. Last 6 hiking books being delivered to Carson Pass Station soon. Will need to revise/reorder that book ASAP.

B. Other items/developments/needs: \$1200 sales day at Carson Pass. 16 Bear Canisters delivered to Desolation Ranger Station to add in the mandatory program started for that wilderness area.

**9. Carson Pass Station Coordinator/Manager Report (Karen Heine)**

A. Carson Pass Station Operations - no report, Karen not present at meeting

B. Other items/developments/needs

**10. Facilities Report (Phil Hartvig)**

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

1. Attic ladder was repaired by USFS. Parking lot striping was completed by ENFIA volunteers (Karen/Phil). Carson Pass Station Bluetti backup battery was charged by generators donated by ENFIA volunteers (Mark, Bruce, Stan, Phil, and others) Propane heater is not functional due to damaged propane line and damaged roof chimney. Roof is leaking due to gap between roof and chimney. Buckets are being used and repairs are out for bid. USFS is working on these bids and the needed repairs. Door at station needs repair as does door at Silver Lake Cabin. (USFS is working on these projects). Need for better communication radios at CP station was discussed due to recent medical emergency calls from visitors at Winnemucca campsites. ENFIA volunteers assisted campers in distress without calling for Search and Rescue.

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

1. Water supply is now potable due to required testing being completed. Painting of Cabin Garage was completed by ENFIA docents. Cabin Procedures handbook was completed by Keli and is now available on-line and in hard copy form at cabin. Dumpster access is now available (we got the new combination for lock). Work continues on replacing the lockset/deadbolt on cabin door. Possible

replacements/repair is being explored by USFS staff. Continued need for spare key for Cabin was discussed. (Related to recent issues with misplaced key and restricted access to cabin)

**11. Highway 50 Corridor Development Report**

- A. USFS needs & updates - See discussion in Vice Presidents report from Ken earlier in meeting.
- B. Other developments - Large canvas sign from ENFIA was delivered to Desolation RS.

**12. Website Update:**

A. Updates/developments/needs - docents are submitting updates and Electronic Funds Transfer is being set up by Carl and Stan to handle payments to Volcano Communications.

**13. Membership update:**

- A. Coordinator status report - new docent/member packets are being mailed out.
- B. Other projects - None

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

A. Update/Needs-new developments: 8,000 hits on both accounts. Comments about “Issues with leave no trace” violations at Carson Pass. Trash and dog waste bags on trails.

**15. Old Business: (As per board request - items carried over from previous meetings)**

- A. Phil discussed need for Emergency radios and additional training at Carson Pass
- B. Docent Appreciation meeting in Lake Tahoe on Oct 14 discussed. Scouting of locations to occur ASAP (Carl/Phil). Food is being handled by Ken. Bruce and Lisa will not attend due to conflicts in schedule.
- C. Hiking Book update from Bruce: 2-3 weeks lead time for printing, price is \$4195 for 250 copies. Decision was made to delay ordering until off-season and sell the small number of remaining books. Committee of Bruce, Stan, and Ken will work on decisions regarding editing, format of binding, and ordering during the off season.

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

- A. Next meetings date and time - set for **Sept 20th and Oct 18th**
- B. Other items

**17. Closed Session** (not recorded)