

NFLA Business Meeting
Sondreson Hall / September 1, 2007

Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cole:

Molly Shepherd introduced Doug Cordier to discuss the baseline water quality study being conducted. He advised that House Bill No.7 provides full funding from the state to match funds of \$500,000 to monitor water quality of the North Fork of the Flathead River.

Ed Heger added that the federal government may require a comprehensive review for the British Petroleum mining project. He referred attendees to the NFLA website for additional material on the mining issues.

Molly announced that Ed was asked to monitor the mining issues on the Association's behalf.

Molly took a roll call of the board members. All were in attendance, with approximately 40 members present.

Molly read a summary of the August meeting minutes, which were approved.

Pat Cole provided the financial report.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

North Fork Patrol: Lee Downes advised that hunting season is open and if any poaching activities are seen, get the license plate numbers or other information and provide it to the North Fork Patrol members, but don't approach the violators personally. The Patrol will pass the information on to the authorities. Lee also reminded everyone that there is a poaching reward fund in place. Naomi advised that the Patrol has plenty of North Fork Patrol signs available.

Law Enforcement: Larry Wilson advised that the Flathead National Forest is enforcing ATV license plates on forest service roads, but not the North Fork Road. Citations will be issued for non-compliance. In addition, ATV's must have a side view mirror, horn and taillights. Chris Crane is the new game warden.

Fire: Lynn Ogle advised that Level Two Fire Restrictions are still in effect. Molly added that last year we wrote a letter to the Forest Service thanking them for their prompt initial attacks on new fire starts and suggested that we do so again.

Weeds: Robin Cox and Oliver Meister are still working on a weed plan. Robin advised that new growth of knapweed is effectively treated in the fall with herbicides, after clipping the seeds off.

Fire Mitigation: Molly advised that grant money is still available to landowners. The first grant ends this year and the second grant for \$100,000 ends in 2009. They are seeking people who want to mitigate fuels on their property. The grant provides for 75% reimbursement and the work can be done yourself or hired out. Bill Swope will work with individuals to meet their needs. Gerry Stearns advised that Bill Swope is looking for

individuals to recommend to perform the work.

Lynn Ogle advised that with regard to the county's slash piles, they need machinery to roll the piles and can't do anything until the fire season is over. Ed Heger advised he counted 8 county slash piles on the road and informed the new county road supervisor.

Land Use Planning: Jon Cole advised that the Draft Neighborhood Plan should be reviewed and revised by the Land Use Advisory Committee within the next month. Jeff Harris and Drew Hagemeyer of the County Planning & Zoning Office combined the 1987 Neighborhood Plan, the 1992 amendment, and the prior draft that the Committee was working on. The Committee will be meeting at 6PM on October 6th to review the revised draft. After the Committee makes its final revisions, the draft will be submitted to the County and a public comment period will begin.

Greg Puckett advised he felt the process was being rushed and had concerns that portions of the plan were not supportive of current zoning. He also expressed concerns that all landowners should be notified. Jon advised that the draft Neighborhood Plan on the county website is going to be reviewed and revised by the North Fork Land Use Advisory Committee. He also advised that the NFLA newsletter which is mailed to all landowners, not just NFLA members, will contain information on how to access and comment on the draft Neighborhood Plan.

Trails: Frank Vitale advised they did not do work on Thoma due to fire restrictions. They did Hornet, and Thompson/Seton are in pretty good shape.

CONTINUING AND OLD BUSINESS:

Molly read a letter from Don Sullivan regarding a joint press release sent out last year to the media regarding water quality monitoring. The cost associated with the press release was \$600. The Compact paid \$200, the North Fork Preservation paid \$200 and Don is requesting that the NFLA pay its \$200 share.

Ed Heger, who was president at the time, advised that Don got better distribution of the press release by spending the money, however there was no discussion of costs associated with the press release when the NFLA approved the motion to join the effort, and no promise to pay was made. Gerry Stearns made a motion that we pay our \$200 share of the \$600 expense associated with getting the press release distributed. John Frederick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Pat Cole is to send Don Sullivan a check for \$200.

Ed St. Oge advised that the Forest Service is not cleaning up slash piles near him. Lynn Ogle suggested that we write a letter to the Forest Service reminding them that it is their responsibility to get slash burning done in a timely manner and if wood piles are to be open to the public for woodcutting, they should do so. Molly inquired if we wanted to combine that letter with the prior one discussed thanking them for their fire suppression efforts. It was the consensus that the two letters go out separately to both Jimmy DeHerrera and Cathy Barbouletos.

Molly advised that she is thinking about adding a President's Message on the NFLA

website and in the newsletter, encouraging participation in the Association by all.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ray Brown advised that the North Fork Road Coalition for Health & Safety contracted with the University of Montana for an on-going dust hazard study at a cost of \$10,000. He made a motion that the NFLA donate funds toward the dust hazard study. He advised that a second motion for the amount of the donation would be made if the first motion was approved. Naomi Hoiland seconded the motion. After comments from members both pro and con, Carl Pittman made a Call for the Question. Debates ceased and the motion was voted on 27 in favor and 10 against.

Carl Pittman made a motion that the NFLA donate \$2,000 to the Road Coalition. Ray Brown seconded the motion. After comments from members both pro and con, Carl Pittman made a Call for the Question. Debates ceased and the motion was defeated with 22 against and 13 in favor.

Lynn Ogle made a motion that the NFLA donate \$500 to the Road Coalition and the motion was seconded. The motion was approved with 27 voting in favor and 11 against.

The meeting was adjourned at 10PM