

# NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday July 13, 2025  
Sondreson Community Hall

Host: Rittenburgs

Board Members

✓ Jack McFarland

✓ Jim Rittenburg

✓ Beth Ulrichsen

✓ Kevin Ulrichsen

Cheryl Crane

✓ Ruth Kinsolving

✓ John Stone

John Zardis

✓ Richard Hildner

7:00 pm: Guest Presentation:

Doug Chadwick – Hosted by Jim & Lorna Rittenburg

8:00 pm: Membership meeting

1. Call to order 8:10
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - a. Jack shared that Malcom Cooke won the trash pickup and will receive the \$25 gift certificate to HRB!
  - b. The Interlocal and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic were successes
  - c. Jack thanked Hoss (Rob Fisher) and John Stone for all the time and work they put in to organize and begin the projects recently completed (see 7.b.)
3. June 8 Membership Minutes – Short summary (copies available online)
  - a. Beth shared the highlights of the minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Jack reported that Pints Night at the Saloon raised \$100.00 for the Hall, and the new owners, Katie and Austin paid an additional \$50 towards membership dues.
  - b. We are currently seeing a slight fall in associate member dues
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Sunshine
    - i. Not available
  - b. History
    - i. Lois shared a detailed report on the recent happenings. Please see the attached report for details.
  - c. Maintenance
    - i. Report unavailable
  - d. Welcome
    - i. Beth shared that she and Zoe had visited and welcomed 8 families in the past few weeks and plan to visit 9 more by summers end.
  - e. Fire Mitigation
    - i. Molly shared that she has retired and that a few younger people have taken over leadership roles. Molly received a standing ovation for her 22 years of chairing

the committee. Richard shared that Todd Lando has shown interest in joining the committee.

6. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)

a. North Fork Patrol

- i. Mark Heaphy shared that patrol had its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year. They have 112 properties to patrol and have covered 620 miles this year. There was nothing new to report at this time.

b. Polebridge Bear Smart

- i. Suzanne shared that LeGrizz Ultra Marathon is coming up soon, volunteers are needed between the Merc to the Border.
- ii. Seasonal Training went well with the three major businesses in Polebridge.
- iii. Employee Merc housing has new bear resistant trash cans and HRB and the Saloon have certified food storage. This was all paid for by People and Carnivores.

c. NFPA

- i. Suzanne encouraged all to come to the annual meeting in August.
- ii. Bear resistant trash cans are still available
- iii. Bear spray cans can be recycled at the Hall in the special receptacle on the front porch.

d. NF Trails

- i. Bill Walker shared that they have been busy, over 8 trails worked on to open up, and will be heading to Chain Lakes Trail next.

e. NFLUAC

- i. Randy Kenyan reported that he received a letter from County Planning – many of the current board members' terms are expiring. Looking for interested people.

f. Fire Chief

- i. Kevin shared that there are no fires in our area currently. The July rain is helping our fire season, enjoy campfires while you can, things are looking good. He encouraged people to check their fire equipment to have it ready, just in case.

7. Old Business

a. Hall projects completed and under development

- i. John Stone shared that 3 projects were worked on last week. A storage area off back porch to put brooms, fans, mops, etc. in, updated the lights in the kitchen (no longer able to get bulbs for the old ones), barn door added to woodshed for added fire protection, and a ramp to the porch in the front of the Hall.

b. Carol Daly gift – A committee is being formed; Kevin was asked to be the chair. Kevin shared that Carol was instrumental in getting fire mitigation grants started in the North Fork. Her generous gift of \$7,500 upon her death is greatly appreciated. Kevin will get a committee together to begin to decide the parameters for using this gift.

8. New Business

- a. Richard shared that he has looked into renting a 100–200-gallon tank to use to spray weeds (\$75 for 3 days). He will look into the cost of Milestone Spray and encouraged people to possibly flag weeds now for fall spraying. Looking for interested community members who would like to consider using the sprayer.

9. Community Events Update

- a. Auction update by Ruth – bake goods should be dropped off on Friday by 4pm for silent auction. Many items have already been dropped off, great things will be auctioned off. Volunteers are still needed to fill slots for drop offs.
- b. Jack thanked Debo for hosting the Live Band Dance.

- c. Hoss is going to reschedule his talk about the 70s in the NF to next year when the road is not as dusty.
  - d. Beth thanked the Wernicks and Loseys for the beautiful hanging baskets that are hanging on the front porch of the Hall. Many members have mentioned how welcoming they are.
  - e. Beth reviewed the upcoming events on the Community Calendar
10. Member Comments
- a. None at this time
11. Next Membership Meeting
- a. Sunday Aug 10, 2025, at 7pm with Wendy Cole, Wolf Biologist
12. Adjourn 9:05

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Ulrichsen  
NFLA Secretary  
July 15, 2025

## NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT

July 2025

A lady named Cheryl Hughes requested information about the North Fork and the homesteaders here for a course at the Glacier Institute in August.

I researched the history of the Interlocal Agreement for the meeting last week, since the agreement is 40 years old this year. It's certainly an anniversary worth noting.

I received an email from Zach Block, the grandson of Dan and Gerane Block. It turns out Dan, who was a college professor in Dillon, wrote a rather lengthy essay about his memories of their years in the North Fork. Zach is going to have a few books made and will see that we get one for the archives, along with a collection of family photographs. In exchange, I was able to send him a fair amount of information about his family and some photos.

Rob and Trish Rego recorded the History Day at the North Fork Hostel for me. I have that transcribed, if anyone missed it and would like a copy.

Most of you have probably heard, but we lost long-time North Forker Ed Heger two weeks ago. Ed was an active member of the North Fork Preservation Association and helped wage the battle against resource extraction north of the border. He was president of the association in 2000-01.

We're having a History Day at the Ford Schoolhouse this Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, with presentations by me, Larry Wilson, Jack McFarland, and Ryan Powell from the Forest Service. It starts at 10:00 am. Bring a lawn chair, a coffee mug, and be sure to remember your mosquito repellent. The Forest Service folks built a couple of benches for folks to sit on, but they're hard, so if you think you might end up sitting there bring a pad or a pillow. We're trying to decide if we need to clear more room for seating, so can I get a show of hands from those who think they plan to come?

Lois Walker, Historian





**FRIDAY – JULY 18, 2025**  
**SONDRESON HALL**

## **NFLA Auction Returns**

- 4-6 pm viewing of items donated
- 4-6 pm silent auction of pies, cakes and other edibles
- 6 pm-UNTIL IT'S OVER: **LIVE AUCTION**

**DONATIONS OF ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE HALL:**

- AT THE MONTHLY MEETING ON JULY 13
- MON, JULY 14, thru THURS, JULY 17, between 10 AM and 6 PM
- **\*NO DONATIONS ACCEPTED ON FRI, JULY 18, DAY OF AUCTION\***

**ALL DONATIONS EXCEPT JUNK and TVs WILL BE ACCEPTED, INCLUDING:**

- **WORKING TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, and ELECTRONICS – from SNOWCATS and ATVs to SAWS, COMPUTERS, and BLENDERS**
- **FURNITURE AND ANTIQUES**
- **BOOKS, ART, AND DECOR**
- **CLOTHING IN GOOD CONDITION**
- **ANYTHING OTHER USEFUL ITEMS IN GOOD CONDITION**

**PLEASE NO TVs, UNWEARABLE CLOTHING, BROKEN/NON-WORKING EQUIPMENT OR TOOLS, TATTERED BOOKS, or UNUSEABLE APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS, AND THE LIKE. “If Goodwill won’t take it – we can’t take it.”**

**PIES, CAKES, AND OTHER BAKED GOODIES FOR THE SILENT AUCTION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE HALL BEFORE 4 PM ON DAY OF AUCTION.**

**NO OTHER DONATED ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON AUCTION DAY.**

**Payment is due at the auction. Paying by cash or check is preferred, but credit cards may be used with payment of a 3% processing fee.**

**Feel free to bring a snack to share. Water, coffee, lemonade, and iced tea will be provided.**

**ALL DONATION ITEMS NOT SOLD AT THE AUCTION WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY (unless donor has made other arrangements). All auction proceeds will benefit the NFLA, an IRC Sec. 501(c)(4) organization.**