FRIENDS OF THE MARK WEST WATERSHED

Minutes from general meeting 5-17-07

Present: Bill, Rick, Sue, Megan, Paul, Sherri, Ray, Delores, Grif, Delores, Linda, Josh, Jean

Minutes:

Minutes of 4-12-07 approved with no amendments

Treasurer's Report:

There has not been a lot of activity recently; we raised $200 at the Hike and Hoot raffle. During the road cleanup someone stole some county signs which we will have to replace, Richard will follow up with the county, and Grif thinks the cost will be under $100

Creek Report:

Last Friday of every month around 10 a.m., we get testing equipment and Grif tests at his house, the tests takes around 45 minutes. Please come and help if you are available

COPE Report:

Ray reported that the committee is on hold while they wait for the fire district to get done with their maps, we are the first group they are working with and have to clear it with their superiors.

There was a concern about the lack of progress and a suggestion to bring this committee to the Alpine Club.

Ray also suggested programming everyone's phone numbers into your cell phone.

Ray thought that the best way to get more involvement from locals is to get maps and then start conversations that way.

Ray suggested changed the name from COPE to something that reflects more of the nature of communication with our community, there were suggestions to change the name to something drastic

History Project Committee Report:
There was no report, Janice is interested in joining committee

Trail Watcher Report :
Cyrie is submitting quarterly reports to open space people, Grif thinks that there should be more coordination between our group and open space

There was a brief discussion about pot farms and cleanup efforts on Saddle Mountain

Web Site - Peeter Vilms:
We would like to handle our website ourselves.

Peeter recommended that we first figure out what we want the site to be and what kinds of elements should be there. Peeter would be happy to train someone here to operate it as-is, To upgrade it and make it more functional `would require us hiring someone and would likely cost thousands of dollars.

Peeter asked how interactive we wanted to be? Do we want blogs, bulletin boards, and interactive newsletters? He suggested that we think of elements that could be included to create excitement and encourage more participation

Some thought it was not a huge priority to spend thousands to upgrade the site until we grow larger as a group

There were concerns about getting consensus about what we want the wording to be on the site,

There was a suggestion to budget $500 for Peeter's time for getting us started and maintaining to website

There are only 43 people on our email list, there were suggestions to have more hyperlinks to other groups especially local…

There was an ad-hoc website committee formed, Bill will chair, Ray, Josh, Paul, and Jeff are on the committee.

Bill will set a meeting date in the near future. Our website address is www.markwestwatershed.org

Future Speakers:

Janice wondered if we would be interested in having someone talk to us about rattlesnake safety. There was a suggestion to have this speaker at the next Alpine Club meeting

Hike and Hoot!
Ray has heard from people at Monan's Rill that things went well; he has not gotten any negative feedback. He thought the speakers were longwinded and the hike was chaotic. He would like to transfer the event to Saddle Mountain in the future

There were suggestions to limit the time for the speakers

There were too many people with the owl hooter and it was to noisy to attract owls,

Delores suggested hiking first and lectures later, this would also give people time to prep food for dinner

Sue volunteered to be on committee to help plan next year

Paul guessed there were about 75-100 people, there were guesses of 60 percent locals and the rest outsiders,

There were suggestions to advertise the event more in advance, April seems to be a pretty open time for Monan's Rill

April Spring Clean Up Report:
Richard passed around photos of fish in the creek at alpine creek and thanked everyone who helped at the road cleanup

Harvest Moon Dinner Dance:
Delores reported that Mark West Lodge has been upgraded, parking lot is safer, interior is very nice. There is area where we have dining and another room we can have auction items in and yet another room where the band can setup. Outside garden area with flowers outside is very nice as well

We want to expand further downstream in the watershed, the upside to using Mark West Lodge for our dinner/dance is that we can get in more people

The only cost for us is one bartender and cleanup

Lots of upsides and very few downsides. We only have site for one day, reality is we do not have as much to do

Committee has worked very hard and Sherri and Pat will go back and cleanup the old list of items that need to be done. Kathleen is feeling better and is willing to head up volunteers. One Suggestion was to have Sherri's staff cook food and serve it rather than Sherri dong all the work

All this feels extremely doable for Sheri

There was a suggestion for shuttles to and from lodge, Sherri knows an event coordinator who can suggest shuttles and what might work for us

Open Space Grant(s):

The RCD has 10k they propose to spend on having their staff compile data for our watershed, they suggest starting in Aug-Sep, they are impressed with our group and its organization…

Dave Tracy has offered to work with us on Strategic planning, we may have two or three workshops to help us decide what we want to see the watershed like in the future

Ray will chair the committee, Pat, Richard, Grif, Delores, and Penny will also be on the committee

Respectfully submitted,

-Josh Tracy