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Meeting Minutes, March 22nd, 2016

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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NSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – March 22-23, 2016
Wildland Firefighters Foundation – Boise, ID

March 22, 2016

- **8:00** Call to order, introduction to site, introductions, approval of the agenda – Jim Cherry
- **8:10** Approval of previous meeting minutes – Jim Cherry
- **8:20** Scholarship program update – Terry Egan
 - Developed a scholarship scoring matrix, single page. Requirements to qualify and apply for a scholarship have changed to jumpers, pilots and immediate family of jumpers and pilots. Web site has criteria and suggestions for applicants. Scholarships are \$1000 each with 6 awarded each year. Have about \$35,000 funds available.
 - Wm C Murphy willed \$5000 to NSA for survivors of jumpers KIA to be used for scholarships.
Scholarships began after South Canyon for survivor’s families. Removed specific language for KIA later, but have to honor bequeath of will. Discussed several long term options. Motion to accept terms of will by Chuck Sheley and second by Terry Egan. Approved. Will have line item to designate Bill Murphy Scholarship Fund (for KIA scholarship assistance).
- **8:30** Report on 2015 Trails Program - Fred Cooper
 - ‘Work for food’ model no longer viable. Funding sources for projects are shifting. FS suggests self-funding but this is not fair to volunteers. Looking at donations and grants. Discovered association for wilderness preservation that is funded by FS. Association distributes to volunteer groups that work in wilderness areas. Jim Cherry requests funds up front from volunteers to help with food and supplies for projects. 2016 is funded and he is prefunding 2017. Heritage foundation has funding sources and Lincoln Bramwell will provide contact info.
 - Decision required – regarding Lewis & Clark 1805 & 1806 trails. Can NSA accept funds in trail programs checking account to construct, sign, and maintain trails? Bill Hutchinson, new trails treasurer, to handle donations. Need to have separate checking account. Should be able to recoup reasonable expenses to administer program. Motion to make NSA trails program fiduciary agent for Lewis & Clark trails program, subject to concurrence and approval of Jim Lindell. Second by Sheley. Approved.
- **9:00** USFS Historic Preservation – Discussion with Lincoln Bramwell, USFS Chief Historian
 - Dan Olsen is acting for Tom Harbour . Denise Blankenship is acting deputy. Lincoln is a single person resource. Works in partnership with universities. They are moving position to Rocky Mountain Research Station at Ft Collins, CO. Good access to graduate students for free labor. Steve Pine, thru Arizona University press, is writing books on regional fire history. Lincoln takes oral histories at reunions.
- 10:00** Break
- **10:15** NSA website Photo Gallery – Chuck Sheley
 - NSA is soliciting photos from members, with captions. Sheley will screen. Bethany Hannah (located in Sacramento area) would scan and load to web. Need approval for project and funds. Previous attempt to complete this project were not successful and the allocated funds were out back into treasury. Mansfield Library could be available to public if someone was dedicated to coordinate with the library (act as manager of

information). Still need to set up gallery on our web site. Discussion. Motion by John McDaniel to approve Photo Gallery Project by Bethany Hannah and funds with second by John Packard. Motion-approved.

- **10:30** Historic preservation options with UM's Mansfield Library -Charlie Palmer
 - Phone call with Charlie and Donna McCrea. Determine long term preservation vs short term access. Do we want to grow collection at Mansfield Library? Intent of donors? Do we have permission of donor to use anyway we determine? Also includes any other items of historical interest (diaries, etc.). Donna would work with Bethany. Need agreement for same. Chuck will contact Bethany and then let Charlie/Donna know so they can contact her. Donna has template of agreement. Mansfield Library - Some items indexed by individual name/topic. Some are not. There is Internet access for a list of items, but research must be done in person/on site. Arrangements can be made for research to be done by grad students if researcher is not local. They don't keep museum type items in MSO. Suggest sending copies of all board minutes to library. Send thumb drive of magazines to Charlie/Donna. Also copies of electronic jump records are available on current smokejumper web site.
 - Old base annual reports would be nice to capture for NSA records. Fred has many RDM reports, Larry Lufkin has only known copies of Cave Junction reports. Need master plan of how to capture information and then share with members.
- **11:00** Traveling Smokejumper display – Chuck Sheley
 - Educational display is in three packages, shipped to museums. Wall charts mounted on panels. Permanent displays can select individual panels that are appropriate to their needs. Trying to add thumb drive that has excerpts from our DVD for display as well. Rental charges vary by ability to pay.
- **11:30** Membership Report – John McDaniel
 - 321 life members. 1532 active members. 2014 inactive members. 144 associate members. 20+ pilots. 1698 total membership. Each year we lose about 100 members (deceased). Large percentage of NSA members are from the early years. Last year we only got 7 members from current rookies. 20-25% of members don't renew. 35% of renewals reduce membership. Projections look like this organization will only survive for about another 20 years at most. To contact younger generation must be electronic to be effective. Roger recommended app brought to you by NSA to capture data, like jumps, etc.
- **11:45** Website Committee update – Larry Lufkin
 - Concern for succession plan, new people and new technology. Donations page needs a lot of work and is scheduled for next sprint.
- **12:00** Lunch – Catered lunch provided by WFF
- **12:45** Discussion with Roger Staats, National FS Smokejumper Program Manager and Jim Raudenbush, BLM
 - Roger has been in position a little over 2 months. Sherpas: in the process of moving to newer model, C23B/SD3-60 with FAA certification. 15 from army with 10 in service. State of the art glass cockpit. Garmin. The platform is an investment to carry the program into the future. Can open ramp in flight. Test last year with GPS delivery system for cargo. Used a Ram air canopy with guidance. Provides promise for multiple programs. Still have need for twin otter for back country. Still have need for contract aircraft. Dornier still benefit for WYS and RDD Dornier. An extra capacity Sherpa ship will be based in Ogden for back up. Will be contracting additional aircraft for peak

season need. Harder to get BLM aircraft for FS use due to their extended seasons. N161Z and N163Z will be available for 2016 season. They are not operational for jumpers this season. Will be used for passenger, cargo, etc. to allow pilots to accrue flight time in the new model. FS C130 on loan from Coast Guard is based at McClellan. A MAFFS unit is installed.

- BLM is using the Otter in the lower 48 and contract in AK. MSO has been working with BLM since 2008 on ram parachute training and use. They have completely integrated the two agencies. Roger needs to educate agency personnel on the jumper program. Dispatching: knowledge of fire managers and how to use the resources is bigger issue. NICC is using a smokejumper coordinator now. Each base is administered regionally and locally so it is not a real national resource. Need to constantly sell program. High turnover of field personnel. Less rounded/experienced district rangers, etc. BLM funds fully with preparedness money. FS is not and depends on fire dollars. WYS has facility problems. N Cascade also. Funding availability is an issue. Water is not potable, bunkhouse needs to be made livable. NSA might be able to help FS there with labor and supplies to work on bunkhouse.
- 1:45 Budget Report of 2015-16 1st quarter Budget – Bob McKean-Finance Committee/Russ
 - Phone call with Brent to review financial sheets. Question about how to handle expenses of mobile museum. Will show expenses and income, track in class.
- 2:15 Investment Committee report – Packard, McKean
 - Bob Whaley and Ben Smith helping with CD's. Per Ben - 6.26% earnings on stocks. Interest will pay for operations this year. How much do we take out of investments in future to pay operations? Three legged stool. Annual letter for funds. Specific request for funds for specific need. Accumulated assets at end of life.
- 2:45 Merchandise report-future/Sheley
 - Don't give a lot of choices. Don't carry a lot of inventory. 20% of sales are from e-bay. Suggested to have another reunion soon! Adding trails hats. Need to be able to change store inventory easier. Going with PayPal.
- 3:00 Break
- 3:20 Report on Directors & Officer Liability Insurance – Cherry
 - Difficulty finding company that will deal with us. Need company that has dealings in all states. Now working with Farmers. Insurance company requires loss runs and target pricing – need statements. Saying no losses or claims since inception against NSA. Not insuring any property. Only one employee. We currently have directors and officers insurance with Philadelphia Ins Co. Time to time we have reunion that we sponsor. Have trail programs with volunteers. Need general liability policy. Am I going in the right direction? Currently have protection for officers and board against (\$1mil coverage) internet, fiduciary, workplace violence, travel, etc. for \$1351/yr.
 - Vicky Minor dealt with 3 suicides of wildland firefighters last week. Suicide rate of general population very low. Need to compare smokejumper rate with wildland fire and police and military. Parkinson rate in firefighters 10 times that of public. Can we collect data regarding smokejumpers?
- 3:40 Chuck - Oct 19-20, 2016 Proposed date for Seattle meeting.
- 4:00 PTSD/Suicide – Vicki Minor
 - Phone call with Vicki from ABQ. Accumulated fatigue issue for wildland fire fighters. Lose 32 combat vets/day. WFF will send short team for a wildland fire fighter suicide.
- 4:25 Wildland Firefighters Foundation museum/interpretive center – Burk Minor

They have plan for a home for wildland firefighting here in Boise. Expect 10 acres. Building will have multi-levels. Planning overnight suites. 400 seat auditorium. Meeting rooms. Planning a Memorial garden and will remove existing garden from NIFC. Mike Overby met with head of Boise Cascade yesterday afternoon. Suggests Burk make a proposal to them. They may be viable as donor/supporter for NSA museum. Mike also talked to Boise State rep on phone. Boise state grad students may be available to do feasibility study. MBA cap stone program. Feasibility studies start in Jan. Mike will pursue with Burk with Boise State.

- 5:00 Recess
- 6:00 Evening Social

March 23, 2016 – reconvene at 7:30 a.m.

- 7:30 Handout from Bill Derr regarding rehab and interference from ecology groups.
- 7:40 Strategic Planning – BOD
 - Sheley-Develop Historic preservation plan. With historian on board we need a plan to receive information and artifacts.
 - Future of association
 - Current jumpers could receive electronic copy of magazine with no membership cost. Idea discarded as no means to maintain e-mails – very labor intensive.
 - Mobile App development, what is end product. Facebook site still up by Chris Sorenson.
 - Fund raising, purpose of money and how to raise it for both general solicitation and from members. Former jumper in Eugene, CPA. Works with low basis securities. Request for funds should have specific purpose, specific amount. Sprint set for first of May. Financial development: Gift of property thru Montana Foundation. New federal law for folks over 70 can contribute from IRA to non-profit with no tax.
 - Add hit list/site map to magazines for web site – Mike O
 - Add info each month in small box regarding donations – John P
 - Add younger member to board – Mike McMillan, spotfire.com, recently retired, jumped Alaska. John Berry, RDM rookie, retired as FS forest Sup, jumped early to mid 60's, lives PDX, travels, articulate, good leader, past president of Old Smokies. Invite both to next BOD meeting. Fred to invite John. Chuck to invite Mike. Ben Smith, worked for Merrill Lynch, can provide financial help, son of early jumper. Both he and Bob don't want to get tied down. They can offer more distant help. What are critical needs of BOD? Should membership be opened up to other people or groups? hotshots, etc? Other specialties are not currently organized. Invite 2-3 retired forest sups/hot shot sups to BOD to brainstorm future.
 - Discussion regarding succession of president. Jim has energy and health and is comfortable in president role. BOD is happy with Jim.
 - We need new blood and younger members. Start with newer retirees. Those popular with large parties and groups good prospect.
 - Succession for Roger. Roger will continue data base management ? rookie input? jump records/fires? Fred to have coffee with him and discuss succession.
- 9:20 Unfinished business - Doug Houston update; should have defibrillator installed this week.
 - New business
 - Next meeting – Seattle, WA
 - Other – Mike O will interact with Burk regarding feasibility study. Corporate sponsors?

- Evaluation of meeting and travel/lodging vouchers. First \$300 is member responsibility, deduct on taxes.
- Adjourn 9:30 a.m.

Attending: John McDaniel, Jim Cherry, Mike Overby, Bill Derr, Fred Cooper, Leo Cromwell, Chuck Sheley, Larry Lufkin, Terry Egan, John Packard, Bob McKean