

FRIENDS OF THE SAN PEDRO RIVER
Board of Directors Meeting
October 18, 2012
Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Serviss at 6 PM.
Board Members present were Ron Serviss, Renell Stewart, Ron Stewart, Tom Clancy,
Tom Wood. Staff Members: Robert Weissler, Laura Mackin BLM Staff: Jim Mahoney

Election of Officers for FY 2013

- A. Nomination and election Of Secretary. This position will not be filled.
 - B. Nomination and election of Treasurer. Tom Wood nominated Renell Stewart, 2nd by Tom Clancy. Vote to approve Renell was unanimous.
 - C. Nomination and election of Vice-President. Tom Clancy nominated Ron Stewart, 2nd by Tom Wood. Vote to approve Ron Stewart was unanimous.
 - D. Nomination and election of President. As no candidates stepped forward for this office, Ron Serviss agreed to serve as Acting President until a candidate is identified.
- (Please note that the By-Laws state the President may serve for no more than two consecutive years.)

Consent Calendar (Motion to approve from Ron Stewart, 2nd from Renell Stewart, approval was unanimous).

- A. Minutes from September 11, 2012 Board Meeting
- B. September, 2012 Membership Report – Ron Serviss asked Robert to email Board the latest membership report. Currently, FSPR has 239 members and membership has remained stable.

2012 Financial Reports – Year-end reports will wait until next month when we will have heard from our bookkeeper on a few lingering issues.

- A. Receiving of third payment of Hopkin's endowment in the amount of \$45,000. Financial Planner needed? Board will review Cochise Community Foundation (best practice, but less flexibility) and other options, then revisit the issue next month.

BLM Report by Jim Mahoney (Mark R. back east for real estate training)

- A. Jim will attend the National Association of Interpreters (NAI) conference/workshop Nov. 12-17 in Hampton, VA. Motion from Tom Clancy for Ron Stewart to attend for FSPR, 2nd from Tom Wood. Board approved motion unanimously. Tom Wood identified as alternate for Ron Stewart.
- B. Rails-to-Trails – Union Pacific bought out San Pedro and Southwestern Operating Company (SPROC) rail corridor right-of-way from Banning Creek south and east to Bisbee – one owner now. SPROC had filed for abandonment? Union Pacific has no plans for corridor. Tom Dabbs and Brian Bellew in favor of Rail-Trail under National Trails Act. Use a rail

right-of-way for multi-use trails – non-motorized except for emergencies. Union Pacific retains ownership, gets a tax break, and BLM assumes liability for users of trail. Union Pacific still has right to later operate a railroad, but would have to compensate BLM.

- C. Trail Signs – “No firearms” sign already near San Pedro House. Move it or add a sign directly adjacent to trail(s) to make them more visible/obvious? Jim Mahoney brought in a sign as an example. Other issue: Move “Trail closed” sign from trail junction at river north to ADOT bridge construction site or change sign to “Trail closed 500 feet ahead” so birders can still bird along river outside fenced construction zone. Discussion ensued.
- D. Murray Springs designated a National Historic Landmark (Jane Childress).
- E. Brush mower – BLM needs a new one. Old one: flat tire, axle broke. \$2,500 cost estimate for new one. Or get mower back from Las Cienegas after Empire Ranch Roundup and Open House Nov. 3rd. Revisit at next meeting.

Store Manager's Report (Laura Mackin)

- A. Sales up in September, but October is lagging behind.
- B. Too early to say ADOT Bridge Replacement is having an impact on SPH visitors. Access to SPH is ok, construction noise not an issue so far.
- C. New site hosts at Fairbank and SPH need keys. BLM agrees that keys be issued to them.
- D. Need to clean Fairbank School House (FSH), sweep floor, Fairbank funds available to pay a service to do this. Site host might sweep floors regularly.

Executive Director's Report

October 2012

The first weekend in October, FSPR was well represented by four "friends" at the recent Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) Rendezvous in which Friends groups across the country met to share experiences, make new contacts, and learn fundraising and advocacy that tells the story of our local NCAs and Monuments in the context of the National Conservation Lands. There was a regional meeting of Arizona and New Mexico Friends groups to have a smaller forum for the common issues we face like target shooting, motorized vehicles, and border-related concerns. BLM shared their national 15-year strategic plan and CLF emphasized the importance and engaging at the state level to shape the strategic plan for Arizona (not to mention involvement in the RMP process). The paleontology field trip was quite interesting with many "Jurassic Park" photo ops at the museum in Fruita near Grand Junction, Colorado. Breakout sessions included engaging the entire community in addressing public land concerns and how to tell the story of the local NCA or Monument when engaging in advocacy with the public and in fundraising.

At the recent USPP PAC (Upper San Pedro Partnership advisory committee) meeting, the Cochise Water Project filed its application for a seat at the table. Cochise Water Project brings funds to the partnership - as we all know it is the same money we receive, namely Walton funds. There was discussion of a potential conflict of interest for Pat Call who is the chairman of the USPP and also the Director of the Cochise Water Project. Ultimately, members decided they could take up any specific conflicts should they come up during

proceedings and otherwise did not object to the addition. In other USPP matters, the PAC received a presentation from Brooke Bushman of The Nature Conservancy on high priority projects recommended by the USPP Technical Committee, including the Mansker and Riverstone infiltration projects. This is very early and these projects are not scoped yet, much less ready to be funded, but getting them into the pipeline certainly is the first step should funding become available.

With October comes the end of the FSPR fiscal year and final reports on a number of grants. The 2011 Cochise Community Foundation (CCF) grant that funded (in part) the Hydrology and River Advocacy videos concluded and a final report was sent to CCF. Note: the funds are local to Cochise County, so it is important to attribute it to Cochise Community Foundation and not the parent organization (Arizona Community Foundation). Executive Director Robert Weissler met with CCF grant administrator Tresa Thomas-Massiongale and Sierra Vista City Councilwoman Gwen Calhoun to discuss partnerships for tourism that tie in many different local resources like SPRNCA. Further discussions will center on funding the less "glamorous" aspects of non-profits like infrastructure, operations, and salaried staff - that comes under the banner of indirect costs.

On the subject of indirect costs, Robert has embarked on the process of submitting an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal to the National Business Center in order to achieve DOI Certification and establish an admin fee % that we can charge the federal government when we apply for BLM grant funding. Discussions with our bookkeeper Pam Collins explored the extent that she can fill in the gaps in financial considerations in completing the application.

Our fundraising activities continue including plans for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival with support from the CLF. With the venue secured for Dec. 9 at the Bisbee Royale, the focus shifts to establishing the program, identifying our marketing strategy, and generating promotional materials. CLF Senior Development Associate Mackenzie Banta indicated that there was an additional \$2,000 available to support the children's program scheduled for the afternoon (prior to the evening program for adults). Robert submitted an application for the additional funding which FSPR can use to promote and advertise the event. FSPR should receive the funds soon. FSPR received the final installment of the CLF CDP 2011 grant that includes the \$10,000 match that we achieved with our summer fundraising appeal and other donations. The CLF CDP 2011 Final Report is due next week and the narrative and financial reports are currently in progress. Thereafter, Robert will meet with Mackenzie and CLF Southwest Program Director Scott Jones.

FSPR is supporting the Buena High School Nature Club visit to Biosphere2 by covering their entrance fees with grant funding for youth from Hands On The Land. The club is also looking for young speakers to address the group. BLM or TNC interns are sought to share how they got into a career in conservation. Youth education continues to be a area of interest to grantors, so we should be able to continue our support for this group.

Looking ahead, besides the film festival our fundraising efforts continue with an end-of-year appeal to go out before Thanksgiving. With the response to our summer appeal, we have high hopes for another successful appeal, followed by the film festival in December.

President's Report

- A. Cultural Docent Program – Schedule History Walks to Murray Springs, Millville, Terrenate, et al. Cultural docents include Richard Bauer, Perrie Barnes, Dwight Long, Ron Serviss, and Ron Stewart.
- B. Conduct Cultural Docent Training in winter/spring (e.g. February).

Fund Raising

- A. Status Report for CLF \$10,000 match-The financial report in the format specified by CLF/Mackenzie is to be sent in (This was done October 29). The

specific spreadsheet including both a balance sheet and budget vs. actuals must be submitted in order for CLF to cut the check for the \$10,000 match.

B. Funding Appeal letter—End-of-year Appeal campaign to be mailed before Thanksgiving.

C. Wild & Scenic Film Festival – A potential problem has come up with the Bisbee Royale, namely that it is a 21-and-over facility. The afternoon kid's program is in jeopardy if we use this theater. Is an evening program for adults alone acceptable? Ryan Bruce has documents that say children can attend events at the Bisbee Royale. Plan B: Bisbee High School?

Old Business

A. Reports on CLF Conference – Discussion: Ron Stewart: Other Friends groups are hobby-oriented, not like FSPR. McInnes Canyons NCA was a fall-back position to avoid lands being added to the neighboring National Monument.

B. Report on Fairbank Reunion – 11 participants including 4 BLM staff attended.

C. Annual Membership Meeting, November 3, 2012 – For members and volunteer appreciation day at SPH from 11 am to 1 pm (to avoid overlap with Ranger District Grand Opening that afternoon). Burgers, dogs, brats provided; request bringing a side-dish or dessert to share. Jim Mahoney volunteered to flip burgers.

D. Hike Schedule for 2013 – Venues discussed included Lewis Springs, Big Tree, Clanton Ranch, Little Boquillas Ranch, Col. Greene's Ranch, Terrenate, St. David bird walk. BLM to provide vans for Boquillas event? Members-only events to Contention, Boston Mill, Charleston?

New Business

A. Bench(es) \$1,000 donation – Discussion of recycled lumber benches vs. memorial brick, other options including siting. Subsequently, Mark R. indicated (re-iterated) that BLM does not support memorial benches, so prospective donor was told we could not accept them.

B. Bisbee pesticide use – Bisbee board placed the issue on their agenda, but tabled it for now.

Adjourned just after 8:00 PM

Next meeting: November 13, 2012