

Friends of the Tonto National Forest

Minutes of Board Meeting 27 September 2021 -----Draft for Review ---

Attending via Zoom were Patti Fenner, Scott Wood, Don Pike, Susan Sridharan, Trent Shue, Eric Yamane, Dayan Anderson, Dave Ettelson, Elizabeth Butler, Pete Allard, Ann Adkins, and Urb Weidner. Also in attendance was Jenn Nerat of the Communications Committee.

Call to order: 6:00pm

President's Report – Patti

- Welcome & introductions for new members – Dave Ettelson & Jenn Nerat. Jen is assisting Elizabeth in communications related activities, website updates, and social media. Dave will be working with Don on mapping and other activities.
- Progress of Strategic Plan and Bylaws Review ad hoc committee. Finished Strategic Plan, which will be sent to Board members. Will be working on Bylaw's review.

Communications Committee Report - Elizabeth Butler and Jenn Nerat

- Elizabeth raised the question of whether we would want to be more active in the summer for activities such as clean-up. We might want to partner with other organizations in summer activities. And, if so, would there be any objections from the Forest Service? Don't know of any reason why they would object to activities such as trash pickup. Asking for feedback from Board as to summer work efforts. An alternative would be to do work in Payson area to beat the heat. Will discuss further at next meeting.

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Card for Bert. Bert resigned from the FOTNF Board due to physical ailments. Bert has been a positive force on the Board, and we look forward to his complete recovery and return to the Board.
- New project forms easily accessible in Google filing system under Forms folder.
- Time Lapse Chronolog Project - funding request. Involves taking photos at set points in the forest to create a time lapse photo history of conditions at set points. More info at: <https://www.chronolog.io/> Examples can be found at: <https://www.chronolog.io/map> Suggestion is to support 1-2 sites in Tonto. It was agreed that the milkweed planting locations would be good. They charge \$200 for one site or \$180 each for 2 or more sites. Motion by Patti to approve a \$360 expenditure for two sites for one year. Seconded by Urb. Motion carried unanimously.
- Be Outdoors Video – Some of us were filmed on Sept 15th at the Milkweed, Photopoint, and Sears-Kay locations.

- Eric Norman on the Rec staff at Cave Creek has donated pipe for the Shoofly fence barrier project. Could save us up to \$60,000 depending on how much pipe is available.

Financial Report – Susan (Detailed financial report submitted via email)

Highlights include:

- Received a \$2,090.02 donation from the Rio Verde Community Association. This is very much appreciated.
- Three new individual memberships and one organization
- Need finance committee chairperson. Would not need to be a Board member.
- Need to update QuickBooks. Newer version will be \$168 and would be on-line vs current desktop version. Don suggests a proposal be made next month as to what's involved and cost of changeover.
- As we continue to grow, may need a donor database in the future.

Cultural Resources Committee Report – Scott

- Did considerable work at Sears-Kay.
- Will need to do maintenance work at Sears-Kay and Shoofly. Lots of weeds which need to be addressed. Will start on Oct 5th & 6th at Sears-Kay. Shoofly will also need weed control.
- Will do planning with Forest archeologist to identify future projects.

Natural Resources Committee Reports – Don

- Water Source Inventory Project – Trent – Have some people interested in being involved. Will hold training as get new people.
- Noxious Weeds - Don – Two projects running in Superstition Mountains. Have an agreement with the Forest Service for one week's participation by the AZ Conservation Corps to remove Fountain Grass starting on Oct 26th. Will be working in a burn area.
Received a \$65,000 award from the Dept of Forest and Fire Management. Also, have volunteer and cash commitment resulting in a total of around \$110,000. Involves herbicide treatment of Stinknet and Sahara Mustard, and possibly Fountain and Buffel Grass removal.
Two training sessions planned for mapping and monitoring. Use Field Maps.
- Eric - Will have projects in Nov/Dec through April 2022. Eric suggests we attend outside meetings such as Lions to explain projects and opportunity for involvement.
- Milkweed for Monarchs – Susan – Vandalism at Wildcat. Fortunately, only one plant was found to have died. Plants are looking great. Planting at Rattlesnake Cove on Nov 20th and at Phon D on Nov 13th.

Membership Committee Report – Pete (Report submitted via email)

- 38 individual, 22 family, and 3 organizational members for a total of 63.
- Question of membership rate. Will remain the same.

Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison report – Dayan

- Presented CAZCA programs via shared screen. Could be activities to add to our calendar.
- Discussed activities of Sonoran Seed Collaborative. Will be a Sonoran Seed Summit next April at the Botanical Garden.
- Working with a group for an abandoned mine land conference next April. Question of what can be done to restore abandoned mine land.

New Business

- Susan had contact with the Tonto National Forest botanist, who is running the rare plant project at the Desert Botanical Garden and the East Verde Water Restoration project. Asked if we would want to participate in the rare plant monitoring. Uses Field Maps app.
- Discussed COVID safety protocols, which are changing.

Adjourn: 7:42pm

Submitted by:

Urb Weidner

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