

Friends of the Rio de Flag

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

2019

JANUARY

10 January 2019

5:30pm, Natural Channel Designs

In attendance: Rick Miller, Kathy Flaccus, Allen Haden, Tom Bean, Bryan Bates, Chelsea Silva

Treasurer's report \$9133.40 including a couple more checks that were handed to Tom at public meeting last week about \$150. Great response from the appeal.

- 1) Adding Barb Phillips to board, most members know her. She is interested in the Cheshire area. What job needs doing that we need someone to do?
- 2) Suggestion to amend the bylaws to fit how we invite people to the board or people present themselves as interested, Chelsea says that we are pretty much following the bylaws.
- 3) Unanimous vote to send Barb the paperwork about why she wants to be on the board and then go from there.
- 4) Who wants to be on the hiring committee, Rick, hopefully Paul
- 5) One applicant prefers to be a consultant rather than an employee, how does the board feel about that? We discuss allowing this person to apply and see how she stacks up with the other applicants.
- 6) Possible next meeting? Feb 7: Larry Stevens – Spring Stewards (Allen will call for March)? Jim Janecek- southside and NCD (Chelsea will call) , Art Babbott could talk about Baderville.
- 7) Chelsea finished the EPA report and will send it to EPA next week as well as a copy to Rick.

Presentation by Flagstaff Water Group:

Presentation focused on concerns about use of reclaimed water in Sinclair Wash, mainly about CECs and endocrine disruptors.

FEBRUARY

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board meeting

14 Feb 2019, 5:30-7:10 PM at Natural Channel Design

Board members present: Rick Miller, Paul Beier, Bryan Bates, Allen Haden. Also present: Chelsea Silva. Notes recorded by Paul Beier, who is now serving as Secretary.

WaterSmart Grant

- Chelsea made a short presentation to County Board of Supervisors to request a Point of Contact with the County on the WaterSmart Grant. Art Babbott indicated interest. We need to identify someone at a mid level of bureaucracy with good connections to day-to-day operations in development, flood control, or public works. Because we probably want to affect zoning and building codes, we should probably request John Carr or his boss Jeff McNeely in the County Community Development office. **Chelsea to follow up with Art Babbott.**
- We received 31 or 32 applications to lead the WaterSmart watershed planning process. The search committee (Paul, Rick, Chelsea) read the applications and agreed to interview 10 of the persons. Five have been interviewed, and the next 5 by Monday. Two applicants (1 individual and 1 team of two persons) are highly-qualified applicants who would like to serve as consultants. We discussed pros and cons of consultant versus employee. There was moderate preference to hire as an employee, but the Board authorized the search committee to make the decision. We anticipate making an offer during the week of Feb 25.
- Chelsea asked Fred Phillips Consulting (who previously did a vision for I-40 wetlands, on our website) to do a pro bono project on Rio de Flag through Southside. Fred said he can't do it for free, but would be interested in working with FoRio on getting a grant for restoration opportunities in Southside. He specializes in urban-nature interface. He is good at working with partners to create a vision. Because there is very little City land in Southside, this would have to be a vision for restoration & landscaping on mostly private land. Perhaps we could ask Mayor Evans to have the city provide \$5K or \$10K. Perhaps Community Foundation Grant? **Follow-up: not clear.**
- Emery Cowan, student in a Watershed Restoration class at NAU (formerly environmental reporter for the Daily Sun(, will create a restoration matrix for the Rio this semester as a class project. This could be useful for the Watershed Plan.

Other Action Items

- Amanda Atchison, County Sustainability Office, invited FoRio to join an advisory panel on water conservation at Ft Tuthill. We need a volunteer. Brian Bates and Rick Miller are both interested in sharing the job of FoRio representatives on the panel; Rick has worked with the office before. **Brian and Rick to contact Ms Atchison to volunteer.**
- As a follow-up to the January meeting, **Rick will ask Barb Phillips to prepare a 1-page offer to serve on the FoRio Board.**

Upcoming Members' Meetings

- Cerissa Hoglander, Grand Canyon Trust, to present in March on citizen science and springs restoration
- Paul Beier will present on releasing reclaimed water for amenity value and groundwater recharge at FoRio's April members meeting.
- Ed Schenk, from City of Flagstaff Stormwater, will present at FoRio's May members meeting.

Information items

- Sierra Club is creating a 5 minute video on the Rio for use in schools.
- City has issued an RFP for a consultant to measure groundwater recharge from releases of reclaimed water at a few (3?) sites in the City, installing hydrants to experimentally release reclaimed water.
- Allen says Tom Whitham asked NCD to collaborate to resubmit a water protection fund grant for Sinclair Wash between San Francisco St and Lone Tree Rd. They are trying to get the City to support the idea. NAU is also interested. The Arboretum is preparing a NFWF grant to do restoration in same section of Sinclair Wash.

MARCH

Friends of the Rio Board Meeting

March 14, 2019 at Natural Channel Design

Present: Kathy Flaccus, Rick Miller, Paul Beier, Collis Lovely, Allen Haden, Bryan Bates.

Absent: Tom Bean

Called to order at 5:33PM

Update on coordination with BOR and hiring

Bureau of Reclamation had some minor quibbles on the budget, scope of work, policies related to expenses. They say this is the last hurdle before they give us the grant. Chelsea will send the revisions by Monday. Some concern that the SoW uses the term “the watershed group” to apply both to Friends of the Rio de Flag and to the larger Watershed Group we will create.

We offered the job of Watershed Group Coordinator to Kelly Burke, who has accepted the job.

Rick will meet with Kelly weekly at a set time each week, and others can join when possible. He will try for Monday or Friday.

Chelsea will contact Art Babbott to ask the County to designate a point of contact who will attend WG meetings (at least quarterly). She will specifically suggest Carr or McNeely.

Board strategy session for watershed planning

We want a long meeting, including entire Board and Kelly Burke. Will depend on when we get money. Ideally our April 11 Board Meeting.

Intern opportunity, Fall 2019

NAU undergrad, Anna Kaczmarek, working under Kerry Grimm, has volunteered to help Friends of the Rio de Flag, 100 hours over 1 semester. She could assist Kelly on the WG project.

Wet/dry mapping in late May

A fun event last May, Collis and Chelsea are organizing it for this year. Date TBA. Paul can use his KNAU day sponsorship to publicize this event, and the summer walks with Collis and Jack Welch.

Collis organizing summer walks with Jack Welch

We should educate participants on reaches covered in the WG plan and encourage them to attend the public meetings for the Watershed Plan (probably many months in the future). Invite persons that will be part of the stakeholder group. Publicize these widely.

Board help with website and Constant Contact: Cathy and Allen volunteered to take over the Friends of the Rio de Flag webmaster duties from Chelsea.

Board Insurance (see forwarded email): Allen moved, Bryan seconded that we buy the D&O insurance policy for \$1052 per year from AmWins as mentioned in Tom Bean's email of March 13. Coverage will start April 1, 2019. Unanimously approved.

Friends of the Rio de Flag needs money: We have expenses for insurance, and we need an Executive Director, and money for other activities. This should be a major agenda item at a Board meeting soon. These ideas were mentioned:

- 10% IDC in the Bureau of Reclamation grant
- SnowBowl gives substantial grants.
- Membership dues, with a tier structure, including business sponsorships, with bandannas as joining gifts.

Prospective new board members: Rick talked with Barb Phillips, and Paul spoke with Nancy Brian. We will send them info on applying. Peter Price would also be a great member.

Army Corps Project: The City had previously promised to include Friends of the Rio de Flag in discussions on the project. But Rick had a recent conversation with City in which he got no information on the news reports that the Corps is rapidly working to give a 100% build plan for the project. The Board asked Rick Miller to write Rick Barrett (CC Coral) to request a meeting between Friends of the Rio de Flag and the City to get an update on the Army Corps project.

The Board also expressed strong support for the position of Sandra Lubarsky and the Beautification Committee that the Army Corps project should have beauty as central to their project, not as an add-on.

Bryan Bates announced that he may step off the Board in January to run for County Supervisor (Jim Parks' seat).

6:50 adjourn

MARCH (special meeting)

Meeting to welcome Kelly Burke to Friends of the Rio de Flag

18 March 2019, 2:00-3:30 PM

The hiring committee (Rick Miller, Chelsea Silva, Paul Beier) met to welcome Kelly as Watershed Group Coordinator. Paul Beier wrote these notes.

- Start date: The start date depends on when we finalize the Bureau of Reclamation contract. Our point of contact at Bureau of Reclamation, Alicia James, says we should get the final contract 2 weeks after we address some technical issues such as different procedures for spending above certain threshold amounts. Chelsea plans to provide those details to Bureau of Reclamation today or tomorrow, so we could start in early April. Regardless of the start date, it will be a 24-month project.
- We are using Barbara Connell's Payroll Services. Kelly submits hours and gets paid every 2 weeks. Chelsea will leave by the end of May and will share info with Kelly, starting with our new employee handbook. Chelsea will help set up an initial meeting for Kelly with Sarah Dechter (community development), Jim Janacek (stormwater), and Brad Hill (water services).
- First steps. Bureau of Reclamation demands a progress report at 270 days, organized by our list of actions. So Kelly's first task will be to read background documents, including the draft watershed plan written by Friends of the Rio de Flag board about a year ago, expand our list of stakeholders, refine the set of interview questions, meet stakeholders individually. Then convene those stakeholders to formalize the Watershed Group (stakeholder group) with a MoU. Chelsea will share MoUs from other watershed groups. Friends of the Rio de Flag has a Google Drive on which documents can be shared.
- Another early step: Hiring the facilitator. We will get a few bids, including from Southwest Decision Resources, a group with which Friends of the Rio de Flag has had a couple good collaborations, and Sharon Masek Lopez and Kira Bauer; Kelly will ask Kerry Orton to apply. The facilitator will plan and run the WG meetings and the public meetings. City will want long lead times for public meetings. Then Kelly, the WG, and the facilitator create the watershed restoration plan. Bureau of Reclamation does not care about the public workshops, but the City demands it and the WG will find it necessary.
- Ana Kaczmarek, an undergrad at NAU, is seeking an intern position for fall 2019, which would involve 100 hours of work (perhaps 150 hours). Could work on research, administrative tasks, or other activities.
- We invited Kelly to our next Board meeting, 11 April; the sole focus of the meeting will be to let Kelly and the Board discuss this project. Rick will be Kelly's primary contact with the Board. As soon as Kelly is hired, Rick will meet her weekly, at least at first. Although it probably will not be necessary for Kelly to attend every board meeting, the Board will probably want monthly updates on the project. We encouraged Kelly to meet board members individually. The WG and Watershed Plan should be the main focus of several Friends of the Rio de Flag members' meetings.
- Kelly is keen on the importance of history. History would be a useful part of every public meeting, and should be an introductory part of the Plan. History would be a great way to involve the tribes. She'd like FoRio to have a historian.

APRIL

April 11, 2019

Board members Present: Collis Lovely, Kathy Flaccus, Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Barbara Phillips (first meeting)

Board members absent: Allen Haden, Bryan Bates

Others present: Chelsea Silva, Kelly Burke

Treasurer's Report – Tom

See the report included as Appendix 1 to these notes.

Introduce Kelly Burke - Chelsea and Rick

We also welcomed new board member Barb Phillips.

Discussion of Watershed Plan – all

BuRec sent us a draft agreement, which Chelsea modified with over-the-phone approval by BuRec. We returned the modified draft agreement to BuRec 8 days ago; it is now in review at BuRec, Chelsea will call tomorrow. Once BuRec sends us the document, we sign it, they sign it, and the contract begins. We have already registered on System for Award Management (SAM), arranged for electronic transfer of funds (ASAP), and covered all other technical details. The contract allows money to be transferred in blocks to cover our work for periods of up to several months. This arrangement is better than billing in arrears for expenses already incurred.

Tom Bean (Treasurer) will be primary financial point of contact with BuRec, will handle payroll, and will work with Kelly to provide financial reports. Rick will be the primary point of contact between Kelly and the Board. Allan and Collis volunteered to review Kelly's draft products.

Facilitation Services The contract with BuRed calls for us to hire a facilitator for about \$18,000. The draft RFP for Facilitation Services is appended to these minutes. The facilitator will be a team (not a single person) so that the discussion leader does not take notes. The team will develop the agendas for each workshop, and strategize with Kelly and a Board representative at each stage. The facilitator team must have knowledge of the project issues (restoration, hydrology, public engagement). We would like to get 3 bids. Kelly wanted Mary Orton Group to apply, but MOG referred us to another group. We asked Board & staff members to volunteer to work as the hiring panel to procure these services.- Chelsea recuses herself because she knows some likely applicants. **Our hiring panel will consist of Rick Miller, Collis Lovely, Cathy Flaccus, and Kelly Burke.**

Draft Rio de Flag restoration prioritization matrix –Emery Cowan, a Masters student in Environmental Sciences & Policy, has been working on this matrix for an NAU class this semester. The matrix can help list potential projects and characterize them by cost and other attributes. Cowan's draft matrix (spreadsheet and narrative) was provided as background documents to the Board a couple days ago. **Rick and Collis volunteered to provide comments to Cowan by Tuesday, April 16th.**

Friends of the Rio de Flag Members' Walks for May, June and July

Friends of the Rio de Flag Members meetings for next 3 months will be walks on Thursday evening. Ed Shenk will lead one in May on 1 or 2 wetlands in Cheshire. Collis will invite persons to lead walks for the June and July meetings. Some ideas are to invite people from the stakeholder group to lead walks, for example Jack Welch, but we should work with him to identify the reach to be covered. Perhaps Allen could lead one on Switzer Canyon. July walk date may be shifted from July 4 (holiday) to July 11.

Vote to invite Nancy Brian to join the Friends of the Rio de Flag Board

The board unanimously voted to invite Nancy Brian to join the Board. Paul will invite her to the May meeting.

Fund raising for Executive Director services

Paul advocates that we need to develop strategies to fund an Executive Director. Possible strategies include bequests, special events, business sponsorships, and membership dues. Barb mentioned that Arizona Native Plant Society gets most of its revenues from bequests. ANPS has ~700 members and has charged dues for 40 years. We briefly discussed charging Membership dues; one issue is whether charging dues would decrease our clout from having over 400 “members.” Another issue is how to provide benefits to members that are not available to non-members; also somebody has to maintain records and send reminders... is it worth the hassle? We had only about 5 minutes for this discussion. Paul intends to raise this as an agenda item for every meeting until we agree what if anything we will do.

NAU to give Friends of the Rio de Flag a Sustainable Leadership Award

NAU’s sustainability office (led by former Friends of the Rio de Flag intern Matt Muchna) notified us that we have been nominated for a 2019 Sustainable Leadership Award for the Flagstaff Project/Organization. We can send up to three people (plus one guest each) to the SLA dinner and ceremony on Tuesday, April 23rd from 5:00-7:00pm at the NAU Native American Cultural Center.) **Allen Hayden, Brian Bates, and Rick Miller volunteered (or “were volunteered”) to attend.**

Potential restoration of 1-block long City-owned stretch of the Rio along Ellery St. in Southside

Chelsea met with Fred Phillips & George Cathey (consultants) and Ed Shenk (City Stormwater) regarding an idea to develop a toolbox of restoration tools, then have a workshop with Southside Community Association and other local residents to select a plan, and implement it. On April 17 Chelsea will meet with Jennifer Kaplan of Partners for Fish and Wildlife about possible funding. **If we get funding, Rick Miller will lead the restoration effort and Barb Phillips will advise.**

Tabling at events to stimulate community awareness of Friends of the Rio de Flag

- We might not table at Earth Day, but Collis indicated he will do so if possible.
- We should considering Perhaps First Friday – esp as we gear up the Watershed Group.
- We might lead a Rio walk from the Science in the Park event at the start of Flagstaff Festival of Science.

- We ran out of time, and should **make this an agenda item at a future meeting.**

Other updates

- Our EPA grant has officially closed out.
- Our wet/dry mapping event will be scheduled for May 25th;

Appendix 1: Treasurer's report

TREASURERS REPORT APRIL 11 2019

FoRio Budget for Annual Operations

Meeting Room at Montoya Center	\$65.10
E-mail Service, Constant Contact	\$183.00
Website Hosting, Flagstaff Connection	\$299.40
Post Office Box 151	\$102.00
Insurance D&O and EPL, starting 3/20/19	\$1,052.00
Misc. expenses, printing, supplies, food, 2018	\$265.00
Total expected operations expenses for 2019	\$1966.50
Current Bank Balance	\$9,394.43

Obligated funds in our account

Patagonia Grant received 4/5/19	\$1,000
Payment to Chelsea Silva for work on WaterSmart Grant	\$5,000
Total available funds for Operations 2019	\$3,394.43

Appendix 2: Draft RFP for Facilitator Services

Request for Proposals

For

Facilitation and Collaborative Partnership Building

With

Friends of the Rio de Flag

Project Title: Advancing Watershed Planning for the Rio de Flag

Location: Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona

Project Timeframe: May 2019 through April 2021

Project Summary: The Rio de Flag is an ephemeral river and riparian corridor that connects the Flagstaff community and enhances public well-being by providing a multitude of environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits. The Friends of the Rio de Flag (FoRio) is a nonprofit organization that works collaboratively with several local partners who together represent a watershed group. FoRio seeks facilitation services to support tasks under their WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management grant through the Bureau of Reclamation that are aimed at supporting the expansion of the watershed group through engagement of a broad-base of stakeholders and completion of a watershed restoration plan.

Services Required:

Facilitation and collaborative partnership building services are required to support:

- 1) Assembling diverse watershed stakeholders to define the scope and desired outcomes of the watershed planning process;
- 2) Developing a memorandum of understanding as well as visions and goals for the watershed group;
- 3) Facilitation of five three-hour stakeholder workshops to expand and diversify watershed group membership;
- 4) Facilitation of up to six public workshops to understand community needs and identify priority projects that will improve the watershed and river corridor;
- 5) Hosting two public meetings to present the watershed restoration plan draft and request final public comments;
- 6) Internal coordination of project activities with FoRio staff and a coordinating team composed of watershed group members.

Project Budget: \$18,000

RFP Limitations: Budget is restricted to professional rates. FoRio will cover the costs of meeting supplies and snacks associated with stakeholder workshops, public workshops, and public meetings.

Procurement Procedure: FoRio will obtain written quotations that include a description of the procedures and equipment to be used, and information about the bidder's personnel who will implement the project if appropriate.

MAY

Friends of the Rio de Flag

Board Meeting May 9, 2019

Notes

Board members present: Collis Lovely, Allen Hayden, Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Paul Beier

Board members absent: Bryan Bates, Kathy Flaccus, Barbara Phillips, Nancy Brian

Others present: Chelsea Silva

Location: Paul Beier's home, with a view of a flowing Rio after several May rainstorms.

Treasurer's Report – Tom

Balance \$9,328.93, after insurance, but before paying Chelsea.

Update on Watershed Plan

BuRec sent us a final agreement TODAY! Kelly Burke's first official day will be Monday May 13. Chelsea and Kelly will meet often during that first week, often joined by Rick Miller.

Facilitation Services: Last month we decided our hiring panel will consist of Rick Miller, Collis Lovely, Cathy Flaccus, and Kelly Burke. Chelsea has shared a draft RFP with the hiring panel. As soon as the hiring panel is happy with it, they will **share the RFP with the board and encourage each of us to broadcast the announcement through our networks** such as CPWAC. We will aim for 3 bids.

Divvying up Chelsea's workload

1. **Answering emails addressed to Friends of the Rio de Flag.** Kelly will skim off email related to the Watershed Plan email (probably 90% of our email); **Rick Miller volunteered to read and respond to the rest of our email**, at least until he finds out it is too much work; if that happens, he will ask for help.
 - a. Chelsea will create a separate email address for Kelly at the Friends of the Rio de Flag domain. This might cost \$100/year
2. **Email Notices for our meetings and events. Kathy Flaccus volunteered to send out email notices for our meetings and events**, send announcements to Daily Sun, etc. Chelsea has trained Kathy on this task. Allen Hayden volunteered to be backup when Kathy is out of town.
3. **Managing access to Friends of the Rio de Flag files on the Cloud.** Someone needs to control who has access to the Friends of the Rio de Flag files, currently on Google Drive. Right now, anyone with a link to our Google Drive can read, write, delete or alter files or entire folders. Someone could accidentally delete a folder with a single keystroke (there is no "are you sure?" message... the folder is simply gone); the "owner" (Chelsea right now) can restore the folder or file if she is notified or happens to notice the screw-up within 55 days, but after that, the records are gone forever. Before Chelsea leaves, she must designate 2 persons (so that someone is likely to be available for urgent matters) as the "owners" of our Google Drive. The owners can then provide all Board members (and others as appropriate) a "read only" link to our entire Google Drive, and read-write links to specific files or folders to specific persons who need access. Paul volunteers to be one of the owners.

4. **Representing Friends of the Rio de Flag by staffing a table at events.** Chelsea will move her list of events and dates to our Google Drive. She will transfer the “tabling box” (brochures, big map, tablecloth with our logo, folders with activities) to **Collis Lovely, who volunteered to take the lead on tabling. Collis will recruit members to help at each event; this is a superb way to get members more involved.**
5. **Setting up the Montoya Center prior to each Members meeting.** Chelsea (a) brings and sets up the projector, laptop, box of bandannas, donation jar, and sign in sheet (b) sets up chairs, (c) gets the projector screen & extension cord from the back room at Montoya, and (d) takes our box of stuff back home. The setup takes 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. **We still need a volunteer for this task.** The next indoor meeting will be in September, so there is time to volunteer.
6. **Fund-raising.** We may need a subcommittee for fundraising; for example the ACF RFP will open up in a couple weeks. On May 14, Paul sent out a poll for a 3 hour Board Meeting on a Saturday at which fund raising is the sole topic.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Members’ Walks this summer

Chelsea described Tom Shenck’s walk last week at Cheshire Pond. He mostly wanted community input.

Collis is leading the effort for the other summer walks. **June:** Rick will recruit a Board member to co-lead a walk on a reach suggested by Jack Welch. He will get a bio and walk description and send it to Allen for the announcement. **July:** If the City’s aquifer recharge study (percolation study) is underway by July, Erin Young could lead the walk along a flowing creek.

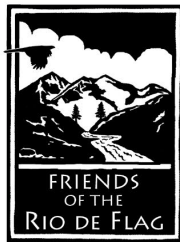
Allen Hayden update: NCD has received the City contract for the aquifer recharge/percolation study. The City has received 100% Plans from ACE. Shepard Westminster (local firm) is working with the city to see how other infrastructure (roads, utilities) will have to adapt to this plan, and to plan the channel on top of the buried culvert (despite the claim of “100%,” the 100% plans have no details on this. This week Shepard Westminster hired NCD to work on the design of the diversion structure (probably just below Frances Short Pond, just above Bonito) and the channel on top. Allen may have to recuse himself from certain Friends of the Rio de Flag board discussions on the ACE project. If needed to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest, he is willing to resign from the Board.

Other updates

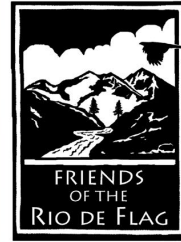
- Our EPA grant has officially closed out.

Presentation of the Tom Moody Award to Chelsea Silva

To close the meeting, the Board presented the Tom Moody award to Chelsea Silva, recognizing her crucial role in serving Friends of the Rio de Flag for the last 5 years. This was Chelsea’s last Board meeting; in June she will take a bicycle tour in Japan, followed by other adventures. A copy of the “stream hugger” award appears below.



FRIENDS OF THE RIO DE FLAG
present the
2019
TOM MOODY AWARD
to



Chelsea Silva

Chelsea has been instrumental in developing Friends of the Rio into a respected and effective participant in the future of the Flagstaff area watershed. She has displayed a great ability to coordinate goals and projects with other stakeholders and with the City of Flagstaff, has been successful at winning highly-competitive grants, and has also developed STEM programs using the Rio de Flag as an outdoor classroom that is understood as a community asset. Her exceptional communication skills—both interpersonal and via social media—have made FoRio into a vital member of the Flagstaff environmental community.

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about. —Margaret J. Wheatley

This award commemorates Natural Channel Design co-founder Tom Moody. Tom's work in stream rehabilitation, stream channel restoration, and community planning has inspired Friends of the Rio de Flag to honor community members working in, volunteering for, and directing efforts in the fields Tom chose for his life's work.



JUNE

13 June 2019

Rick Miller, Cathy Flaccus, Allen Hayden, Tom Bean, Collis Lovely, Paul Beier (by phone), Bryan Bates (15 min late)

Not present: Barbara Phillips, Nancy Brian.

Sandra Lubarsky is in an area affected by the project, has organized her neighbors to lobby for restoration for amenity value. She wants Friends of the Rio de Flag to read a statement at July 6 Beautification Committee and ask for funds from the \$1m budget to restore.

Collis had 2 handouts, one from 2009 Friends of the Rio de Flag position.

Project at that time would put Bonito to Rte 66 (1/2 mile). Other cities are paying to daylight their stream, but City thought they'd save money by cost-sharing with ACOE. The earlier ACOE design was open channel, but the City would have to pay for all bridges, and the City freaked out and went to total buy-in for underground, without considering that some streets would not need

bridges, and they never conducted a cost analysis of a open channel. Cost of 8 bridges caused City to bail on open channel.

ACOE uses the same FEMA 100 year projections, but they add in much larger freeboard (margin of error).

LTE (Letter to Editor): Concrete deteriorates over time and must be replaced. This is a huge cost that the City has not considered. In contrast an open channel needs minor maintenance, but no big out-year costs.

Jamie Whelan spoke against the ACOE project. and Austin questioned it. The others seemed to like it. Coral wanted to continue because she felt the progress was good enough.

An open channel would require more land.

LTE: City is considering only 1 plan, refuses to solicit input from citizens. The plan has NO MEASURES to improve the channel in the Southside. That will be 100% a City problem.

?? Is the cost of the upper channel entirely borne by the City in addition to our “35% share”? YES... So the City is likely to bail out on the upper channel. There will be room for a channel and a FUTS trail. First 20 cfs would go into the open channel.

LTE: BNSF will demand \$30m in payments (At June 13 meeting, Coral mentioned ‘glitches w. RR’ and Cathy says some time ago (May 27, 2019?) Coral sent an email mentioning \$25m demand for a “shoe fly” third rail).

One difficult issue is that condemning property would be needed for open channel. LTE should ask the City analysis to include this.

Collis has a 2008 design.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Retreat

8:00 AM- noon, 21 June 2019

In attendance: Rick Miller, Kathy Flaccus, Barbara Phillips, Tom Bean, Paul Beier

Nancy Brian’s resignation from the Board.

Nancy has just accepted a job that she feels precludes her participation. Accordingly, she resigned on June 20 2019. She did attend one brainstorming meeting with Kelly and the Board, but had not attended a regular Board meeting since she was invited in April 2019.

Developing Friends of the Rio de Flag position statements on flood control options.

Board Members agreed on 3 position statements, which are written in the separate file “FoRio Position Statements on Flood Control.” Although the members unanimously agreed on these concepts, these longer versions should be considered DRAFTS because Paul may have made errors in summarizing the board sentiments, and because other board members have not yet reviewed and commented. All 3 position statements are directed to City Council, not to ACE.

Although there is little enthusiasm on the Board for the ACE project, we decided that the first position statement should address the ACE project because if the project proceeds, we want it to proceed in a form that is less objectionable than its current form.

We agreed that we would contact individual Council Members to explain our positions and lobby for them. Because of the Open Meeting Law, we will not have meetings with >1 Council member at a time. The following Board members volunteered to arrange a meeting with particular Council members. During each meeting, we will also mention the Watershed Planning project that the Friends is launching. As soon as the Board member sets a meeting time and place, s/he will email the other Board members and encourage them to attend the meeting. Paul would like to attend several of these meetings, and requests that if possible you do not schedule meetings when he is out of town (June 26-27, June 29-July 3, July 15-25); but please don't worry too much about Paul's damn schedule.

- Paul: Austin Aslan
- Kathy: Jamie Whelan, Adam Shimoni, Regina Salas
- Rick: Charlie Odegaard, Jim McCarthy
- Rick or Bryan: Coral Evans

We should also consider County officials, such as Ms Patrice Horstman, who attended the recent ACE meeting in City Hall, and who is running for Art Babbott's County Supervisor seat.

We should let our Membership promptly know about the Board's position statements on ACOE, by posting our statements on our website and emailing our members.

Raising funds to pay for administrative tasks of the organization.

If we do get money, we could probably hire Kelly for some of the work. But the focus today is on getting the first monies.

Corporate sponsors: SWCA, the concrete company in east flag that helped with the Wildcat Reach, other donors to the Picture Canyon effort (ask Allen Haden for name of gas company, others).

Businesses on the Rio or its tributaries, such as Sam's Club, Warner's Nursery, Biffs Bagels, Beaver St Brewery, Macy's,

Outdoor industry: Kahtoola, Canyon Coolers, Teva (they may still have roots here), Patagonia (we got them, and must keep them!), Aspen Sports, REI, Peace Surplus,

Special events: Mother Road regularly sponsors events (e.g, right now they have a Conservation Kolsch with \$1 of each 4-pack to Arizona Game and Fish Department). Patagonia has an annual event in December at which we get a cut of proceeds.

Engage other non-profits as co-sponsors. These entities would not provide funds, but each of them should provide a meaningful in-kind contribution. For example, Museum of Northern Arizona might donate meeting space for some Watershed Planning meetings (Barb knows their marketing person), Friends of Flagstaff's Future might feature us at one of their events, etc. Listing these entities as FoRio Sponsors would enhance our chance of getting money from

donors that do have money to distribute. Examples: Museum of Northern Arizona, Willow Bend, F-cubed, Flagstaff Junior Academy (which is on the Rio), Bonito Community Garden (if they are an entity), Arboretum at Flagstaff, Ecological Restoration Institute at NAU, Flagstaff Biking Organization.

Potential Funders:

- ACF: ACF pays for a specific project, not a person. Friends of the Rio de Flag received a \$3,000 grant from the Arizona Community Foundation in Sept. 2016. The Final Report in May 2018 contains many details about our request for funds and how the funds were used to accomplished the goals. Read it here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ktVZyWvRuD1cv9o-ONaCVyImEi0TEw_V/edit
- The local office of The Cellular Connection (TCC, a division of Verizon) runs a “Culture of Good” program that in June 2016 gave two donations (\$1200 and \$859) to Friends of the Rio de Flag and NCD for plant restoration in the Wildcat Reach. TCC employees volunteered for a Culture of Good/Heal the World event, June 12, 2016, with Friends of the Rio de Flag and staff of Natural Channel Design, at Wildcat Reach, aka Picture Canyon Phase 2, Flagstaff, Arizona. Photo below



- Pulliam Foundation
- Individuals who sign up for \$15/month, or \$500/y (with new tax laws, we should promote the option of \$1,000 every other year).

Hike to explore the Historic Rio de Flag channel

Cathy, Tom, Barbara, and Paul walked through Arizona Materials into the channel on the south side of the tracks and followed it down to Warner’s Nursery. This area has gobs of invasive weeds, industrial trash, and concrete and petroleum waste products. But it also has box elder and other native trees, and enormous potential to become a pleasant riparian park.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Will be one day earlier than its regularly scheduled time to accommodate a special walk on July 11. Mark your calendars for Wednesday July 10, 5:30-7:00 PM at NCD (OK, Allen?). We will request Kelly Burke to attend to discuss her ideas on funding for executive services.

Related agenda item: **Developing a polished 1-page rationale for funding – i.e., “why you should invest in us.”** We should highlight our work on restoration of Rio reaches, Southside planning funded by EPA, promotion of use of reclaimed water for near-perennial amenity flows, our Watershed Plan, and the need to write followup grants to implement the Watershed Plan.

JULY

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

10 July 2019, 5:30-8:15 at Natural Channel Design

Board members present: Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Allen Hayden, Bryan Bates

Others present: Kelly Burke

Not present: Kathy Flaccus

Work on Zuni Bowl in Cheshire-Linwood: Allen volunteered to lead this effort.

Treasurer’s report: \$10,125 bank balance. Income in last 30 days, \$8K from Bureau of Reclamation. Expenses in last 30 days: \$100 to FUSD for bus rental; \$1666 for Kelly salary and ERE; \$168 to Constant Contact.

Fund Raising: We had intended to discuss fund-raising at this meeting, but the Flood Control Position Statements took over the agenda. Kelly suggests we apply for a Patagonia Env Grant Program, which can be \$5 to 10K. (In 2018 we received a \$4K grant from Patagonia from the *1% For The Planet* program.) Allen mentioned that perhaps we could be lead for a possible project with the city to develop a pond on City Property just south of I-40 and east of the I-50 wetland. Max IDC is 5%, so this small project would not generate much salary for an ED to do Friends of the Rio de Flag business, but if the ED worked on the project, this could help.

Facilitator Contract for Bureau of Reclamation WG project. Rick explained that the search team tried to get bids, but only SW Decisions Resources applied. The committee met with Kerry Eberle and Andi Rogers of SWDR and hired them for the WG project.

Update on WG project. Kelly has talked with City’s tribal liaison, wants to recruit a tribal person for the WG. Has been reading lots of background info, meeting with key people.

Two resignations from the Board: Nancy Brian and Collis Lovely both resigned recently. Bryan moved, Allen seconded, that we accept their resignations. Passed unanimously.

Developing Friends of the Rio de Flag position statements on flood control options.

We discussed the position statements for over an hour. The result is the July 12 version of the Statements (attached). **Please read it.**

Rollout strategy for our position statements

Paul, Tom, Bryan and Rick met with Austin Aslan on July 5. Paul sent out notes of this meeting on July 5 or 6. I paste them here again, slightly modified, so they will be part of the minutes.

Rick or Paul needs to ask Austin Aslan to

- Arrange a meeting with Chamber of Commerce (Joe Galli and Julie Pastrick)
- Arrange a meeting with the newly-recruited city manager, Greg Clifton, who will start work in late August.

Paul volunteered to

- Take Austin on a tour of the Rio reaches and Clay Ave Wash that would be affected
- Create a 12-slide powerpoint to use at various meetings. This will emphasize the main points in our Position Statements and mention our organization's membership numbers and accomplishments.

At next board meeting, discuss how Friends of the Rio de Flag will

- Send a representative to speak at EVERY City Council meeting after their recess ends in late August
- Start organizing our membership. Recruit persons from affected neighborhoods (especially Thorpe Park, Flagstaff Townsite, Southside, Sawmill, Brannen Homes, and Rio Homes) to speak at Council meetings.
- Talk to F3, other organizations. Willow Bend?
- Continue our meetings with City Council members. These can include 2 or 3 council members without violating the state Open Meeting laws.
- Identify City Officials (Start with Dan Folke) and decide how to approach them
- Plan appearances at City Commissions: Sustainability, Water, Beautification, Open Space, Parks & Rec.
- Decide if and when to approach County officials, such as Ms Patrice Horstman, who attended the recent ACE meeting in City Hall, and who is running for Art Babbott's County Supervisor seat.
- Have Prescott and Payson officials talk to counterparts in FLG.
- Discuss how to make it clear that the 2000 FEIS (which does not include the project as currently proposed) is a weak legal basis for the project. Discuss whether we should talk to an environmental lawyer about this.

Kathy volunteered to set up a meeting with Jamie Whelan and perhaps other council member(s). Let the rest of the Board know the date, time, and place so others can join. At your meeting, be sure to remind the Council member about our Bureau of Reclamation Watershed Group project; emphasize that City staff has been enthusiastic about it, and that the WG project will **not** be a vehicle for advancing our position on Flood Control

Rick volunteered to set up a meeting with Jim McCarthy

Other Board members! Please do set up a meeting with 1-3 City Council members. Let the rest of the Board know the date, time, and place so others can join. At your meeting, be sure to remind the Council member about our Bureau of Reclamation Watershed Group project;

emphasize that City staff has been enthusiastic about it, and that the WG project will **not** be a vehicle for advancing our position on Flood Control

We should also consider

We should let our Membership promptly know about the Board's position statements on Flood Control, by posting our statements on our website and emailing our members.

AUGUST

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

8 Aug 2019, 5:30-7:00 at Natural Channel Design

Board members present: Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Kathy Flaccus, Allen Hayden (by phone; in person about 6:45)

Not present: Bryan Bates

Treasurer's report: \$7,636 bank balance, after a couple payments for Kelly's wages.

Plans for future members meetings and board meetings

We will invite Flag Water Group to present at 6:30 at our October Board Meeting

For September 5 Members Meeting, Ed Shenk to present on watersheds in Flagstaff, how they handle fire and storm flows. Potential future presenters include Don Bills from USGS (Barb will invite him).

Other

Barb is working on a weed control project in the Museum Fire Area; she could lead a field event on this project, or a members meeting.

Kathy Flaccus will speak in the public comment part of the Beautification Committee Meeting at 4PM this Monday. She will advocate that the ACE project should consider beauty from the very first planning stages, rather than adding some artwork at the end of the project.

Allen is working Tom Whitham on a grant for tree planting on the 7 acre City parcel along the Rio just south of I-40. The trees would be out of the floodway.

Allen will send us Hill et al. (1988), a USGS paper on Flagstaff flood hydrology with 11 years of data on Rio de Flag tributaries.

Friends of the Rio de Flag position statements on flood control options.

We will write a letter to the City to request they provide a report that

- (a) lists and describes all alternatives the City has considered over the years (and why they were rejected)
- (b) states whether the City ever considered an open channel design from FS pond to City Hall that had only 2 bridges with other crossings as non-bridged roads (closed during floods)

- (c) explains why the Thorpe detention basin was rejected, and if more than one design was considered for that detention basin
- (d) explains whether the City ever considered an open channel through southside. If not, why was it not considered? If it was considered, why was it rejected. Provide documentation.
- (e) states the cost for undercrossing for the buried culvert under BNSF rail lines, with cost of the shoo-fly broken out separately. Confirm or refute our understanding that the City would not have to pay for a shoo-fly if there was no need to expand the passage under the tracks (e.g., if the Thorpe Detention Basin were built).
- (f) confirms or denies that the City is committed to a composite channel from Bonito Street to City Hall, with base flows retained in the open channel. Also estimate the cost of the open channel.
- (g) provides an estimate of the cost to complete the new culvert under Mike's Pike to convey Clay Ave flows (in the current plan). Also estimate the cost of any modifications that would be needed to the buried culvert under Butler Ave as an alternative way to safely convey those flows.
- (h) confirms the height of the walls above FS Pond,
- (i) clearly states the date by which the City will decide to proceed with or abandon the ACE project.

The City's response should be a public document, to be provided no later than January 1, 2020 (or OTHER DATE). The document should contain references to specific sources of information (author, date, title, and page numbers). For any source documents not available online or in local libraries, the City should make the documents available for interested citizens to review.

We also request that in future meetings with Southside residents and property owners, the City should ask those persons about their desire for amenity flows (flows < 2 feet deep with no risk of flooding in projected 100-year flood events). During the meetings, the City should clearly explain whether property owners would be able to build in the 2-ft deep channel if the ACE project (buried culvert along the rail line) carried all excess flows.

Please let us know within 2 weeks whether or not you will provide this information.

Notes:

- (1) Rick will meet with Sara Dechter next week and will raise the above point on obtaining opinions of Southside residents.
- (2) We will defer further action on our draft position statements until the City has responded to this letter. If we do get the information, it could affect our statements.

Rollout strategy for our positions on flood control

Rick, Barb, and Kathy met with Jamie Whelan on July 17. We asked her to press Council to set a firm date by which the City would decide to commit to (or abandon) the ACE project. Ms Whelan wants a flood control project, but is highly skeptical that the ACE project is what the City needs. She would also be interested in using a Drought Preparedness grant to do a pilot study on inexpensive treatment options to remove CECs from reclaimed water.

In late July Austin Aslan emailed the newly-recruited city manager, Greg Clifton, who will start work in late August, and asked him to meet with us.

Rick Miller has tried to contact Matt Muchna and inquire about his southside study. Rick will phone him at 523-1791.

In July, Paul created an 18-slide powerpoint to use at various meetings; it emphasizes the main points in our Position Statements and mention our organization's membership numbers and accomplishments. It was distributed (as a dropbox link) to all Board members. So far only Bryan has commented.

SEPTEMBER

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

12 September 2019, 5:30-7:00 at Natural Channel Design

Board members present: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Kathy Flaccus, Allen Hayden, Barbara Phillips.

Not present: Bryan Bates

Others present: Matt Muchna, Marie Jones, Sandra Lubarsky, Maggie Twomey

Treasurer's report: \$5947 bank balance, after a couple payments for Kelly's wages. A few donations for bandannas.

Report from Matt Muchna

Matt (Matt.Muchna@nau.edu) now heads NAU's Sustainability Office. He earlier led FoRio efforts to assess issues in Southside. At Southside meetings, the City (Sara Dechter and the Stormwater reps) made it very clear that local drainage would still occur even if the buried culvert is built. The flood plain will persist. Matt identified 10 owner-occupied residences whose property touches the Rio, and interviewed 5 of the homeowners. The other 40 Southside properties that touch the Rio are occupied by renters). These homeowners are affected by the 50-50 rule (enforced by City building permit office, I guess?): if a homeowner wishes to do a renovation that will cost 50% of the home value, they are required to flood-proof the residence. For all practical purposes, this means they must tear down and start over. Matt emphasized that the residents and landowners need to collaborate on renovations and other actions, because one person's actions could impact the neighbors. The interviewed homeowners have low trust for City plans. Tom asked if residents valued the amenity of non-flood flows. Matt answered that several people whose property did not touch the Rio expressed appreciation for non-flood flows, but Matt cannot say what percentage of residents (touching the Rio or not) had that feeling. The owners of rental properties would probably have greater interest in amenity value of the Rio because they could charge higher rents. The City is trying to put a mini-trail along 1 city-owned block. Allen suggested that in big rains, much of the street flooding in Southside comes from roofs and pavement; he says often there is no flow in front of City Hall when Dupont Ave is flooded.

Maggie Twomey, Volunteer & Event Coordinator for City of Flagstaff Sustainability Section

The Fall 2019 Make a Difference Day will occur on Saturday Oct 19, 8AM-noon. Volunteers will meet at Murdoch Center to clean up the Rio in Southside, and install “Water flows only to the Colorado River” decals at storm drains. Maggie requests the FoRio help publicize and co-sponsor the event. The Board unanimously agreed to do so. Maggie will invite residents via door hangers. She is working with Sarah Dechter to reach landowners ahead of time. We should bring wheelbarrows and dollies to move big stuff.

Marie Jones and Sandra Lubarsky

Marie Jones (P&Z) and Sandra Lubarsky (Beautification & Public Arts Commission) are talking with Malcolm Alter (Water Commission), Brian Petersen (Sustainability) about making presentations to various City Commissions on the ACE flood control project. They will meet with city council members Charlie Odegaard and Adam Shimoni at 11:00AM on Friday Sep 20 on this issue. Their concerns with the ACE project closely match the concerns of FoRio. We look forward to coordinating efforts with them

Report by Rick & Paul on their Sep 10 meeting with Rick Barrett (City chief engineer) and Dan Folke (Community Development Director)

Rick has been in Flagstaff over 30 years. Probably the only City staffer with longer tenure with City is Brett Petersen (second in command in the Engineering Section). We met for 80 minutes in City Hall. We learned that on Oct 1, the City Engineers will have an update for City Council on the project. Rick Barrett must submit 100% plans to ACE in May 2020. City has spent \$16M on this project, and they now estimate the ACE project will cost \$121 Million (not 106 million). FEMA flood standard is about 2/3 of the ACE flood standard. Rick Barrett said that in 130 years of records, Flagstaff has never experienced the ACE 100-year flood, and he doubts we ever will. Of course if there is a fire followed by downpours, we could get a huge flood event, but we really cannot let these unlikely disasters drive the project. Rick Barrett was open to the idea of walking away from ACE and having the City design the project on our own, but he cannot and will not oppose the ACE project. I assured Barrett and Folke that FoRio’s Watershed Planning Effort will be a true community effort and that I (and other Board members with anti-ACE-Project views) would respect that independence by not seeking to impose our views on the community. Rick Miller provided Mr Barrett and Mr Folke with copies of our draft letter to the City (requesting answers to about 10 questions about the ACE project), and asked them to comment on the letter before we send it to the Mayor and City Council. They said they would comment. We should send the letter before the end of the month in any event.

Ideas for October and later members meetings

- Rick will ask John Carr from the County to talk about modeling worst case scenario for fire-flood events. Or to talk about County management of Sinclair Wash west of town, or the Rio in Baderville.
- The Watershed Plan (probably best in December).
- Kathy offered to contact the State Geologist working on Schultz Creek

- Barbara offered to present (in November or later) on one of the following: (1) co-present with Jan Busco on a proposed post-fire weed control project, (2) weed control work in Picture Canyon happening this week, (3) Recent update of master plan Picture Canyon.
- Allen could present on NCD's 2017 report to the City on floodplain health and physical condition of Rio and its tribs. NCD designed the assessment to be regularly updated by citizen scientists. This participation would be the focus of the presentation
- Paul suggested we should soon have a meeting on the ACE Flood Control Project.

Other notes

- Rick and Paul will meet the newly-recruited city manager, Greg Clifton (started work in late August) and Austin Aslan at 4PM on Sep 23, in Mr Clifton's office.
- Paul has gone to Public Comments section of the City Council meetings on Aug 27, Sep 3, and Sep 10. On each occasion he gave a 3-minute statement that started with a statement that FoRio supports flood control but that we have questions about the current ACE flood control proposal. Then each day he presented one question about the project. He provided handouts to the City Clerk, who distributed a copy to the mayor and council members. I attach the handouts from each Council meeting. A video of each presentation is accessible on the City's website. I also clipped the presentations but they are too big to attach to email.

Members Meeting on 5 September 2019. Presentation by Ed Schenk, City of Flagstaff Stormwater. Stormwater has 5 staff to maintain drainages and 88 miles of open channel maint, FEMA floodplain program, EPA Clean Water Act (NDES), Internat Building Code. Watershed has 3 programs: (1) Watershed Management Plan (Friends of the Rio de Flag). (2) City Floodplain Management Plan (FEMA mandated). (3) Hydrology Study, funded by FEMA, to get an idea of what natural morphology and flow baselines were, and how much we have departed from baseline. Igneous and Limestone are both very porous, and the forest and duff pump water into the air, so we have a "complacent watershed" – rain does not cause much runoff

OCTOBER

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

3 October 2019, 5:30-7:00 at Natural Channel Design

Board members present: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Kathy Flaccus, Allen Hayden

Not present: Bryan Bates, Barbara Phillips

Board meetings

- Rick and Paul met the newly-recruited city manager, Greg Clifton (started work in late August) and Austin Aslan at 4PM on Sep 23, in Mr Clifton's office.
- Marie Jones and Sandra Lubarsky, Kathy, Rick, Paul
- Southside meeting.

Kathy Flaccus to prepare 10 minute presentation for Oct 15

We need at least 10 members in audience. Publicize this!

We should meet individually with EVERY Council member. Coral Evans is doing so.

ask Allen

Why only 10 cfs in composite channel (75 gpm). Because it has to cross over a very big box.

Flow experiment:

- There are 4 weirs from I-40 and Herold Ranch Road. I can take photos of weir and note the time. Has fluctuated up to 500 gpm during the last rain.
- Experimental flows should start in next 2 weeks. 500 or 1000 gpm for 5-7 days.
- Possible continuing flow in southside? Even 10 cfs diminishes capacity to carry floods.
- The “floodway” is a frequently flooded area. It is a zone where you cannot increase the elevation at all.

All we are going on now is an oral promise from ACE that they will fund us, despite federal law that says they can't do projects with Benefit Cost Ratio < 0.85.

Look for City Council meeting at which city discussed stormwater fees and stated that they would abandon ACE

One team should present:

- All Commissions should weigh in, perhaps with a group of other citizens.
- Cost out alternatives: options for Thorpe detention basin, options for creating a channel in southside.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

10 October 2019, 5:30-7:00 at Natural Channel Design,

Board members present: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Allen Hayden, Barbara Phillips, Kathy Flaccus

Not present: Bryan Bates,

Also present: Kelly Burke

Treasurer's report: As of Sep 30, bank balance \$6263.83. Total funds received \$11,276 from Bureau of Reclamation for Watershed Grant. Mostly wages, but \$1070 for administrative activities, which could cover Board insurance, but not on another project. Each board member should make an annual contribution by Thanksgiving.

Kelly Burke: update on Watershed Grant

Two core group meetings, including Kelley, Sara Dechter, Ed Shenk, Rick Miller, 3 persons from SW Decision Resources (Lisa Clark, Andi Rogers, +1), John Carr (County). May expand a bit.

Developed a list of about a dozen Tier 2 persons. Interviews with Art Babbott, Deb Harris, Larry Stevens, Abe Springer, Tom Runyon (Coconino NF), Allan Hayden, Mohan Henn, Nicole Antonopoulos, Ward Davis (FLG Water Commission). Lisa Clark of SWDR is taking notes on each interview. Trends so far: A lot of interest in the forest in terms of watershed function. They are also suggesting persons for the stakeholder workshop. Tom Whitham, Perhaps add: rep from tourism industry, outdoor recreation industry, Flag Water Group,

First stakeholder group either mid-November or early December. A half-day workshop is a lot of time for some of the high-level persons. Strategize how best to engage them. Agenda for first group meeting: Summarize results of interviews. Develop vision and goals, create an agreement on how to operate.

To get our next major infusion of dollars, we need to submit a Sufficiency Report stating that we have done several things, including 55% of required workshops.

Small issue. The watershed boundary map in the grant made a mistake (spill into another watershed) near the confluence with San Francisco Wash near Luepp, need to shift to correspond with the hydrologic boundary.

Kathy says Chelsea Silva is in North Manchester IN, interviewing as a pre-school director. Chelsea will visit Nov 6-7. Nov 7 is members meeting. We should plan a social event.

Kathy Flaccus to prepare 10 minute presentation for Oct 15

We need at least 10 members in audience. Publicize this!

We should meet individually with EVERY Council member.

NOVEMBER

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

14 November 2019, 5:35-6:50 at Natural Channel Design

Board members present: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Barbara Phillips, Kathy Flaccus, Bryan Bates

Not present: Allen Hayden

Elections

We normally hold elections with a potluck Members' Meeting in December. Due to renovations in December at Montoya Center, we decided to cancel the December meeting and hold it in January. If Montoya renovations are not done, we could have the potluck at Aquaplex. Kathy

will publicize canceled January members meeting and call for candidates for the Board. Tom will ask for funds to support additional public engagement in the Watershed Plan

Watershed Plan

The first stakeholders meeting will be 1-5PM on either Dec 3 or Dec 5. Each of us should plan to attend. Please put both dates on your calendar.

Future programs for Members' Meetings in February and March

Jan 2: potluck and election at Montoya Center.

February: Rick will ask John Carr (County hydrologist) to speak at Feb Members' meeting. If he declines, Barb or other Arboretum staffer will talk.

March: Arboretum staff (Barb Phillips, Jan Busco, or others) can talk about the Arboretum's new \$325,000 grant from State Forestry for 680 acres of weed abatement in the Museum Fire area and other areas North of I-40.

Treasurer's report

Each board member should make an annual contribution by Thanksgiving.

Potential new collaborator or board member for Friends: Denielle Perry

Dr. Perry is Assistant Professor in NAU School of Earth and Sustainability. Denielle is a water resource geographer. Paul met her 2 weeks ago, and she seemed interested in the Friends, and possibly serving on our Board. During my visit, she and her husband (an environmental attorney) joined the Friends (online). She stated that the 2000 FEIS would almost certainly be ruled inadequate by a court if a lawsuit was filed. Her publications include

LS Bair, CB Yackulic, JC Schmidt, DM Perry, CJ Kirchhoff, K Chief. 2019. Incorporating social-ecological considerations into basin-wide responses to climate change in the Colorado River Basin, Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability 37, 14-19.

DM Perry, SJ Praskievicz. 2017. A new era of big infrastructure? (Re)developing water storage in the US West in the context of climate change and environmental regulation. Water Alternatives 10.

The Board asked Paul to invite Denielle to join the Board.

Next Steps on the ACE flood control Project

City Council decided on 15 October 2019 to pursue ACE project and abandon all other options for flood control. The Board agreed that Friends of the Rio de Flag should take the following next steps on flood control.

- Individual board members are encouraged to send thank-you notes to Jamie Whelan, Austin Aslan, and Adam Shimoni for supporting the creation of a Workgroup of City staff, Citizens, and Commissions to develop options for flood control plans. Paul emailed

the 3 council members on Nov 13 and CC'd the Board on that email, which could be used as a template for others.

- We should engage city staff to explore the following opportunities to improve the ACE project
 - Although ACE is only interested in flood control, the City needs to treat this as a place-making project, not solely flood control. City should hire botanical and art consultants to assist with restoration of disturbed riparian areas.
 - For all open channels on the ACE project (namely: BNSF open channel, City open channel along south edge of tracks, Thorpe Park down to Bonito, some portions of Clay Avenue Wash): Maximize trees over riprap and grass, minimize fences, integrate with FUTS and pocket parks.
 - Re-vision Five Points and Mike's Pike: The entire area will be torn up... we need a plan for what will replace it, integrated with a triangular park just north of Guadalupe Church and a plan for Plaza Vieja.
 - Continue the 10 cfs under the tracks and for 1 block eastward. This is City owned land with historic Rte 66 bridge with great potential for amenity. This would conserve an option (if Southside residents request it in the future) to provide 10 cfs flow through Southside.
 - All city-owned parcels along the Rio should be dedicated Open Space, most especially the rim-to-rim City-owned land on Sinclair Wash from Lone Tree Road to the I-40 wetlands.
- How to promote Friends' ideas
 - Rick and Paul will arrange to talk to Rick Barrett and Dan Folke (and maybe Greg Clifton) before our December Board meeting. We will focus on the specific ideas listed above.
 - Plan a Rio walk with Council Members: focus on Adam & Jim.
 - Paul volunteered to take the lead on Guest Editorials in Daily Sun, but we will wait on this.
 - One editorial on the above the ideas for improving the ACE flood control project.
 - A second editorial (perhaps with co-authors from several City commissions) on the importance of robust public processes on complex issues.

Relationship between Friends' requests to improve ACE and the Watershed Plan (WP)

The Board agreed on the following ideas:

- The Friends obtained BuRec funding for the Watershed Plan, but the WP has independent staff and consultants, and the Friends of the Rio is committed that the WP will be a comprehensive community visioning process that is independent of the Friends' efforts to improve the ACE project. Compared to the ACE project, the WP has a much broader scope in terms of geography, values, stakeholders, options, and products. The Friends do

not want any one perspective – not even its own perspective – to distort the process. No stakeholder should attempt to impose its vision and goals on the WP.

- On the other hand, it is not reasonable to expect the Friends to abandon efforts to improve the ACE project, or to delay those efforts for two years while the WP is developed. Such delay could cause a delay of 5 or 10 years in improvements, and remove any possibility of 65% federal cost-share for those improvements. We have a critical window of opportunity that will greatly decrease (or end) when the City submits its plans to ACE in May 2020.
- To some extent, the WP will meet the Friends' request (on the ACE project) for a Workgroup of City Commissions, City Staff, and Citizens to create a vision for the Rio. Paul plans to ask Kelly to make sure that WP includes all relevant City Commissions¹ and city departments².
- At a recent WP meeting, Sara Dechter implied that the City might withdraw from participating in the WP because the Friends had opposed the ACE flood control project. The Board unanimously agreed that this implied threat did not make sense for the City because the City has so much to gain from the WP. Kelly and Rick assured Ms Dechter that the WP would proceed as a collaborative project independent of the Friends. Furthermore, the City routinely interacts with diverse groups without making inappropriate demands on the political activity of a group. Paul volunteered to talk with Ms Dechter and reassure her of the WP's independence from Friends' political activity.

Errors in City staff's presentation on ACE project to City Council

Paul noted that the 90-minute presentation to City Council on October 15, 2019 had a lot of good information. However, he want the Board to be aware of 3 errors or omissions that he noted:

- One slide stated that in 2014 the City Council decided to “stay the course.” The slide and accompanying narration strongly suggested that in 2014 City Council decided to abandon the Go It Alone Option and solely pursue the ACE project. That was not the case. At its 3 June 2014 meeting City Council did get a long report from City Staff on “Option 3” – an option for the City to build a flood control project to FEMA standards rather than ACE standards. The City staff considered only one option, namely smaller underground pipes. They found that one change would cut costs by over 50%. The meeting ended with Mayor Nabors asking the City Manager Kevin Burke: “Mr Burke, what do you want us to tell you, if anything?” Mr Burke: “I’d like you to say to continue to proceed to investigate the financial options required to explore it [flood control] as a pure city project – that is, option 3. This would not require additional consultants, this is something we are looking at doing internally and starting to put together different options.” Mayor looks around at council members, who all respond with head nod, “OK,” or “all right.” Mr Burke: “OK,

¹ Water (Malcolm Alter), Beautification (Sandra Lubarsky), Parks & Recreation, Sustainability (Brian Petersen), Open Space, and Planning & Zoning (Marie Jones)

² Stormwater (JJ, Ed Shenk), Engineering/Capital Improvements (Rick Barrett), Community Development (Dan Folke, Sara Dechter), FMPO (Dave Wessel, roads; Martin Ince, FUTS), Sustainability (Nicole Antonopolis, several others), Parks & Recreation ()...

we'll move forward and we'll keep you posted on both fronts." Mayor: "OK. Thank you to the whole team working on this." Then the Mayor moved to the next agenda item.

- In responding to a question from Mr Aslan about public access to the open channel on BNSF land, Mr Barrett incorrect stated that the east end of the buried culvert on the south side of BNSF tracks would open into an open channel on City-owned land. In fact (unless the Coconino County online parcel viewer does not reflect some recent acquisitions by the City), the first half mile of the open channel would be entirely on BNSF land before it transitions to City land about ¼ mile above the Butler Avenue tunnel. At that moment I happened to be sitting next to the City's DC lobbyist (Bob Holmes) and I turned to him and asked "Isn't he wrong to say the buried culvert turns into an open channel on City land?" Mr Holmes said "Yes, the open channel is on railroad land for quite a ways."
- Mr Barrett correctly stated that the detention basin in Thorpe Park (Alternative 5 in the 1999 DEIS) was criticized for potential risk of dam failure. He mentioned a 1999 letter from Arizona Department of Water Resources on the dam failure issue. That letter is mentioned in the 2000 FEIS, but strangely was not included in the FEIS sections that contained comments from citizens and agencies. I would like to see the letter. Although that statement was accurate, Mr Barrett should also have stated that ACE then re-designed a Thorpe Park detention basin as Alternative 7 in the 2000 FEIS; this option did not have risk of dam failure, but was not selected, purportedly due to cost and neighborhood opposition. Two Thorpe Park neighbors (Sandra Lubarsky, Rose Houk) told me that they had expressed some concern about the project, but only one of their neighbors was strongly opposed; there was never a neighborhood discussion or neighborhood consensus.

DECEMBER

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

12 December 2019, 5:35-7:00 at Natural Channel Design

Board members present: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Paul Beier, Barbara Phillips, Kathy Flaccus, Bryan Bates. Not present: Allen Hayden

Today's meeting with the City staff on ACE project.

Rick Miller and Paul Beier met at City Hall with Jim Janacek, Trevor Henry, Rick Barrett, and Monica Rabb (new Stormwater chief). We learned

- They cannot retain the open channel along the south side of the tracks. Even though the natural channel is over twice as wide as the ACE "V" channel, their hydrological model projects that the ACE 100-year flood would overtop the south bank by 4 feet. The V channel can convey greater cfs because it is much deeper than the natural channel and because it has a low Mannings' coefficient. Janacek explained this honestly and well, and we believe him. If the ACE project collapses in July 2020 (and the City then builds its own project), the natural channel can accommodate FEMA 100-year floods, creating a much better amenity and saving millions of dollars.

- The City says the plant palette consultant is Norris Design of Sedona. Janeczek said he'd send the palette via email to Rick. Barb will contact Norris Design and consult on appropriate species.
- On the lower reach (above Butler Ave), the City is reluctant to replace the chain link fence with a pipe fence. They seem to think the pipe fence would cost more and might be less safe than chain link. We argued that safety is not a huge concern on a 2:1 (run:rise) slope, and pointed out that the City of Tucson uses miles of simple pipe fence along a heavily used trail with a much steeper slope above Santa Cruz River.
- THE GOOD PART! The current plan calls for the composite channel to end at Rte 66) with the flow dropping into the buried culvert at that point (south edge of City Hall grounds). We asked for the natural flow to continue SE for another 200-250 m, in the current open channel (which will not be disturbed for the new buried culvert), under the wooden remnants of the ancient Route 66 bridge over the Rio, and then dropping into the ACE culvert at Biff's/Zani. The City agreed to do so! They won't leave an open channel alongside the FUTS in the Rte 66 underpass (safety of FUTS users, and possible objections from ADOT) and will put the 10cfs into a corrugated metal pipe for that 80-ft distance, then returning into the existing channel on the south side, which flows eastward in the open channel between Rte 66 and the RR. By the time this is built, perhaps southside residents will ask for the flow to continue through their southside. Currently many Southsiders hate the Rio and want it to go away and are under the illusion that they will be able to build in the channel after the ACE project. Once they are free of flood insurance & restrictions, and once they finally accept that they can never build in the channel, and with increased gentrification, they may want the flow.

Patagonia matching fund

Patagonia does not report to Tom on how much donations we have received. But \$6M of the \$10M is committed, so time is running out. Tom will send a second appeal to members.

TetraTech scandal

A recent news story reported that TetraTech (the main contractor hired by ACE for the Rio flood control project) falsified soil data on over a dozen recent projects. Brian will draft a letter to City Council on concern about integrity of Tetra Tech, and the potential for dishonest work to affect the ACE project. Rick will sign the letter and send it to Rick Barrett and ask the City to follow up.

Jan 2 Members potluck at Montoya Center; Elections to the Board

Kathy will publicize January members meeting. We usually hold Board election at the January potluck, but we don't have time to arrange to hold the election on January 2. We agreed to invite Ms Cuyler Boughner (Kathy will invite) and Denielle Perry (Paul will invite). There seemed to be strong support to invite Ed Peacock (a professional hydrologist). 16 Dec update: Bryan volunteered to try to recruit Ed Peacock, who is Bryan's personal friend, and also Cuyler Boughner (formerly on the Board). 5 Jan 2020 update: Brian says Cuyler declined, and Ed

Peacock has not responded; he thinks Ed would respond positively only if asked in person (as at a Member's meeting).

The program (during dinner) will include

- Board members (and especially new candidates, if they attend) introduce themselves.
- A good-bye and thank you to departing Board members (Bates, Lovely)
- Paul: summarize our failed effort to get City Council to create a broad workgroup of citizens and city staff to consider alternatives to the ACE project.
- Kelly Burke: update on the Watershed Plan
- 8 minute film on the Rio

Watershed Plan and Watershed Group (BuRec funded project)

\$91K budget for contract employees and direct expenses over 2 years. (We have \$9K for overhead, which we could use to apply for grants, maintain website, etc.). We have drawn \$22K so far (mostly payroll and \$4200 for SDR) for the first 6 months of a 24-month project. So we are doing OK on money and time. We owe a report to Bureau of Reclamation by Jan 31, 2020.

Rick, Paul, Kathy attended the WG's first stakeholder meeting on Dec 3. It went well, but lacked some key people, such as a USFS representative, a representative from City Community Development (preferably Sarah Dechter), and a tribal rep. Kelly thinks a Hopi rep and Sarah Dechter will come to next meeting and that she will recruit a USFS rep. To get better buy-in from the City, the stakeholders suggested that each of several City Commissions (Water, Sustainability, Open Space, Parks & Rec) should have an update from the WG as standing agenda item; each Commission includes a City Council member.

Rick is concerned about Kelly producing a report on time. Kelly told Rick this week that she was trying to recruit stakeholders to write sections, which Kelly would then edit. But many of these people are overworked and they might not be able to contribute at the level Kelly expects.

Friends of the Rio de Flag endorsement of Brian Bates for County Supervisor

As a 501c3, the organization cannot endorse. Some individual board members indicated their intention to endorse Brian.

Speakers for future Members Meeting: We are set through February. Vernon Masayevsa would be great for March or later.

Farewell to Bryan Bates: Bryan is the longest-serving current board member. We thanked Bryan for his long and energetic service, and wish him well in the future.