Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA)

Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2026 — 9:04 a.m. to 10:51 a.m.
Meeting held via Zoom

1. Open Meeting / Roll Call

President Stan Trevena called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m.

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

Also participating: Chris Sailor (USFS), Kim Handy, Lynn Price, Barbara Simpson, Mike Conroy, and Beckie Galloway.

2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2026

The July 15, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were presented for approval.

Action: The minutes were approved.

3. USFS Report — Reanna Suela / Chris Sailor

Chris Sailor provided the USFS report.

- **Carson Pass station communications:** The Forest Service telecommunications effort to establish a reliable phone connection at the station continues. Testing indicated insufficient signal strength at the station. An alternate antenna/device was considered but appears unlikely to provide adequate service. Chris will follow up with the telecommunications/IT staff regarding other options.

- A new phone number may ultimately be required if the current approach is unsuccessful. The goal is to have a functioning phone line before the next summer season.

- **Staffing:** The Forest Service has lost several seasonal employees and is somewhat short-staffed for the remainder of the season.

- **Proposed fee increases:** The El Dorado National Forest is considering increased fees, including an increase in the Carson Pass parking fee from $5 to $10 and a fee for permits

associated with designated sites in the Carson Pass Management Area, including Winnemucca Lake, Round Top, and Fourth of July Lake.

- Chris discussed a possible process whereby visitors would pay through the existing automated fee machine and present proof of payment before receiving a wilderness permit from ENFIA volunteers. The group discussed concerns about visitors paying before confirming permit availability and the complications of refunds.
- Recreation.gov was discussed but is not considered economically practical for the relatively small number of sites involved.
- Most of the fee revenue would remain with the Forest for management of the affected sites.
- **Silver Lake cabin:** Chris will follow up with Forest Service engineering staff regarding interior modifications to the cabin. A fuels-reduction project around the cabin is also on the Forest Service's fall project list.
- **Downed trees:** Clearing downed trees at the station is considered a realistic fall project, subject to staffing and scheduling.
- **Lake Margaret/Lake Merritt bridges:** The new bridges have been installed. The old trail routes will be closed and restored, with signs directing visitors to the new routes.
- **Cabin flooring:** Kim reported that ENFIA is seeking an estimate for replacing or covering the cabin floor. Chris advised that a small, non-permanent interior modification could likely be reviewed and approved within a few weeks. Forest Service facilities engineering and ultimately the district ranger would be involved in approval.
- **Cabin trees:** Chris will also look into the three dead trees located in front of the Silver Lake cabin.

4. President's Report — Stan Trevena

Stan reported on board elections, officer transition, and ENFIA activities.

- **Board elections:** Three positions—President, Secretary, and Member-at-Large—will appear on the upcoming ballot, along with board positions whose terms are ending.
- A call for candidates has been issued. Stan will send another call for candidates because the initial response did not produce a qualified candidate.
- **Vice President transition:** Edi Barrow is resigning from the Vice President position during her current term. The board discussed the process for filling the vacancy and the timing of the transition.
  Action: Don Bordenave moved to appoint **Kim Handy as Vice President**. Stan Trevena seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the appointment.

Edi agreed to assist Kim with the transition. Kim indicated she would continue handling her existing Business Manager responsibilities while assuming the Vice President role.

- Stan reported that ENFIA donated its original Starlink dish to the Alpine County Historical Society following the board's previous approval.
- Stan completed the final report for the prior year's grant from the California Alpine Club and documented the Starlink donation.

5. Vice President's Report — Edi Barrow

Edi provided an update on the **2026 Fall/Docent Appreciation Luncheon**.

- The luncheon is scheduled for **October 24, 2026**, at the Pollock Pines-Camino Community Center.
- Lynn Price is spearheading the event with assistance from Mike Conroy, Don Bordenave, Edi, Barbara, and others.
- Speakers from **Pathways for Wildlife**, Tanya Diamond and Ahiga Snyder, are scheduled to present on wildlife tracking, wildlife crossings, trail cameras, roadkill monitoring, and related conservation work.
- The event format will be modified to include:
    - A mixer/information-table activity at the beginning.
    - Welcome by Stan.
    - Catered sandwiches during the presentation.
    - Volunteer-provided desserts.
    - The board meeting following the luncheon program.
- Information tables may include Pathways for Wildlife, Leave No Trace, and the Junior Ranger program.
- Lynn, Don, and Mike will visit the facility on August 28 to review the setup and requirements.
- Catering is being explored through 50 Grand in Pollock Pines. The working food budget is approximately **$500–$650**, with the existing budget line identified at approximately **$600**.
- Stan will assist with the Wild Apricot attendance and food-selection polls.

- Ainsley, a younger ENFIA docent, was recognized for her technology skills and willingness to assist with website, Facebook, and Instagram activities.

6. Treasurer's Report — Roger Goetsch

Roger presented the July 2026 financial report.

- Approximately **$50,000 was transferred from savings into investments**.
- July income was approximately **$83,000**.
- July expenditures were approximately **$16,000**.
- The resulting monthly net gain was approximately **$66,900**.
- Roger noted that the bank balance and accounting-system Profit & Loss report may temporarily differ because the accounting report is dependent upon receipt of all outstanding data.
- Monthly P&L reports are posted in the Board Exhibits folder on the shared drive.
- The board discussed the organization's generally healthy financial position and the possibility of undertaking additional projects.

7. Business Manager's Report — Kim Handy

Kim reported on financial controls, investments, reimbursement procedures, and the Silver Lake cabin.

- **Investment account controls:** Kim noted that she is currently the only person actively accessing the Vanguard investment account. She recommended establishing access for another authorized ENFIA representative to provide appropriate checks and balances.
- Stan and Roger discussed establishing their own Vanguard login access. Roger indicated that, because he expects to remain on the board, it may make sense for him to have access.
- ENFIA currently has four laddered CDs with rates ranging approximately from **3.95% to 4.25%**. The first CD is expected to mature in November. Kim will evaluate prevailing rates and reinvest funds as appropriate unless ENFIA has a need for the funds.
- **Reimbursement process:** The board discussed the current reimbursement form and the need for a clearer, standardized process identifying the purchaser, authorization, receipt, and whether an expense is for operations or retail.
- Don will provide Roger and Kim with the reimbursement form he has been using.

- Kim will review and update the reimbursement form and coordinate with Roger. The updated form should be made available through Google Drive.
- Retail purchases should be separated from operational expenses on reimbursement documentation.
- Kim is also coordinating the estimate for the Silver Lake cabin flooring.

8. ENFIA Retail Report — Kellie Trevena

Stan provided the retail report on behalf of Kellie.

- Most seasonal ordering is complete.
- The focus for the remainder of the season is to reduce inventory before winter rather than carry excessive stock.
- Remaining inventory may be distributed to stations that remain open year-round.
- Kaylee and Janice are committed to continuing with the retail team next season.
- Additional volunteers interested in helping with retail are encouraged to contact the retail team.

9. CPIS Manager's Report

Stan reported on Carson Pass Interpretive Station operations.

- A significant parking issue occurred when a large motorhome and trailer occupied approximately seven parking spaces for two nights while paying for only one vehicle.
- The incident highlighted limitations in ENFIA's ability to address parking violations. The Forest Service advised that overnight parking/camping is permitted and that law enforcement generally will not respond to ordinary parking violations.
- The Forest Service plans to post information concerning oversized vehicles, but enforcement options remain limited.
- The board discussed improving parking education and including the issue in volunteer training next season.
- Volunteers may encourage oversized vehicles/campers to use the overflow parking area at Meiss Trailhead when appropriate.
- Parking lines were not repainted earlier this season because the necessary paint was not available until July. Chris confirmed the supplies are now available and the parking lines will be repainted **early next season**.

- The lack of visible parking lines and parking-space markers was identified as contributing to recent parking problems.
- **Station solar system:** Two additional solar panels were installed using funds previously awarded for a generator, following approval to redirect the grant funds. Several existing panel brackets were also repaired. The expanded system should provide improved power capacity during periods of poor weather.
- **Maps and printed materials:** New color maps were printed and distributed, including copies for the Amador station. The board received mixed feedback about map readability but generally viewed the new maps as an improvement.
- ENFIA also reprinted postcards and ordered approximately 100 additional hiking books.
- **Cabin maintenance:** The barn/storage door at the cabin remains difficult to operate despite an attempted repair. New hinges and a latch were purchased, but additional work will require assistance.
- **Cabin water:** The cabin's water system will remain unavailable this season. Modifications must be approved by the state before the system can be restored. Non-potable water cannot officially be used while the system is out of service.
- The board discussed the need to turn off the propane supply to the cabin water heater whenever the water system is shut off.

10. Environmental Stewardship — Barbara Simpson & Lynn Price

Lynn provided the Environmental Stewardship update.

- ENFIA's membership in **Leave No Trace** was acknowledged, and upcoming Leave No Trace activities were discussed.
- Native flowers were planted in the four raised beds at the station. The group may consider expanding native plantings in the surrounding area next year.
- The group is exploring alternative recyclable/reusable water containers with screw-top lids for future seasons in response to visitor requests.
- The group would like to improve the area behind the station by removing downed logs and potentially creating seating or a small gathering area for interpretive programs.
- The possibility of improving or painting/muraling the bathrooms was discussed. Rather than fundraising, the group may propose a budget line item for the next fiscal year.
- Lynn will investigate potential costs and possible assistance from the Tahoe Art League or other local artists.

- **Interpretive gathering area/amphitheater:** The board discussed revisiting a concept considered several years ago for a small amphitheater or gathering area near the Station.
- Chris explained that a project proposal would be required, including a site plan, proposed scale, location, expected ground disturbance, and appearance. Accessibility, including ADA requirements, must be considered.
- A smaller gathering/seating area using existing downed trees could require less review if it avoids significant ground disturbance.
- Bruce Odelberg described earlier work that had been done on the amphitheater concept and related trail improvements. Existing historical documentation may no longer be available through the Forest Service.
- Stan will contact Carl to see whether historical project information can be located.
- **Highway 88 safety:** The group discussed replacing vegetation removed following a vehicle accident between the picnic-table area and Highway 88. Chris indicated that the area is within the Caltrans right-of-way and permanent modifications may not be possible. Temporary fencing or similar measures may be easier to approve.
- Lynn will investigate native plant options, and the group will develop a proposal for the area.
- The board also discussed the safety of the Pacific Crest Trail crossing of Highway 88. The possibility of improved pedestrian warning signs or flashing pedestrian-crossing signage was discussed.
- Lynn and Don will discuss the issue with Tanya Diamond/Pathways for Wildlife. Chris recommended involving the Pacific Crest Trail Association as a potential partner.

11. Interpretive Program Report — Mike Conroy

Mike reported on current and planned interpretive programming.

- A late-July campfire talk at Sunset Campground attracted approximately **20–22 attendees**. Future programs should consider topics and formats that are more accessible to children and families.
- ENFIA, the Forest Service, and Royal Elk are considering regular Saturday evening programs at the Sunset Campground amphitheater next season.
- **California Biodiversity Week:** Mike is exploring a BioBlitz hike using iNaturalist to document biodiversity on public lands.
- Mike will seek an appropriate location and coordinate with Chris and other docents.

- **Public Lands Day:** ENFIA may also develop a program around the September public lands event.
- Interpretive hikes attracted approximately **60+ participants** during the season. Mike would like to expand outreach beyond campground postings.
- Potential outreach includes local community magazines and publications in El Dorado County, South Lake Tahoe/Carson Valley, and the Amador area.
- A tree-identification hike toward Frog Lake is being considered for October.
- ENFIA is also beginning planning for winter **Snowshoe with a Ranger** programs, with Silver Lake identified as a possible location for beginner participants.
- Kim suggested creating an ENFIA visitor mailing list so people can receive information about upcoming hikes, seasonal flowers, and other activities.
- The proposed website redesign could incorporate a visitor sign-up function.
- Stan plans to contact ENFIA's web host regarding availability to begin a website redesign and will solicit input from board members and volunteers.
- Mike requested access to Wild Apricot so he can send timely communications directly to docents. Stan agreed to provide access and training.

12. Membership Update — Robyn Sandper

No report was provided. Robyn was unavailable for the meeting.

13. Newsletter Update — Robyn Sandper

No report was provided. Robyn was unavailable for the meeting.

14. Social Media Update — Mark Sandper

No report was provided. Mark was unavailable for the meeting.

15. Website Update — Stan Trevena

- Stan plans to contact the ENFIA web host, Jason, regarding availability to begin a website redesign.
- The goal is to modernize the website and make it more useful for visitors, members, volunteers, and interpretive-program participants.
- Board members and volunteers will be asked to provide input regarding desired website content and features.

- The redesign is tentatively targeted for completion by spring.
- Wild Apricot functionality and potential additional costs associated with a larger mailing list will also be investigated.

16. New Business Items

Station/cabin winterization: Beckie requested confirmation of the winterization date.

- The tentative date discussed was **October 3, 2026**, the first Saturday following station closure, but the date was not finalized.
- Edi will contact Karen Heine to confirm her availability before the date is established.
- Stan will provide a save-the-date notice once the date is confirmed.

17. Other Old Business

No additional old business was raised beyond the projects and follow-up items addressed during the reports.

18. Other Announcements / Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Stan Trevena at **10:51 a.m.**

Next Board Meeting: September 16, 2026.