

## Friends of Tonto National Forest Board Meeting January 27, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6 PM by President Brian Schultz, those present: Brian, Ann Adkins, Susan Sridharan, Erin Bradham, John Matteson, Pete Allard, Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Lana Olsen, Eric Yamane, Trent Shue. Introductions were made.

Presidents report: Brian has been meeting with Forest Service about new rules/guidelines. Starting new/now we will need narrower volunteer agreements with more specific projects, and volunteer agreements for every individual project. Lots of discussion on this new directive. Brian presented copies of a letter from Devin Quintana explaining this new directive. Brian will meet with the FS on 1/28 and try to get an agreement so that Don can have Buffel grass and Fountain grass removal the next two Saturdays as already published.

Guest speaker Lana Olsen gave a presentation on ways Friends might be involved in volunteer working vacations.

Executive Director report: There are several events coming up we could set up tables at—Game and Fish, Just Roughin It, SRP Water Expo. The SRP Water Expo is the same day as our first orientation. No one volunteered to staff a booth at the other events. Don mentioned he would like to set up a table at one of the popular Superstition trailheads. Discussion on March Orientation meeting, with a new date of March 7 10-2 at the Goldfield Admin Site. Kelly Kessler will speak on Monarch butterflies and Don on invasive plants. Information needs to be out about the orientation—flag it on the web site.

Two donations were noted from Jim Paine and Pete Allard.

Lane Butler from the Desert Botanical Garden and Robert Madera, Botanist at the Tonto main office asked Patti if FOTNF would be interested in participating in their new rare plant monitoring program. They've been working very hard to make it volunteer-friendly, and have scheduled a training session at the Botanical Garden March 6, with a follow up field day March 13. Patti will be giving them a few names of people who are interested in this long-term project. If you are interested, let Patti know.

Eric Yamane: Earth Day in April, Boeing wants to do something “Big” also the Lions, something that could become an annual event.

On Going Projects: Brian has made 2 trips up Arnett/Telegraph, lots of Oleander and Tamarisk have been removed, there will be a return trip to treat the stumps. AWC will put up a sign with info about the work that is being done. It is possible that this area could be a Legacy Project, Ryan Nicholas, Invasive Plant Manager at the Tonto Supervisor’s office wants to see friends take the lead with a long term Arnett/Telegraph Adoption=A-Reach/Grid –we may need to hire at least a part-time person to manage this project. Discussion—great project, find the right person to take the lead. Next step: we need to make a vision, then set phases, long term strategic plan. Need to meet with Ryan, then post the job description and opening. Probably need a 5 year plan to submit to Ryan. Within a couple weeks Brian will prepare and send out an outline for a plan to present. More discussion.

Erin made a motion to authorize Don and Brian to put together a somewhat detailed plan for Arnett/Telegraph by the next board meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann

Approved

Patti: Photo Point funding for Jerry Nelson to audit ArcGis Class at MCC, cost of \$275. Discussion: mixed feelings. Motion by Erin to pay for the class, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott, approved.

Don: Request for money for brochure printing. Motion by Erin for up to \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott, motion carried.

Susan commented that the \$5025 funds are temporarily restricted for spending, she needs accounting for that money—any spending Arnett related should come from that money, commented by Don.

Don—BLM, Harper A school is coming to Tonto National Forest via Lost Dutchman State Park, they most likely will have their own FS agreement. Ryan hasn’t communicated on that project that Don submitted to him. Don commented that training and location is all that Friends is providing.

Scott—Planning on Sears-Kay open house on March 8 and is looking at April 5 or 26 for open house at Shoofly, depending on the outcome of our meeting with the District 2/6 and scheduling work crews. He also mentioned Tonto National Forest will soon have a new archeologist.

8:20 PM meeting adjourned.

Temporary Secretary, Ann Adkins