

Friends of the Tonto National Forest  
Minutes for Board Meeting 26 April 2021

Meeting held using Zoom. Attending were Trent Shue, Scott Wood, Susan Sridharan, Patti Fenner, Don Pike, Bert Roy, Dayan Anderson, Eric Yamane, John Matteson, Elizabeth Butler, Georgy Naimoli, and Urb Weidner

6:03pm Call to order – Don

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Unable to find place to do embroidery/print logo items; however, Ann suggested place to get items for the board. If interest, Patti will send a note to the board regarding obtaining items. Will be on Google Drive.
- Received award from regional office of the Forest Service. Award was the Citizens Stewardship and Partnership Award for the excellent work done by the Friends of the Tonto in various areas. Great recognition for our group and is appreciated. Will highlight in newsletter and web site.

Financial Report – Susan (Detailed financial information uploaded to Google Drive in advance of meeting)

Cash & Investments:

\$ 8,225.07. Checking

23,038.54 Money Market account

20,255.71 CD's (There are three CD's – One, was recently reinvested)

\$51,519.32 Total cash & investments of which \$33,152.57 is unrestricted

Revenue: (3/22-4/24/21)

\$ 300.00 Donation from Golf Family foundation

30.81 Donation from Fry's

1.00 Paypal Giving Fund

60.00 Memberships

9.33 Interest & dividends

\$ 401.14 Total Revenue

Expenses: (3/22-4/24/21)

\$ 1.92 Paypal fees

149.90 Meeting Expenses – Zoom annual subscription

293.06 Riparian Photopoint Expense

11.21 Facebook ad for Sears-Kay open house

287.74 CB Radios (2) for Water Source Inventory

\$ 743.83 Total Expenses

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(\$ 342.69) Net Income (loss) for period of 2/21-3/21/2021

\$ 362.61 YTD 4/24/21 Net Income

#### Temporary Administrative Assistance Discussion – Don

- Question of what admin assistance is needed. Have not received much feedback from the Board. Susan created analysis of costs associated with implementation. Would need a job description of work involved and/or skills required. Decided would not be an employee. Will try to find a volunteer to support the needed areas. Patti will send a note to initiate the list of what's needed. Will be on May's meeting agenda. Patti moved we recruit a volunteer to handle administrative and technical support of the board. Seconded by Trent. Motion carried.
- Question of to whom this person would report. Patti will coordinate person's activities with input from Board members. Urb expressed concern of additional duties being added to Patti. Eric suggested list of needs be sent to the Board for review.

#### Communications Committee Report – Elizabeth

- Plan to have a newsletter by mid-May. Requested input from Board members. Will focus on one board member and water source work. Intend to highlight one project in each newsletter. Trent will provide water source inventory project info.
- Looking at how to put photos in Google work space.

#### Cultural Committee Report – Scott

- Working on fence for Shoo Fly. Bid came in for \$66,065, which is only good for a few days due to the rising price of steel. Don't expect steel prices to stabilize until Fall. Met with district to look at alternatives. Possibilities include a lighter version for which bids have been requested. Also looking at alternatives such as wood; however, these prices have also been inflated. Boulders are another possibility.
- Still awaiting clearance. Discussed this at meeting w/district; have heard nothing back.

#### Photopoint – Patti

- Almost 40 people signed up and beginning to receive photos.
- With Pete, did an outreach at Boyce Thompson and had someone volunteer for milkweed watering.
- Have done Photopoint at Arnett, and the photos show successful removal of oleander and saltcedar.

#### Milkweed – Susan

- Plants doing well at both sites. Wildcat plants are somewhat behind the ones at Phon D; however, did find two plants with flowerheads.
- Although nearby flowerheads were clipped, our use of wire cages has protected the milkweed.
- Susan will contact Girl Scout leaders to solicit help, and this could potentially be a scout badge.

- Susan plans to check out the Indian Springs site. Eric said the plants in Cave Creek are being watered by a Forest Service person. Eric has also talked to the Lions about a planting this Fall at Rattlesnake Cove Recreation Site at Bartlett Lake.
- Some milkweed volunteers have suggested a kayak outing involving the milkweed volunteers. Would not necessarily be an official Friends' sponsored outing.
- Patti said will be planting at more sites. Need more seeds. Don has seeds from last year, which should still be ok to use. He also has plants if anyone wants them.
- Susan said landscape companies are having trouble getting Milkweed seeds and plant.

#### Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

- Don met with AZ Conservation Corps and has received a proposal from them. Should be about two weeks to clear the wash. Need to do before July/Aug heat for optimum efficiency.
- Had a good season. Don will create a report with results. Have gone back to sites cleared a few years ago without seeing returning Buffelgrass.
- Have six regular workers with an additional three assisting.
- Eric pulled Fountain grass with Lion's group. Lions will adopt an area on Verde River near Dynamite.

#### Grant update – John

- Update on grant - Went well. Put in drains, added steps, etc., and addressed a number of problem areas. Volunteer group to address erosion at Campaign Creek. Covered matching hours for grant. Awaiting final invoice in order to close out the grant. Expect to close grant by end of May. John was commended for the work he has accomplished and the continued efforts he has made.
- Plan to address maintenance at a site having about four miles of trail, which has not been maintained for years.
- Has plans for additional work as grant money is available.

#### Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison report – Dayan

- Showed status presentation page covering the meeting with CAZCA and the Sonoran Seed Collaborative whereby the Botanical Garden working with Boyce Thompson would be a repository of seeds collected by different groups. Would create council of site stewards so that groups coordinate with each other for seed collection and storage. Council would work with the Maricopa Seed Library on community outreach. Dayan suggested seed collection, but also plant propagation so that plants can be put out on different projects. Could be a plant propagation arm. People, who are not able to get out into the field, could be involved in some aspect of the work such as growing the plants.
- Could involve universities and community colleges.
- Tribal restoration program = Dayan suggest tribal perspective is included. Looking at ways to get them involved in plant restoration projects.

- A Seed Summit to be held in 2022 is being considered.
- Considering how to involve local groups for community involvement and education. Got a good volunteer out of the CAZCA conference. May be able to get ASU to participate in reseeding projects and other activities.
- Susan spoke to Milkweed gardens. However, lack of seeds is a problem. Seeds are hard to find.

#### Membership Committee Report – Georgy (Report sent by Pete prior to meeting)

- 38 individual members, 17 families, 1 organization = 56 total
- 1 new member
- 1 membership renewal

#### Water Sources Inventory Project – Trent

- Conducted virtual training for 14 people last Tuesday.
- Planning half day field trip on May 8<sup>th</sup> in the Seven Springs area. At least 7 people have signed up.
- Have interest from REI to support the efforts. Have sent flyers for posting at REI.
- Needs a place to put photos like Dropbox and will get w/Patti on this.
- Tested CB radios, which had been approved by the Board. Get about ¾ mile coverage.
- Will be going to Four Peaks on Friday to discuss hydrology and water sourcing. Seven people have signed up.

#### New Business

- Don said DFFM (Arizona Dept of Forestry and Fire Management) grant came out. Pertains to invasive plants, land management, and restoration. Don will do one for the Superstition project.
- He suggested we have more field trips perhaps pertaining to training for milkweed and seed collection. Don suggested Bulldog Canyon is an area from which seeds could be collected.
- Patti said we still need volunteer hours from Board members. Patti will send out the latest form.

Adjourn 7:40pm

Submitted by: Urb Weidner