

Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA)
Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026 @ 9am

Open Meeting: 9:05am.

Board members present: Stan Trevena, Edi Barrow, Roger Goetsch, Bruce Odelberg, Don Bordenave. Quorum present.

Others present: Mike Conroy, Beckie Galloway, Laurel Gromer, Mark Sandperl, Robyn Sandperl, Kim Hardy, Chris Sailor

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2026.

Unanimous approval by Board members present.

Zoom AI Meeting Summary:

Quick recap

The ENFIA board meeting focused on financial planning, operational updates, and upcoming training sessions. Kim proposed investing \$80,000 in CDs and a money market account to optimize interest earnings, which the board approved. Chris provided updates on volunteer agreements and water service changes, explaining that public water distribution would no longer be available due to regulatory requirements. The board discussed training plans for May in South Lake Tahoe and Pine Grove. Interpretive programs were highlighted by Mike, who reported strong interest in upcoming history talks and plans for new events. The conversation ended with updates on membership renewals and social media engagement, as well as discussions about website maintenance challenges.

Next steps:

- Chris: Wait for response from Regional Volunteer Coordinator regarding ENFIA workers' compensation coverage option and update group when information is received.
- Chris: Highlight and send section of agreement regarding background checks for volunteers under 18 to Edi for clarification.
- Chris: Send updated risk assessment to Edi before May training.
- Stan: Send Edi information on how to access emergency contacts on cell phones to include in lost and found documentation.
- Edi: Send station manager schedule and information document to Karen, Mike, Don, Phil, and Stan, and ensure they coordinate their schedule and suggest any changes to the document.
- Stan: Look into setting up a Google phone for station managers.
- Mark: Post notice to PCT forums and Facebook about water no longer being available at Carson Pass.
- Chris: Send Stan the updated 301A form for signature when Stan is next in the office (next Thursday or Friday).
- Edi: Prepare and distribute updated 301B forms and ensure all docents sign at training.
- Chris: Ensure new risk assessment is ready for distribution with 301B forms by May training.
- Lin O'Kelly: Set up lost and found area in the station, implement new lost/found forms, and provide training at both May trainings.
- Don and Edi: Coordinate and organize lunch/drinks for South Lake Tahoe training on May 2nd.
- Don: Present permit/camping/bear canister training at May 2nd training.
- Mark: Present permit/camping/bear canister training at May 13th training.
- Karen: Present opening/closing cabin procedures at May 2nd training.

- Kaylee (with Kelly): Present Square/retail training at both South Lake Tahoe and Pine Grove trainings.
- Becky and Edi: Present VSP scheduling and station manager procedures at both trainings.
- Mike Conroy: Bring Junior Ranger materials to Saturday meeting for Becky to inventory.
- Mike Conroy: Research and purchase appropriate lightweight, moveable display board (corkboard/whiteboard) for daily schedule/interpretive program announcements; report back at next meeting.
- Mike Conroy: Send email to all members (not just docents) to recruit for interpretive guide/docent roles and include information about upcoming Forest Service interpretive guide training.
- Mike Conroy: Bring back to next meeting proposal to re-subscribe ENFIA to Leave No Trace for training materials.
- Mike Conroy: Coordinate with Stan to craft and send recruitment email for interpretive guides.
- Don: Remove "website" from next meeting's agenda.
- Mike Conroy: Look into acquiring a sign (wood or other) to permanently promote Junior Ranger program at the station; coordinate with Becky as needed.
- Stan: Coordinate with Mike Conroy on meeting time at storage unit for Saturday event setup.
- Stan and Mike C. To look into getting a "goggle phone number" which will be used by the rotating station managers.
- Mike Conroy: Research cost and process for using Pollock Pines park/community center for July 11th night sky photography event and report back.
- Mike Conroy: Meet with Jordan (archaeologist) on April 7th to discuss opportunities for future interpretive talks.

Meeting Summary:

ENFIA Volunteer Coverage and Water

The meeting focused on two main topics: workers' compensation coverage for ENFIA volunteers and water service issues. Chris reported that he is waiting for feedback from the regional volunteer coordinator regarding whether ENFIA should use Forest Service workers' compensation or provide their own coverage, noting that the previous agreement from 2016 may have incorrectly chosen ENFIA's own coverage. The group also discussed liability coverage for volunteers staying at the cabin and potential restrictions on minors volunteering, with Chris explaining that background checks would be required for volunteers under 18 unless a parent is present. Additionally, Chris announced that the PCT water program must cease operations due to regulatory requirements, as providing water now requires a licensed operator and water testing, which ENFIA cannot currently provide.

Station Operations and Trail Updates

The team decided to stop providing water jugs at the station for public use due to regulatory requirements and concerns about docents driving during operating hours. Chris announced plans to bring back seasonal staff including Johnny, with potential for more staff than ever before. The group discussed upcoming mountain bike trail construction on Schneider Camp Road, which will be multi-use but engineered primarily for mountain biking. Chris clarified that while mountain bikes are allowed in the National Forest, they are prohibited in the Carson Pass Management Area due to wilderness restrictions.

PCT Water Access Regulations Update

The group discussed water access and camping regulations for the station. Stan confirmed that a previously proposed hand washing sink with an external water tank was denied. Chris explained that while the cabin has potable water, it cannot be served to the public due to different regulatory standards. The team clarified that designated camping site requirements end after Labor Day, though camping restrictions near Frog Lake remain enforceable year-round. Mark agreed to update the PCT forums about water availability changes. Roger proposed establishing a fund to provide free water to PCT hikers, which he plans to discuss in the next meeting.

Carson Pass Service Changes Discussion

The group discussed changes to water and food services at Carson Pass, with Stan explaining that they will no longer provide water due to contamination concerns and will implement new guidelines for Trail Magic to address issues with pre-cut fruit and open food that attracts mice. Kim suggested docents could bring non-plastic water containers as an alternative, and Stan mentioned plans to control food storage issues and create specific guidelines for CPIS food storage. The group also discussed the closure of Crystal Basin due to remodeling, with no specific timeline provided for reopening. Edie and Stan concluded by reminding attendees to submit volunteer hours and mileage reimbursement forms.

ENFIA Operations and Policies Update

The meeting covered several key topics related to ENFIA operations. Edi explained mileage reimbursement policies, clarifying that only work-related travel qualifies and requiring proper documentation. Chris discussed updating 301B forms and risk assessments, aiming to complete them before May training. A new lost and found system was introduced by Lin O'Kelly, featuring separate forms for items under and over \$100, with proper procedures for handling found items. The group also discussed station manager responsibilities, with Karen Heine taking over opening and closing duties, while five volunteers (including Mike Conroy, Don, Stan, Karen, and Phil) will rotate station management responsibilities throughout the summer. Training sessions were scheduled for May 2nd in South Lake Tahoe and May 13th in Pine Grove. The Pine Grove location hosted by Nancy and Ken Nyland.

Docent Training Session Planning

The team discussed training arrangements for new docents, planning four separate sessions covering: #1 permits, bear canisters, #2 VSP scheduling, (what was #3??) and #4 opening/closing procedures. Mark agreed to lead the May 13th training session on permits and bear canisters, while Don will handle those items at the May 2nd session. The group also discussed lunch arrangements for the South Lake Tahoe training on May 2nd, though no volunteer stepped forward during the meeting.

Retail Update: Stan and Kellie:

Stan provided an update on retail equipment, explaining that while new smaller devices are being tested, they are not yet ready for deployment, and existing equipment will continue to be used for now.

Event Planning

The team discussed logistics for an upcoming event, with Don volunteering to handle lunch arrangements since he would be present, and Edi and Stan offering to assist with tasks like coffee pickup.

Treasurer Report:

Roger presented financial statements showing total assets of \$189,202,530 as of February 28th. The bank balances as of 2/28/2026: Checking: \$114,941.53. Grants: \$31,053.05.

Business Manager Report:

Kim reported that they had mastered most QuickBooks processes and created their first budget, identifying major expenses in telecommunications, Square software costs, and utilities. Kim noted that while the budget was based on historical data and estimates, it would need adjustment over time as actual patterns emerge.

Laddered CD Investment Proposal

Kim presented a proposal to invest idle cash in certificates of deposit (CDs) through a laddered strategy, suggesting investments in CDs with various maturity dates to maximize interest earnings. Stan suggested using the grant/donation account as a reserve fund and recommended conducting larger investments during the off-season. Edi shared positive experience with laddered CDs, mentioning a 5% return on a 13-month CD.

CD Investment Strategy Discussion

The group discussed investing approximately \$80,000 from their funds, with Kim proposing to allocate \$50,000 in long-term CDs, \$20,000 in short-term CDs, and \$10,000 in even shorter-term CDs. Kim explained that early CD withdrawals would result in losing up to 3 months of interest but confirmed the principal would be fully returned. Stan suggested starting with donation and grant funds, which total around \$30,000, before moving from their current checking accounts to a money market account. The group agreed to proceed with investing in CDs and a money market account, though they decided to formalize the specific dollar amounts and investment details before taking a final vote. The meeting focused on financial planning and program updates. The group approved a proposal to invest \$80,000 in CDs, \$30,000 in a money market account, and the remainder in checking, with Kim managing the investments.

Program Planning Updates

Mike provided updates on the interpretive program, including an upcoming history talk with 44 RSVPs and plans for a night sky photography event on July 11th. The team discussed purchasing a chalkboard or corkboard easel for displaying information about Junior Ranger programs and interpretive walks. Robyn reported on membership renewals, with most people's renewals due March 1st, and requested contributions for the next newsletter's "Get to Know Your Docents" feature. The group also discussed challenges with the website needing updates but having no volunteers to take it on, and Mike announced plans to recruit more docents for interpretive hikes and explore Forest Service training programs.

18. Adjourn Meeting: 10:55am