

Friends of the Tonto National Forest
Minutes for Board Meeting of 26 June 2023

Attending via Zoom were Scott Wood, Don Pike, Susan Sridharan, Leslie Crabtree, and Urb
Weidner

6:02pm Call to Order – Scott

President's Report – Scott

- Newsletter – Helene has started work on it; needs input from the board prior to the month's end.
- Dark Sky event – Talked to dark sky presenter; however, he suggested it include a flutist in a venue. It was decided that we would prefer just an outdoor dark sky event.

Financial Report – Susan (Details submitted to Google Drive)

Highlights:

- Screens shared with detailed financial reports.
- Awaiting payment to us for DFFM21 of \$13, 478. Has been approved and funds expected shortly. Received payment of \$29,256.
- Received two individual donations.
- Two memberships – 1 family & 1 individual

Natural Resources Committee Report

Milkweed Project – Susan

- Should have enough planters for Cave Creek although could use one more. Leslie has 10 planters for Phon D, which will be enough. Use of potting soil vs garden soil needed.

Noxious Weeds – Don

- DFFM21 grant completed, and a final report has been issued.

- Still working on DFFM22, which started in January 2023. The majority of funds have been used. Matching hours have been met. Should be completed by YE23 including a final report.
- DFFM23 application due July 28th. Will be a big commitment. Need a minimum 10% matching; Don projects at least a 30% volunteer hours match. Decision on the grant anticipated by Oct. Will not be using youth groups for use with herbicides.
- Will work with Susan regarding the cash flow for the grants. Will review the plan with the Board at the July24th meeting.
- A question exists of the use of herbicides in the wilderness for which approval for its use is required. Required due to the density of invasives. Working with EnviroSystems, who have done work for Scottsdale in the McDowell's. Difficulty in getting water into work areas may involve use of pack horses.
- Don shared screens, which highlight the areas to be addressed.
- Stinknet has become a major problem in the Tonto. Can still be pulled and bagged before seeds drop.

Riparian Photopoint

- Still some work is continuing during the summer.

Cave Creek Trail Maintenance project – Susan

- No new activity

Public contact at trailheads – Leslie

- Will pick up again in the Fall.

Donor Perfect – Helene

- The Liability Waiver is now active on the Friend's site.

New Business

- Activity directed toward prep for DFFM23 and Fall events.

7:05pm Adjourn