

Grand County Wilderness Group Board meeting

October 23, 2021 6:30 pm

The following board members were present: Toni Wujek, Steve Hennings, Beth Collins, Joyce Clair, Rozanne Singler, Ingrid Anderson, Monica Sandstrom

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Collins.

The Treasurer's report was given by Toni Wujek.

Membership Dues: Dues will be collected at the Fall meeting on November 6. No dues were collected in 2020 because of COVID. Monica recruited two new members at National Public Lands Day. Families with two different emails can have both listed and Bob Saint will add these to the membership list.

Registration Boxes: HTA (Headwaters Trail Alliance) has put up some new boxes and has a few more. North Supply trailhead needs a new box and kiosk because it was burned in the fire,

Zoom account: Ingrid Anderson moved that GCWG would get its own zoom account. Monica Sandstrom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

HTA: This was the first year working with the HTA after a year with no activity because of COVID. GCWG worked under them because the Forest Service was unable to cover our organization with insurance. A discussion was held about how the summer went with HTA. There were many positive comments: Monica reported good communication with them about Monarch cabin. They seemed appreciative of our work and many volunteer hours put in. They were appreciative that we were out there with the public as their role is more the physical work and ours is more education. Steve Hennings coordinated trail work days including both groups on Vasquez Trail and reported that all but about 1 ½ miles is cleared. He had communicated to HTA that our group is willing to work on trails but hiking in 3-5 miles is not a good option for us. We need easily accessible trails. Beth will coordinate a meeting with HTA and some board members. Some ideas for next summer were discussed and any other ideas should be sent to Beth Collins in writing before the joint meeting. Toni thought we need more clarification in certain areas such as the assessment forms and how to better work together next summer. All agreed it was enjoyable working with HTA. It will be explained at the Fall membership meeting why we are working with HTA. The Forest Service is short of staff and there has been no

communication with them but it has not affected the work we usually do. It was suggested we review our mission statement at the meeting.

Monarch and Junco cabins: Monica reported that 26,485 people had signed in at Monarch this summer. She is missing some sheets from July so it was really more. 59 members volunteered for 156 positions and 82% of the positions were filled on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Saturday was the hardest day to fill. Some members did multiple days! The overuse of the Monarch trail was discussed and it was felt someone is really needed there every day. This will be discussed with the Forest Service The need for a Wilderness Ranger was discussed. It was suggested that we keep a log of items that we discuss with the Forest Service for future reference. Some wilderness rules are not being enforced such as only one large group a day (8-12 people) is allowed and large groups need a permit. This will be brought to the attention of the HTA and the Forest Service. Junco cabin had 70% of the positions filled on the weekends and holidays this summer. A survey about volunteering at Monarch cabin will be available for members to fill out at the Fall meeting.

Hikes: Joyce Clair reported that several hikes were led to Strawberry Lake, Columbine Lake and one in the burn scar outside of Hot Sulphur Springs. Two other hikes were planned but were cancelled because of lack of interest and weather. Thanks to Bob Saint, Joyce Clair, Chris and Stephen Lee, and Scott Eberhard for leading hikes.

Fall meeting: It will be at the YMCA on Saturday, November 6, 2021. The food will be provided by the board. It was felt a potluck would not be an option because of COVID concerns. Beth will at the sign-in table. Vaccinations will be required and proof will be asked of any guests. Clayton and others from the Forest Service and HTA staff will be invited.

Anra Passes: The Forest Service would like us to sell parking passes next year but we are just concerned about selling the ones we had left over. The machines to buy a pass were not working and that is the responsibility of the Forest Service.

It was moved by Steve Hennings, seconded by Joyce Clair to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted Joyce Clair.