

CHINOOK PASS CABIN OWNERS ANNUAL FALL MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2018

Location: Nile Community Church

Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

11:30 – Potluck and Welcome

12:02pm – Ralph Berthon, CPCOA Board President called meeting to order

12:05 pm – Ralph introduce Ranger Kelley Lawrence. Ranger Lawrence talked about the Clear Lake fire and indicated that that entire area will be closed through winter. She also spoke about the Miriam fire, and other environmental issues from the recent past fires at Chinook Pass area.

12:09 pm – Ranger Lawrence introduced Mr. Lee Ellis as the new Special Uses Specialist. Lee grew up locally and has keen interest in the area. Mr. Ellis talked about his job responsibilities and the need for good communication with the CPCOA and others.

Ralph asked a question, since the fire danger is so high, "...could the Forest Service grant some kind of blanket approval for cabin owners to clear their "fuels" surrounding their cabin sites?". Ranger Lawrence indicated that the cabin owners could "help" the F/S in certain situations, but still need approval from F/S, outside of their "fire safe zone".

Carl Buchholz appealed to F/S to increase the limits of "fuel reduction" areas near cabins.

Additional discussion included information about a trailhead(name?) that is now open and concerns about a contractor leaving a mess near power lines. Status of chipper availability to cabin owners was discussed. It was mentioned that a chipper, for cabin tract use, would be available this year. Ranger Lawrence indicated that the F/S may allow, upon F/S approval, cabin owners to bring their own road repair equipment to fix fire damaged cabin tract roads that need repair, at the cabin owners own expense.

Carl Buchholz asked a question about reforestation in fire damaged areas. Ranger Lawrence indicated that the F/S does not do any reforestation within the Wilderness boundary. The Ranger mentioned that they have some discession about other measures to protect cabins from issues resulting from fires.

Ranger Lawrence concluded by saying that she would encourage working with CPCOA Board to increase efficiency and communication.

12:32pm- Justin Swale, Deputy Sheriff, commented on installing game cameras and other methods to protect the cabins. He discussed availability of law enforcement in the area and working with cabin owners "see something-say something", and reporting incidents, to track crime trends.

12:45pm – Jim Lundeen – Treasurer's Report

- 1) 126 CPCOA members (approx. 45% of all cabin owner)
- 2) Cabin Defense Fund = \$7890.00
- 3) General Fund = \$3646.00
- 4) Dues \$60 (\$40 National, \$18 CPCOA, \$2 State of WA)

- 5) Dues to increase to \$75 starting in January 2019. Associate dues \$48.
- 6) Ralph talked about status of our 501C.7. Paperwork filed, and Certificate will come in mail. Ralph indicated that IRS approval will take 6-8 weeks. Changes to our Bylaws will eventually reflect new association non-profit status.

12:55pm – Ralph opened meeting up to new nominations for Board membership. Due to response from membership present at meeting, Ralph entertained a motion to keep current Board members “as is”, except possibly Carl Buchholz. There was a second and a unanimous voice vote to approve motion. Carl Buchholz will stay on Board as long as necessary.

It was also motioned, seconded and approved, by voice vote, to make the Fall CPCOA Meeting the official “Annual” meeting, but keeping the annual spring meeting on the schedule.

Ralph discussed CPCOA expenditures including, but not limited to, door prizes, website design and the operating budget. He mentioned the possibility of moving to a website that would include a “pay on line” option for members. Ralph appealed to members to continue to give suggestions on how CPCOA can help the membership.

Ralph discussed the some of the GOALS for the coming year;

- 1) Try to get all tracts into the “FireWise” program, which would include at least 8 members in each tract to meet “FireWise” regulations. CP cabin owners to follow F/S and Yakima County fire Marshalls rules as well. Gary Jackson has literature about the FireWise Program, and there is no administrative cost getting involved in FireWise membership
- 2) Review current F/S regulations with FireWise regulations to eliminate regulatory conflicts.
- 3) Encourage cabin owners to join CPCOA, especially since there is “strength in numbers”.
- 4) Increase communication with F/S
- 5) Work with Lee Ellis to confirm “received “information is distributed properly throughout the tracts.

1:05pm – Carl Buchholz - Field Trip Organizer Report

- 1) 2018 had tours to Boulder Cave, Cabin Tracts and Bull Trout Habitat.
- 2) 2019 Tours may include: another Cabin Tract Tour, Gold Prospecting, Old Growth Forest Tour, Mushroom Hunting and a tour of falls in the area.

Carl mentioned that he is always looking for new field trip ideas.

1:22pm-CPCOA Member Doug Mayo, commented on getting cabin insurance and the Cabin Insurance Program mentioned in the last annual meeting. He mentioned that cabin insurance is often tied to having a propane heating system, other than just wood fire heat, along with a thermostat. American Reliable insurance may be a qualified insurance company. He mentioned some costs of insurance policies.

1:25pm – Raffle

1:40 pm – Meeting adjournment

Respectfully submitted, Scott Miller, Secretary

