

## **NFLA Business Meeting**

September 3, 2011

1. Debo Powers called the meeting to order at 8:07pm.
2. The roll call of officers indicated that the following were present: Debo Powers, Karen McDonough, Tom Edwards, Lee Secrest, Flannery Coates, and Bonny Ogle. And the following were absent: Betsy Holycross and Alan McNeill. In addition, there were 24 members present.
3. Debo read the minutes from the August business meeting. John Fredrick made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Debo announced that Bonny has agreed to continue as Treasurer for the NFLA for the next year, but that the duties assigned to the Secretary position would be redistributed. Bonny gave the Treasurer's Report. She reported that there was \$662.00 in income in August and \$1,417.00 in expenses bringing the total assets to \$15,094.13.
5. Committee Reports

### Fire Mitigation (Molly Shepard):

Molly reported that the North Fork has been awarded a third fuels mitigation grant. The DNRC recently notified the Fire Mitigation Committee that its grant proposal had been approved and that funding authority had been secured. The amount of the grant is approximately \$99,600. As with previous grants, monies will be disbursed on a cost-share basis, with the grant providing 75% of the cost of treatment and the landowner providing 25%. Landowner contributions may be "in-kind." The total value of the grant, including landowners' share, is approximately \$133,000.

The DNRC will send the committee a proposed agreement for consideration; the grant is not final until a signed agreement is in hand. Tentatively, Angela Mallon of the DNRC will attend the June 2012 NFLA meeting to explain the program. Also tentatively, the Flathead Economic Policy Center will administer the grant.

Molly also reported that the committee has been in touch with the Executive Director of FireSafe Montana. The North Fork Landowners' Association is a member of FireSafe; the organization waived payment of dues for the current year. FireSafe is willing and able to assist the Fire Mitigation Committee with its annual FireWise Day if asked to do so. The brochures that FireSafe provided earlier in the year are still available in Sondreson Hall.

Members expressed their appreciation for the new grant. Molly reminded everyone that Allen Chrisman and Bill Swope also had participated in writing the grant proposal.

### Weeds (Val Cox)

On Friday, August 19th, the NFLA Weed Wranglers and four USFS folks pulled ten bags full of knapweed at the Polebridge River access, camping ground, and upriver fisherman's trails. In addition, Tris Hoffman of the USFS sprayed several larger patches of knapweed.

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> a RAC grant proposal was submitted for weed eradication written by members of the NFLA Weeds Committee, Tris Hoffman from USFS, and Jeff Fisher from the County Weeds Department. They expect to hear by mid September.

Val announced that the weeds informational signs have been posted at all of the river access points and at Polebridge. She asked if the Hall Maintenance committee could make recommendations on where signs might be placed at Sondreson Hall.

Val read a passage from a book about weeds with recommendations on the process to collect weeds and send them to the county for identification.

Val also mentioned that there was a new Montana law about weeds. She hopes to get Steve Robinson to come in October to explain the new law and its impact on landowners. If not in October, then perhaps next summer.

Lynn Ogle mentioned that the county has been using four trucks to spray weeds along the North Fork roads over the last several weeks, from the border and back again. He also mentioned that they were spraying Kintla Ranch for leafy spurge.

Val handed out tokens of appreciation to several NFLA members who have been participating in the weed eradication activities over the summer.

#### History (Morgan Hart)

The committee has met twice this past month and is preparing to start oral history interviews soon. In preparation for these interviews, the committee has developed an interview process, a release form, a letter to the people to be interviewed, and a list of questions to ask those who are interviewed.

The committee is also working on a budget to submit to the board. Most of the money in the budget will be spent on the oral history project for such things as recording equipment, camera, extension cords, etc. They are also researching the least expensive way to digitize the old square dance records for the Hall and a sound system to play them on.

Morgan announced that the committee would meet again on Thursday, September 8, to practice and role-play oral history interviews. Finally, several interviews will be scheduled this month.

#### Social (Debo Powers)

Debo said that the social committee calendar has been full all summer, but was now slowing down. She also reminded people about the upcoming square dance with records on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. No charge for this dance.

#### Trails (John Fredrick)

John recommended that everyone schedule a hike in the week to come because the weather was going to be perfect and most of the snow is probably gone. John stated that he thought Nasacoin was passable.

John also brought extra copies of the Living with Wildlife pamphlet mentioned in Larry Wilson's column this week. It was agreed that this would be scanned and made available on the NFLA website.

#### Hall Maintenance (Lee Secrest)

Lee reported that 17 people showed up for the hall maintenance party on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Not only were the logs on the outside of the hall oiled, but the entire porch as well. In addition, weeds were pulled and the weed whacker used to clear out brush around the building. Lee thanked everyone involved.

Two other large upcoming projects were discussed. The first was a replacement for the current outhouse. The option of a pit toilet is being explored. Matt Nerdig has determined that the NFLA outhouse has been "grandfathered" in so it can be replaced with a pit toilet tank, either 500 or 1,000 gallons. This can be customized so that it will fit the current building on top, making the reuse of that building possible and cutting down on costs. The current estimate for this project is about \$3,000.

The second project discussed was the refinishing of the hall floors. The current estimate for that effort is around \$5,000, but options are being explored.

Debo pointed out that the plan for these two projects was to get the options laid out and presented to the Board. The Board will then put together a recommendation to put before the membership to vote on. The emphasis is on transparency so that all members know and have approved what is planned and the expected expenditures. Members were also asked to think of options for bringing in contributions to pay for these expensive but necessary repairs.

#### 6. Other Entities

##### North Fork Patrol (Larry Wilson)

Larry reminded everyone that hunting season started September 1<sup>st</sup>. As more and more forest service roads are closed to hunters, they will be moving to the main roads. People should pay attention to unfamiliar cars parked in strange places. If one is found, make a note of the time, place and license number if you can. Also write down the make and model of the car. The North Fork Patrol strongly urges everyone not to confront anyone.

Lynn Ogle also reminded everyone that if a landowner gives permission for someone to hunt on their property that they give that permission in writing. That way when questioned hunters will have something to show.

Larry also gave a summary of the North Fork Patrol's role and responsibilities. Although the North Fork patrol patrols property, they are not a law enforcement group. Their purpose is to try to prevent

damage to property while the owners are gone. In winter they check to see that there are no unexpected tracks around the property. In spring, they check for winter damage such as downed trees, etc. They do not need access to buildings but check to make certain that the buildings are locked tight. Often they check right after people have left, because people forget to lock everything up.

#### Fire Chief (Lynn Ogle)

Lynn reported that there are no new fires in our area. He also warned, however, that the fire season is not over and even frosted plants can provide fuel until a season ending event or the end of September.

#### 7. Old & Continuing Business

##### Signage

Molly Shepherd and Lee Secrest reported that they are still putting together the options for the posting signs. Molly presented a design for a covered posting area that has uprights (5x5 or 6x6), a roof that would cover the entire structure and rafters with an 8' roof span. The area where signs could be affixed would be approximately 40" x 60". It was recommended that this area be soft enough to use push pins for hanging notices. Molly and Lee asked for any suggestions and said that they would have a more complete design and estimate cost by the October meeting.

Larry asked about the signage ordinance and whether or not their plans complied. Molly and John both said that they thought these signs would be compliant, but were not certain. Debo asked Molly to check with the county to make certain.

##### Food Drive

Debo asked the membership if they were interested in conducting another food drive at the October meeting. The members agreed that it would be a good idea. Debo asked for volunteers to deliver the donations. Tom Edwards agreed to organize the transportation. Debo also agreed to get into contact with Bob Grimaldi who was not at the meeting to see if he was interested in participating.

##### Thanksgiving Dinner/ Christmas Party

Debo announced that we needed to start planning for Thanksgiving. Bonny has agreed to get into touch with Steve Berg to ask if he will be hosting the event this year. If he is not, then Debo asked that people think about who might want to volunteer to be head organizer.

Debo was asked whether people were interested in having a Christmas Party again this year. The membership agreed that it was another good idea and, once again, Debo asked for volunteers to organize this event.

8. New business - Debo asked whether there was any new business and no new business was proposed.
9. Adjournment - Debo Powers adjourned the meeting at 9:09pm.

*Minutes submitted by Acting Secretary Patti Hart*