

MINUTES OF TRACKS GENERAL MEETING May 14, 2022, at Darbi's Restaurant Pinetop, AZ 85935

Meeting was called to order by Jim Snitzer, due to Nick Lund's absence, at 8:05 AM.

There were 16 TRACKS members in attendance. There were no guests, but 2 new members, Gaston and Joan Porterie, were present.

Minutes of the last General Meeting (April 9, 2022) were distributed and reviewed. Jerry Good made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Arlene Nelson, and approved by all members present.

Announcements:

1. Highway cleanups went well with 37 bags being filled for TRACKS. Sixteen TRACKS members participated.
2. Cinder Pit cleanups: This shooting range is a complete mess. A previous cleanup attempt by TRACKS members resulted in little success over a couple of hours.
3. The Blue Ridge Shortcut trail will be established by an outside contractor. TRACKS is paying the contractor. The new trail will have vistas and will be 4.2 miles and is already flagged. Forest Service approval is still needed.
4. Summit Meeting for Arizona Trails: Lynn Krigbaum attended in Cottonwood. Many attended from all over the State. Lynn submitted a report to the Newsletter.
5. WMOTA Trail to the New Mexico Border is being developed over near Alpine.
6. E-Bikes are not allowed on single track trails unless motors are turned off. Some E-Bike motors have less torque and don't damage trails so much. This remains an issue for now. BLM allows E-Bikes on their land. There was a possibility suggested of opening one trail only for E-Bikes.

Old and New Business:

1. Lorna Neil-Cox attended the Meeting and spoke of the fire restrictions in force, Stage I. She told membership that we are 6 weeks earlier than last year. There are more hazards in place due to last summer's good monsoons. They plan to go to Stage II over Memorial Weekend. WMOTA volunteers are to police areas to make sure there is compliance. The Forest Service is asking for more volunteers. They will receive training. Jerry Good asked Lorna about Scott Reservoir. The restrooms have been so badly vandalized that they will need to be replaced. Porta Potties have been installed, but they are not adequate for the use of the area. Scott's Reservoir will not be opened for an indefinite period of time.
2. Cathy inquired about the Saturday evening Presentations at Fools Hollow. Lorna said the Fire Service has hired a seasonal person and listed a few of the programs to be presented.
3. Terry asked for volunteers to sign up for refreshments for the trail crew.
4. Jim reminded everyone of the Show on Monarch Butterflies tonight at the Nature Center. He also told the members of the Nature Center's Bee Project, for the purpose of getting honey. They are working on a system to protect the bees. He also described some of the work at the Nature Center, including an amphitheater which will hold 250 people. Every day at 7 AM at the Nature Center, volunteers can show up to help with chores such as cleaning pens, watering, and watching the training of the raptors. Jim spoke of new arrival Simon, a Eurasian Eagle Owl, who is growing rapidly. They are looking for a resource for

raising mice for the raptors. The mice are euthanized prior to the feeding. The Arizona Department of Tourism donated a \$250,000.00 grant to fund the necessary projects. Also, Jim announced the June 18th potluck and Kayak event at his place, 4 PM to 8 PM.

The next General Meeting will be on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 8 AM, at Woodland Lake Park at Ramada #2. This is a potluck breakfast. There could be a hike afterwards.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.

Submitted by Kay Alderton, Secretary/Board Member