

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

Attending via Zoom were Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Dave Ettelson, Pete Allard, Susan Sridharan, Urb Weidner, and Darleen Sims

6:05pm Call to order – Scott

President's Report – Scott

- Sign up for Shoofly event which will take place on Oct 29th

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Met with Payson District Ranger & staff. Discussed Shoofly event. Also, the wildlife biologist has items which could be addressed:
  - One is shooting bullfrogs on a tank on the Pleasant Valley ranger district. This would be led by AZ Game & Fish Dept.
  - Another possibility is putting wildlife escape ramps in water troughs.
  - AZ toad counts. Involves listening at night and recording the toad sounds. Would be in the Payson District and perhaps the Pleasant Valley District.
  - Creation of a Milkweed garden at the Mesa Ranger District. Have looked at which Milkweed species would be appropriate for that area.
  - Scots Tipple has been found near a trailhead. Assistance would involve mapping and removal. This is a thistle, which grows 8-10 ft tall.
  - Removing elk fences. This would require camping out and removing wire fencing.
- Board members should sign up for the timeline for the Shoofly project

Financial Report – Susan (Detailed report submitted by Susan for Friends' Google drive)

- Highlights
  - \$562.67 collected for the Shoofly challenge from three people, including \$500 from Dayan.
  - Will collect \$696 from the Combined Federal Campaign.
  - Collected \$47 from the sale of excess Milkweed seeds.
  - Received anonymous donation of \$2,500
  - Discussed locations where the wildflower books could be sold

Natural Resources Committee Report – Don

Noxious Weeds - Don

- DFFM grant due July 29<sup>th</sup>. Don has been working with Helene and an outside organization on the grant. Have letters of support from the Forest Service and the Maricopa County Flood Control District.
- Working on field mapping. Ongoing effort working with McDowell Sonoran Conservancy to add symbology to our non-native plant map to indicate latest inspection status.

#### Water Source Inventory/Spring Water Quality Monitoring Project – Trent via input to Patti

- Spring monitoring project for 8 springs (4 in Payson & 4 in Pleasant Valley districts). Have enough people for the project.

#### Milkweed for Monarchs – Susan/Patti

- Plots from previous plantings are doing well.
- Grow kits have been passed out for Nov planting. Most are doing well.
- Keeping track of sourcing of those seeds which are doing well.

#### Cave Creek Trail Project – Susan

- In March had a marketing director and photographers from the AZ Community Foundation attend. We will be one of the featured nonprofits in their annual publication, which will come out in the Fall. Could reference this publicity as part of our membership drive or donation campaign.

#### Membership Committee - Pete (Report submitted to the Board)

- Two new members (1 family & 1 individual). Total is now 66.
- Question raised as to who contacts new members.

#### CRM investigation - Scott

- Helene arranged previews of four different CRM programs to determine which one best meets our needs. Evaluated packages for use for activities including volunteer management, mailings, and donations. Alternatives and prices were discussed. Appears Donor Perfect may be best for our requirements.
- Target to decide on package at next board meeting.

#### New Business

- Dave has been looking at local newspapers for use for publicity of our events. He will contact Tonto National Forest main office to further pursue this.

6:54pm Adjourn