

Friends of the Tonto National Forest  
Minutes for Board Meeting on 25 April 2022

Attending via Zoom were Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Dave Ettelson, Helene Tack, Pete Allard, Susan Sridharan, Dayan Anderson, Eric Yamane, Urb Weidner, and Darleen Sims

6:21 Call to order – Scott

President's Report – Scott

- Talked to Cave Creek ranger regarding Copper Creek cabin; however, have not heard anything more.

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Website help – Received a proposal to keep our website running and secure. Cost would be \$35/month for 30 minutes work. Additional work would be billed at \$80/hr. Motion made to approve the agreement for three months at \$35/month and with a maximum of \$500 above the \$35/mo.
- Fundraising Plan progress – Sent out fundraising “how to” doc to the Board. Requesting identification of needs as basis for fundraising. Will do Shoofly fundraising as first effort. Doing something on Iced Tea Day on June 10<sup>th</sup> is a possibility. Looking for assistance in arranging.
- Scott looking at grant possibilities. Two close-in possibilities. AZ Heritage Fund and the SW Intervention Fund, which is coming up in June and Oct. AZ Economic Recovery Program may be able to assist with grant writing.
- First Aid/CPR Training date – Patti will suggest dates for training and send to the Board.
- Timesheets – Doing better on timesheets with input from various projects.

Financial Report – Susan (Detailed financial information submitted to Google Drive)

Highlights:

- DFFM grant for \$19,000 has been approved. Monies expected by next week.

Cultural Resources Committee Report – Scott

- Performing maintenance work at Shoofly. Could use more volunteers.

- Susan provided brochures to the Cave Creek Museum. The Exec Director said they have sent 500 people to Sears-Kay. We need to have more brochures printed for various uses.

#### Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

##### Noxious Weeds - Don

- Will be doing the final report for the invasives plant removal SPA. All objectives have been met.
- Submitted quarterly report for Stinknet removal. Difficulties include distance to get water.
- Good feedback has been received from articles in Gold Canyon and Apache Junction media.
- Ahead of schedule of volunteer hours and in removal of Fountain Grass and Buffelgrass.
- Have been talking to numerous groups regarding plans for removal of the Buffelgrass in the Mtns. Will work with various groups to develop a plan for both Buffelgrass and Fountain Grass removal. Will seek grant.

#### Water Source Inventory Project – Trent (Sent status report to Patti)

- Patti discussed status received from Trent. Kelly Kessler determined which springs should be monitored. People were trained for the monitoring of eleven springs, which will start on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Several volunteers will be involved. Additional dates TBD.

#### Milkweed for Monarchs – Susan

- Phon D growing/watering going well. Wildcat site has 39 plants which are well established. Rattlesnake doing well; however, no longer can get water from Tonto fire station. Water jugs now at Cave Creek ranger station.
- Seed growth kits will be made available in July for planting in Nov.
- Patti covered monitoring plans – Webinar through Monarch Joint Venture hosted by Kelly Kessler. Learned monitoring process and will have a day in the field on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

##### Riparian Photopoint – Patti

- City of Phoenix employees trained on Photopoint. Will photograph restoration efforts.

## Adopt-a-Site -- Eric

- Had April 2<sup>nd</sup> event at Canyon Lake with Boeing employee involvement. Did Rattlesnake cleanup on April 9<sup>th</sup> with Lions Club. Susan gave the volunteers a review of the Milkweed program. Suggests PowerPoint presentation be created for use in Zoom meetings with various Wells Fargo areas to solicit volunteers.

## Cave Creek Trail Project – Susan

- Working on signs. Maricopa Trail has a \$10K grant available by June. It's possible we may be able to get some additional support for the cost of signs.

## Membership Committee – Pete (Report sent via email in advance of meeting)

- Member numbers: 41 individual, 14 family, and 4 organization memberships for a total of 59.

## CRM database -- Helene

- Top priorities include:
  - Automation of communications. Would create email templates for various projects.
  - Also, could create a means of handling questions via a frequently asked question section.
  - Use of CRM could make it easier for volunteers to sign up and provide a means to automate a data base of volunteers in order to acquaint them with other Friends' projects.
  - Tracking of volunteer hours is potentially another area which potentially could be improved as well as tracking of financial information.
  - Could also address our relationship with partners.

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

- Will have a new CAZCA director. They are still trying to schedule Desert Defender meetings. Some future plans and direction not yet solidified.
- Seed Summit at Desert Botanical Garden went well. Follow-up meeting is scheduled for next week.

- Don suggests new way of handling our brochure, which needs to be reprinted. May add links to pertinent information.
- Dayan raises the question of how to participate in Public Lands Day in Sept and potentially use it to gain volunteers from business organizations. Alternatives discussed included doing something at Shoofly, an annual meeting, and water monitoring in the northern part of the forest

#### New Business - Scott

- No responses yet received from district rangers regarding meetings to establish needs.
- Helene related that an ASU student will assist us in needed areas.

7:51pm Adjourn