

Members' Meeting and Potluck Dinner, 2 January 2020

Montoya Center in Thorpe Park

The program (during dinner)

- Tom presented the 2019 Tom Moody Award to Brian Bates in recognition of his 8 years of service to the Board.
- Board members (and new prospect Denielle Perry) introduce themselves.
- introduce new board members Denielle and Barb.
- 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.
- Ian Harrison: Feb 2, World Wetlands day (since 1971). This year's theme is Wetlands and Biodiversity. Ian worked for Conservation International and for IUCN for many years. At our meeting next week, we will consider whether Friends will offer a local event.
- Rick Miller: update on the Watershed Plan. Stakeholder Group has met once. Final product May 2021.
- Picture Canyon Working Group will meet next week, to suggest potential open space acquisitions. Three meetings on Monday nights in January at City Hall. Must wrap up the proposal in February and let City Council decide whether to promote it.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

20 February 2020, 5:35-7:00 at Natural Channel Design

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

Also present: Kelly Burke

Welcome Denielle Perry to the Board; self-introductions

Agenda

Members Meeting speaker needed for April 2: Larry Stevens will be on the Colorado River (maybe later). Allen Hayden on Citizen-science Watershed Condition Monitoring Program

Daily Sun reported last week that the City will get \$54M from ACE for the flood control project in one lump sum.

Tom's Treasurer's report: Feb marks the end of 8 months of the 24-month project, and we will have spent about 30% of our funds.

The main event. Update on the Watershed Plan and Watershed Group

Main goals: Create a Watershed Group that will persist as a collaborative stakeholder group after the end of the grant. (2) A plan consisting of a description of a desired future condition and a list

of projects to carry that out. Our intention is that the City and County will adopt the plan; we met with City staff in Dec 2018 and they (Stormwater, Community Development) expressed enthusiasm for the City adopting the Plan. In December the stakeholder group named itself WARF and adopted 6 goals

Goal 1: Increase integrated cultural, scientific, and historical understanding of the Rio de Flag watershed.

Goal 2: Protect and enhance Rio de Flag watershed health to deliver ecosystem services to future generations.

Goal 3: Benefit human communities of the Rio de Flag watershed.

Goal 4: Benefit native ecological communities of the Rio de Flag watershed.

Goal 5: Increase public awareness and engagement to strengthen the community's connection to the Rio de Flag watershed.

Goal 6: Create a sustainable funding stream for the Rio de Flag watershed.

The plan will reference other plans (completed or in progress) such as the Picture Canyon Working Group plan, weed abatement plans that Barb is helping to develop. We will incorporate such plans by summarizing them in a few parags each with links to the plans (not by bloated text).

There will be 5 stakeholder workshops, 2 are done, 3 of which will precede 6 public workshops during April-Sept 2020. We can suggest to Kelly agenda items for the public workshop, and how they should be structured (by reach? By theme? By interest group?). Supplement with an online survey for those who cannot attend.

We ran out of time... invited Kelly back to continue this at the next Board meeting. At that time, the Board can provide substantive input.

Allen: 2 announcements. Tom & Allen met an NAU writing student who could make a good presentation. Ed Shenk (Stormwater) are likely to get funding for restoration of Switzer Wash below Butler Ave.

Paul: push Board meetings to everyone's calendar.

NAU Student Water Symposium April 15-17. We could have a table there.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

12 March 2020, 5:35-7:00 at Natural Channel Design

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

Absent: Barb Phillips

Also present: Kelly Burke

Agenda

Vote whether Friends of the Rio de Flag should become a partner with FLAGSTAFF COLLEGE.

Flagstaff College requests to list Friends of the Rio de Flag on our webpage as a "community partner." Flagstaff College is to be launched in Fall 2020. It will be a very small college with one major: Sustainability and Social Change. They aim to educate students to be active participants in creating livable communities and ecological civilizations. More information at www.FlagstaffCollege.education. Flagstaff College is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational institution. They are seeking accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission--a process that takes at least 4 years. In the meantime, they are in conversation with several accredited schools to arrange an accreditation partnership. The current list of partners includes: the Grand Canyon Trust; Flagstaff Food Link; Poore Free Medical Clinic; Star Charter School; Willow Bend; and the Colton Gardens. Sandra Lubarsky (a leader of Flagstaff College) said that being a community partner "means that when there is a good fit between something your organization needs doing and the skills of one or more of our students, we will send our students to you to be of help. For example, one of the skills we want our students to have is the ability to make short documentary films. As a partner, you might ask one or more of our students to make a short documentary film about Friends of the Rio or about some issue the organization is working on. Of course, it would then be up to you to use or not use the student project when it is completed." Sandra also offered the following text for the Friends of the Rio as a partner, and is happy for us to edit as we see fit; they will include a photo and a link to our website. "FRIENDS OF THE RIO DE FLAG is a non-profit organization supporting the preservation and restoration of the natural beauty and beneficial functions of the Rio de Flag stream channel. It promotes the Rio de Flag's natural stream system as a unique and valuable natural resource, an asset and amenity to the City of Flagstaff and the surrounding community. The Friends promote the preservation and rehabilitation of all parts of the Rio de Flag and its tributary streams with particular emphasis on sections of the channels that have been disturbed, under-grounded, or abandoned.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Summer programs

In light of COVID-19, we discussed whether to continue members meetings? We felt that outdoor meetings are probably OK, with appropriate encouragement to practice social distancing. We decided to cancel the April meeting. We also decided that summer members meetings would focus on springs of Flagstaff area, starting with Larry Stevens and Sat Tamarabuchi.

Collaborate on a weed control project (Rick)

Robert Wallace of the City's Sustainability Program, would like to partner with Friends to apply for a weed control project (high probability of success), up to \$200,000 from Arizona Forest and Fire Protection fund. Robert would like us to administer the grant. The Board agreed to pursue this but only if it is possible to pay administrative costs from the grant. Rick will talk with Barb Phillips and Robert.

Update on flood control project (Allen): The City and ACE agreed to split it into two parts: part 1 Butler to Rte 66, then next year the upper half mile.

Treasurer's report (Tom): We received \$4090 from the Patagonia Network for Good matching fund. We are doing OK. Our sufficiency report was submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, who acknowledged receipt, but have not yet indicated that it is acceptable.

The Watershed Group project (update and discussion led by Kelly Burke)

The revised Sufficiency Report to Bureau of Reclamation provided more detail on the Stakeholder Interviews, and progress on the stakeholder meetings. The next funding depends on Bureau of Reclamation approval of our Sufficiency Report. Next funds should come 1 year after the May 7 2019 start date.

Lisa Clark from SWDR has been very helpful, wants to put in more hours. The March 24 workshop has been planned (COVID might force cancellation) with two 2-hour sessions, one to work on a plan for writing the plan, the second to work 2 hours on public outreach. Larry Stevens will attend the March 24 event, but Tom Whitham, Ed Schenk, and Hannah Griscom (key writers) will not attend. Kelly is considering 1-on-1 meetings with the other key writers. They have a rough outline, Larry would write a detailed outline of the Intro and Setting and send it out before the Mar 24 meeting so that they can start writing on March 24. Other key people on public outreach will be at the Mar 24 meeting, including Amanda.

Outreach: The grant says the public meetings will solicit ideas for proposed projects. Original plan was to have 6 neighborhood meetings. But now we will probably have a couple meetings early to get input, then a couple meetings to provide feedback on the draft. We can accomplish the geographic focus by having breakout groups on geographic areas. Mar 24 meeting will work on this. We might add an online poll. Allen described a 1-year process in Prescott: Started with open house meeting for business owners at which organizers have tables that people stop at, put ideas on a map; then the organizers summarize the ideas and get feedback. This led to a plan that City approved.

USFS still has not designated a representative. Kelly met with CNF Supervisor, who expressed enthusiasm, but she did not appoint a point person. In our discussion, the board suggested CNF recreation planner and collaborative process expert Marcos Roybal, who lives in Flagstaff.

A lot of the plan can be written before public input. Kelly is not sure how to integrate the reaches into the plan. Her idea currently is a thematic outline, with major conclusions for that theme, followed by how that topic or theme would apply in each reach.

Abe Springer suggested (Kelly and the Board agree) that the final report should use powerful graphics to replace words. Rick said Karen Enyedy owns some excellent graphics (from Plateau magazine) and has offered them to us for free for use in public meetings and in the report. Allen can also create GIS graphics; NCD will have student helpers starting in May. An aerial oblique photo of the watershed would be great; Michael Collier probably has one.

The first public meeting will probably be in June. The report is to be completed in September.

Other information:

- Kathy will be gone early May through late September. She will ask Tom to take over her webmaster duties.
- Paul volunteered to push Board meetings to everyone's calendar.
- Denielle informed us of the NAU Student Water Symposium April 15-17. It has been moved online at: <https://naustudentwatersymposium.com/> Many presentations, and screening of a relatively new film "Hidden Rivers" which one can watch any time on Friday April 17. Friends of the Rio de Flag should have a virtual table there. We did not take concrete steps to make that happen.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

Special Meeting

3 April 2020. 4:30-5:00PM via Zoom conference call

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

The purpose of this meeting was to decide whether Friends of the Rio de Flag should apply for a loan from the Borrower Paycheck Protection Program. This program allows interest-free loans to keep staff employed who might otherwise be laid off due to COVID-19. There is a good chance that the loan would be forgiven (turned into a grant). We are not guaranteed that our application would be approved. The program is just a few days old, and there will be a rush of applications. The application form is only two pages long, and relatively simple, except for the section that asks us to list all owners with at least a 25% stake in the organization.

We voted unanimously to apply. Tom Bean will fill out the application form.

We also decided to cancel the April 9 board meeting

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

18 May 2020. 4:30-5:00PM via Zoom conference call

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

Treasurer's Report: Since our last meeting, we received 2800 from the Paycheck Protection Program (part of the federal COVID-19 response) to spend for about 4 weeks wages and related FICA expenses. It should convert from loan to a grant if we comply with straightforward requirements.

Discussion of progress on watershed plan – Kelly Burke

Next (virtual) meeting of the core group will occur May 21 to assemble key parts of the plan by each of the 6 objectives. USFS has appointed a representative at last. They have acquired some good maps, will decide how to structure into reaches.

They have collected enough documents to create a minimum list of projects. We want to go further, but this list will ensure that we at least minimally meet this important products specified in the Bureau of Reclamation grant.

We have collected a lot of information, and we are making progress on all aspects despite having to work virtually. The next challenge will be planning the virtual stakeholder meetings. Rick favors some type of online polling, broken into 6 or 7 small chunks (10 minutes each), rather than a long poll. Allen finds that live Zoom meetings work best if they last about 30 minutes, and make good use of the chat box for people who can't (or don't want to) talk. The live meetings are best for open-ended questions, whereas polls are best for yes/no questions or lists. SWDR can provide a professional moderator to help run live meetings. We had planned to complete the public input meetings by end September (feedback on the draft would be later), but we may fall behind on that.

SWDR is doing more work than we originally planned, but so far they are working hard to stay within budget. They are proactively discussing hours and costs with us.

NAU students who would like to do independent research and internships this coming school year. – Denielle Perry:

Two students are keen. One wants to do a story on the history of the re-routing of the Rio, and the flood control project, social justice issues, and the possibility of a low environmental flow through southside. This would be a MS project. Matt Muchna did a good paper on environmental justice aspect.

A couple other students want to do undergrad internships, which could be work on website, organizing community meetings. Rick suggests Denielle should refer volunteers to Rick, who will pass them on to Kelly if he thinks they would be helpful. The City (Sara Dechter) has offered to let us use their online survey platform – and their mailing lists. Some internships can occur in the summer.

Kathy says we could also use interns for our wet-dry surveys and other projects that might better fit an internship. Also a study on amenity value of releasing wastewater (beyond the goal of groundwater recharge), and related issues of water quality.

Denielle has a grad class that can work as a group on a science-policy question, with a resulting story map and report.

How do we want to handle public interaction for summer? Meetings? Hikes? – All:

Zoom meeting: June 4 or July 2. Denielle will invite Ben Ruddell to talk about his QR code project and other water-related projects. His lab could also develop an app for virtual walks. On future Zoom meetings we can cover

We do not feel we can we do group walks safely, especially given that past summer walks have drawn 40-50 people. Jack Welch could give us a list of hikes that we can post on our website and we can broadcast publicity to our members. Kathy will call Jack.

Perhaps one of Denielle's interns could create an app that people could carry on their phone to provide information at various stops. The intern would accompany a knowledgeable person who would narrate the video, perhaps using a panoramic video camera. It would be great if at least one of the virtual walks encourages people to do a chore (such as wet-dry mapping) so they feel like they are giving back.

Barb: Update on invasive weed program.

Jan Busco and Barb have a grant through the Arboretum to survey weeds below the Museum Fire. Lots of knapweed that could invade the Museum Fire area. They have completed an herbicide priority map and will put it out for bid soon. Perhaps also mechanical removal in some areas. Public education to help with weed control in their HOA or private property.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

10 June 2020, 5:30-7:00PM. via Zoom conference call

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

WARF Project: Kathy reports that she and Rick and Kelly met recently We are on track to finish on time, with a review draft about 4 months ahead of that. The first virtual public meeting was poorly attended, they will likely shift to an online survey effort. Denielle will talk to Kelly and work with her on the survey next week. Rick will grab some email lists from the City and perhaps elsewhere; each of us can also broadcast via our networks. The board favored short surveys that do not require mandatory responses to all questions; people tend to quit long surveys. Flagstaff Trails Initiative had a nice online survey a few months ago: nice graphics, users could click on a map and comment about trail options in particular areas of interest, or comment on themes of their choice from a main menu without being pressured to complete a marathon survey. SDR probably has good skills on survey design? The Board invites Kelly to give a 10-minute update on WARF at each future Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: We have received less than half of BuRec funds, are on track to finish on budget. Tom believes we can turn the \$2800 loan under the Payroll Protection Program into a grant; some language suggests that federal projects cannot get loan forgiveness, but Tom thinks we might not be a federal project as defined. Allen thinks we may qualify if we ask for the money to cover gap created by our expected no-cost extension due to COVID. Allen will ask "Barb" at Payroll Connection (who works for NCD) for advice. Even if the loan is not forgiven, we will be OK.

BuRec meeting on WaterSMART next Wednesday 10AM. At least a couple Board members should attend to help us think about the first restoration project to help implement our WARF plans. We encourage Kelly to invite WARF members.

Self-guided walking tour (Denielle): Given that COVID-19 will likely prevent large group walks for a year or more, the Board is excited by this idea.

- Option 1: We can drop pins on Google Maps and associate text/photos with each pin, and post the clickable map on our website. This is a very simple first step, and Denielle may have a student intern who can do this quickly. It is a good no-regret first step toward the other options below, because the content (text-photo-video) we generate can be imported into those options. Denielle provided this recent example created by a student at NAU: https://nau.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/128/DowntownSouthside_Walking_Tours.pdf
- Option 2: an actual app. We can export our tours (after we create them) for free into an existing app that many people have on their smart phones. One example is the PocketSights app (<https://pocketsights.com/signup>); there are many other apps like it. PocketSights has a free option with unlimited tours. Photos, voice recordings, and text boxes can all be added but they offer no tech support. We would need a tech-savvy student (or one of us) to take up the task of building the tours once we collect the materials to add to them. For \$499 a year or \$49 a month they offer support plus a feature to collect donations and provide additional features such as email lists.
- Option 3: For \$899 the first year, PocketSights will create 3-4 high quality tour options. Then the subscription can be downgraded to the \$499 yearly price thereafter. Unlimited tours can be made under any of these options. The high-end options let us harvest the emails of users, and we can ask them to join Friends of the Rio de Flag and give us donations. Everybody who has the app will have access to the Rio de Flag Tour; the app will automatically alert FLG residents and visitors to FLG that the Rio tour is available. This is probably where we want to go, probably after starting with Option 1. If it flops, we can bail out after losing only \$1400 (and our time). If it works, it can be a powerful way to reach many people.
- Option 4: we could create a stand-alone app; disadvantages are (1) we have to create the app; (2) people would have to find and download the app. But it'd be "free" except for our time.
- **For every option, we have to create content:** text, photos, and videos tied to particular locations. That is why starting with Option 1 makes sense; we can create content piecemeal, without a comprehensive "tour" – as content accumulates we can gather it into a tour. We should start with a few places that are easily accessible on the FUTS, on public land, and won't be harmed by getting more visitors. Also take advantage of the Arboretum, Willow Bend, and MNA, who can deliver content. Good sites to start: everything along the Rio from Cheshire wetlands to the I-40 wetlands, plus Picture Canyon, and the ACE flood control project.
- **The app should include** a handful of specific top-menu items that are not tied to a particular location, including (1) "leave no trace" advice, (2) "pull these weeds" and (3) "do some wet-dry or flow monitoring".

World Rivers Day, Sep 27 2020: The Board would like Friends to participate in one or more of the following pandemic-appropriate ways. The scavenger hunt generated the most excitement.

(1) A treasure hunt or scavenger hunt with gift cards (perhaps with an extra reward for removing noxious weeds) donated by local businesses and entities (e.g., our bandanas, poker chips for beer at Mother Road, ice cream treat). We volunteered Rick Miller to lead this effort – that’s what happens when you miss a meeting. We can all work on this, but someone will have to take the lead to make it happen on time. Advance publicity is crucial.

(2) issue a challenge to walk, bike, or run all FUTS segments that run along the Rio and its tributaries, similar to the many online races that have emerged since the pandemic shut-down of group events.

(a) a “drive-in movie” event. The crucial first step would be to identify a large parking lot that faces a big blank wall on which video or photos could be projected. If we find this, we can work on content – and an audio system.

July 2 Members Meeting. Allen Hayden will present on NCD’s Citizen Science monitoring program. Allen will give info to Kathy who will publicize it. We should precede the main event with SHORT blurbs from individuals on (1) The virtual tour idea (Denielle): tell people where to send their ideas and content. (2) World Rivers Day (Paul?) Sep 27. (3) update on WARF (Kelly)..

Make a Difference Day Oct 17 (3rd Saturday in Oct). Send Allen your suggestions for a Rio-related activity. It has been > 5 years since MADD focused on Frances Short Pond area, and there was enthusiasm to repeat it this year. The large area allows people to stay well-distanced.

July 9, 2020 Board meeting will be in the backyard patio at Paul Beier’s home, 140 Paseo del Rio, where there is ample well-spaced seating, and a 40-ft long sunroom in the blessed event that we get rain. All Board members present were comfortable with this idea. Rick or Kelly, if you are not OK with this, please say so and we will either switch to zoom or try a hybrid meeting. Kathy will be in New Hampshire with no internet access.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

9 July 2020. 5:30-7:00PM via Zoom conference call

Board members present: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Kathy Flaccus, Allen Hayden, Denielle Perry (acting secretary), Barbara Phillips, Kelly Burke

Grant Update

- Funding for the next phase of grant –funding cycle due in September. No way to make a request by then. Supposed to run the grant into May of 2021.
- One objective is getting WARF to the point where they could apply. We need to bring WARF up to speed. Need an Executive Director to make that happen. WARF should apply for next phase of funding instead of FoR as we want to be a member, not the lead

on the grant. Stormwater or USFS are other likely candidates that could apply instead of FoR.

- Must be an established watershed group to apply. Up to \$300K and must be matched from a non-federal funding source. In-kind match may also work if we count volunteer hours.
- With September deadline we should aim for September 2021 application.
- Enhancing riparian vegetation, invasive species management, increasing instream flows, and stream channel reconstruction and bank stabilization are the items we've discussed that are on their list. List may change yearly.

Treasurer's Report

- Still on the first year of the grant.
- First year funds received \$49,783; Spent \$37,364
- Note from Carrie at Southwest Design Resources wanting to send an invoice for roughly \$6000 for all the work done in the first 6 months of the year. Will be paying that within coming weeks.
- Remaining balance around \$6000 – need to ask for it to be disbursed.
- Need to ask for a no-cost extension to end it on July 7th, 2021.
- Since our last meeting, we received \$2800 from the Paycheck Protection Program (part of the federal COVID-19 response) to spend for about 4 weeks wages and related FICA expenses. It should convert from loan to a grant if we comply with straightforward requirements.
- Kelly suggests going through timeline and grant agreement to come up with a reasonable timeline that matches mileposts with new dates. No problem with moving forward with the plan to see it done.
- No penalty for requesting an extension without using it. The PPP caveat cannot be used if position is funded by a government grant. Can only use it for reimbursement if Kelly gets sick or if Congress turns all loans under \$150K into a grant.

Discussion of progress on watershed plan – Kelly Burke

- Had a core team Zoom meeting about how to incorporate public input given the current Covid situation.
- Referring to document that go over the 6 goals and objectives for the watershed plan.
- Plan to have public meetings on Zoom around each goal and objectives with a format of having a paired set of expert speakers on each topic as well as the facilitator.
- Mentimeter is a tool on Zoom for taking spot surveys/polls to put out questions in real time to webinar attendees. Use Mentimeter interaction to keep people engaged and to collect data.
- Watershed health goal #1 – intro to plan, why we're doing this.
- Facilitator will talk about overarching goals of plan. Experts will talk about specific aspects of watershed.

- Public input includes ArcGIS map tool at end of meeting to identify places where projects should be implemented and why.
- Finishing this document to revise questions and structure. Will then schedule a WARF meeting for the first or second week of August. Opportunities for stakeholders to have input document
- Webinars will launch mid to late August or early September and run every two weeks thereafter.
- Added an additional webinar to address equity and cultural diversity. One speaker would be Pat Taylor who could present on the Hopi view of water and watersheds.
- Recruit people to these meetings by collaborating with other local entities that have listservs/membership mailing lists
- Table of milestones – 50% complete deadline is September 2020. Use Sept 2020 as the end point and plan backwards to see what 50% would look like.
- Deliver pieces to board every two weeks for review so that there is a closer interaction with the board through process
- Need to hold some WARF Zoom meetings to assess how webinars are going and to make decisions about how to revise and incorporate public input as needed.
- Kelly working on intro and reach descriptions for background. Ecology and all aspects of the watershed – detail each reach description and their differences.
- Creating reach map - working with Ed Shank at CoF.
- Need to make a list of figures, maps, and photos to make it visual and less wordy- *Allen can provide plenty of content*
- Kelly – need to know what figures and maps to have by September. Will affect what is written and what is not.
- Tom and Kelly have a *progress report due at the end of July*. Will discuss financial side of report – can highlight a lot of what we ‘ve been doing to be resilient and adaptable to crisis to move forward and get this done.
- Alan suggests using the proposed expert lists for future monthly member meetings.

UG Research projects

- UG researchers from NAU could do some policy research for Kelly for the plan. Actual protections – what form of policy protections exist and/or could be applied. *Looking for what kinds of policy tools exist. County, city, tribes*
- Program in Arizona for state waters – look at other states that have policies that AZ does not yet to get new protections passed and added. Keep in mind that there are jurisdictional limitations under 404 of CWA so it no longer gets protections. ADQ is following that ruling. Protections for Rio will be up to City and County protections and regulations. *Stormwater, building codes, grading permits, open space. The most applicable to us are the city and county regulations, USFS, and state lands.*
- What about water rights for reclaimed water rights in the lower stretch of the Rio. Some people have been trapping the water behind little dams and denying neighbors access. No

filed water rights on the Rio. Sinclair Wash has a filed right for the Arboretum. Hopi struggle for rights and issues with the City.

- Water quality is another part of this problem/question with ADQ. Need for better treatment of water. People in Dony park using that water.
- Could use web content and a page made about the WaterSmart grant

Walking Tour APP Update

Funding APP – 10% of overhead from WaterSmart grant could pay for APP. Also, Patagonia and Mary Townsend support. Need to be able to update and maintain in the long run. Can support a grad student with a few hundred dollars to build it.

Need to ensure a trail exists and that location can handle visitation. Use APP to inform users of Leave No Trace and Covid safety.

Gaia maps– check them out to see if there are any trails along the Rio.

Start with low hanging fruit:

- Willow Bend to the Treatment Plant/140 Wetlands - County is building wildlife viewing platform over Sinclair Wash –place QR code on signage to connect people with APP
- Cheshire Pond
- FUTS between Francis Short and downtown
- Rio through southside that goes under buildings
- Picture Canyon
- Logan’s Crossing
- MNA south on FUTS
- Viet Springs

LeRoux Springs - Need to be careful inviting people here because it’s a fragile ecosystem –it’s just starting to come back. Little Springs has bears and wildlife and there are too many people there right now disrupting them.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

20 August 2020. 5:50-7:00PM at 140 Paseo del Rio, Apt 1, and Zoom conference call
Board members attending: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Kathy Flaccus, Denielle Perry, Barbara Phillips, Paul Beier. Not participating: Allen Hayden. Others participating: Kelly Burke.

We started at 5:50 due to technical difficulties coordinating the Zoom and in-person audio and video.

Agenda:

1. Treasurers Report
2. Update from Barb on Weed Project

3. Update from Kelly on Watershed Planning
4. Discussion of how we want to handle member meetings and field trips in light of ongoing Covid pandemic
5. City of Flagstaff's Community Stakeholder Committee on Reclaimed Water

Treasurer's Report

We have a large current balance. About \$11.6K is earmarked for our Bureau of Reclamation grant. SDR invoice will draw down some of this.

Barb Phillips: Weed control project

Delays in award paperwork precluded timely use of herbicides, will ask for no-cost extension to allow for a spring spraying next year. Some good work on mechanical control of knapweed by Karen Enyedi in a few areas. Lots of good progress in other areas too.

Discussion of progress on watershed plan – Kelly Burke

- Working with Ed Schenk to implement an online platform to display 7 major subwatersheds of the Rio. They will probably treat the Frances Short to I-40 area (which overlaps 2 or 3 subwatersheds) as a separate area in the text (if not on the maps). Interested persons can use the map to provide spatially-referenced suggestions. Denielle suggested turning off the color fill on focal subwatershed so that topography and other details can be apparent.
- Aug 11: 3rd WARF meeting via Zoom went well, they liked the public outreach plan. They are commenting this week, and Kelly will then start on public outreach.
- Public Outreach: 6 webinars (1 hour each) organized according to the 6 goals rather than the 7 subwatersheds. 7th webinar on implementation. Perhaps an 8th on funding (or maybe not). Next Kelly will select speakers and set dates, probably starting mid or late September. Paul suggested providing some pre-meeting background material online so that interested persons can get more info than can be presented in an hour.
- Kelly is working on a spreadsheet to assign contributors (authors, reviewers, providers of specific info, etc.) to each section of the plan. Kelly will send it to us tomorrow.
- Board members should please comment on the section of the plan Kelly will send us on Aug 24.
- We will almost certainly need to ask for a No-Cost Extension.
- Denielle has two student projects (Story map and Policy paper) to support this project. The students should contact Kelly very soon.

Member meetings and field trips in light of COVID19 pandemic

We should not try to hold outdoor walks; proper distancing is impossible. Our last two virtual meetings were poorly attended, in part because we did not provide much advance publicity. Barb says recent native plant society meetings on Zoom have been attended better than the live meetings. We need to give better advance notice for our next member meetings, and announce them as 45-minute meetings, with interaction among participants at the end. For example we can advertise as 30 minutes presentation, 15 minute Discussion, and 15 minute social at the end. This

allows people to plan and commit appropriately. Rick agreed to invite these persons to lead programs at our next meetings

- Larry Stevens or someone else at the Springs Stewardship group: focus on local springs.
- Erin Young: ground water recharge
- Kelly Burke: progress on the WG Plan. This presentation should be timed to stimulate public participation
- Brian Richter from Sustainable Waters, formerly the director of TNCs global water program, is at NAU for the semester and he'd be happy to do a talk. Denielle can arrange.

City of Flagstaff's Community Stakeholder Committee on Reclaimed Water

Today the City sent out an announcement asking for 10 individuals to form a committee to guide future management of Flagstaff's reclaimed water. One third of our reclaimed water is committed to NAU, golf courses, and other customers. The group will help decide how the other 2/3 is used. The committee will do its work over 6 months, including 3 virtual workshops, and will help rank the alternatives. Paul volunteers to be the Friends' representative. The Board approved.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

10 Sep 2020. 5:30-6:50 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members attending: Allen Hayden, Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Kathy Flaccus, Barbara Phillips, Paul Beier. Not participating: Denielle Perry.

Treasurer's Report

Bureau of Reclamation grant: we have drawn 51K of the 99K grant, of which \$5450 is unspent, which will cover payroll and SDR invoices for 1-2 months, at which time we will invoice for the balance. Besides that grant, we have about \$10K available (from Patagonia gift and other sources, not counting the \$2800 PPP loan.

Discussion of Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan. Rick says that after we received the \$2800 loan this spring, the feds made a rule that the loan can't be used to cover salary for a position that is funded by federal dollars. But Tom has heard that they will simply forgive all loans less than \$150K because the paperwork costs exceed the amount recovered. We applied for the loan in good faith. We anticipated that COVID would prolong the public involvement phase and that we'd need the money to cover that extra cost. Indeed we have incurred extra costs (next parag) and may incur more. **The Board voted unanimously to hold on to the money until we get clear request from the loan program to repay it or until it is clear that we are ethically obliged to return it, in which case we will repay it promptly.** Until the end of the grant, we will not consider this \$2800 available." The loan has helped us pay Kelly on schedule and continue the grant work on schedule. The required move from in person public meetings to on-line public meetings has resulted in additional hours for both Kelly and SDR for re-planning and coordination. Kelly's additional hours may be something that PPP can cover.

Additional Payment to Southwest Decision Resources (SDR). This week SDR called Rick to say that SDR is doing more work than we had budgeted for them in the ongoing public involvement phase. Rick, Kathy, Tom and Allen agreed that SDR has done excellent work for us. **The Board voted unanimously that Friends of the Rio de Flag will pay SDR an additional \$3,000 beyond the original contract; these funds are to continue the weekly coordination meetings among Kelly, Rick, and SDR through the period of public involvement.**

Discussion of the Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF) and implementation of the Watershed Plan

Before the start of the Bureau of Reclamation grant, Friends of the Rio de Flag Board members met with City staff at City Hall on October 23, 2018. At that time we expressed our expectation that the Watershed Group emerging from the 2-year Bureau of Reclamation grant (the Watershed Group is now called WARF) would be bigger than Friends of the Rio de Flag. We envisioned that the WARF steering would include the City (Water Services, Stormwater, Community Development), County, Forest Service, Coconino Plateau Watershed Advisory Council, and perhaps other stakeholders. At that October 2018 meeting, staff from Water Services, Stormwater, and Community Development were enthusiastic at this concept, and Assistant Manager Shane Dilley wanted WARF's Watershed Plan to be adopted by City Council, perhaps as an amendment to the Regional Plan. We had envisioned that the WARF (rather than Friends of the Rio de Flag) would be the entity to apply for the next Bureau of Reclamation grant.

In the past few weeks Rick has become convinced that Friends of the Rio de Flag may have to be the WARF, or at least will have to be the leading force that maintains the WARF as the main entity seeking to implement the Watershed Plan, including applying for the next Bureau of Reclamation grant. City Stormwater is the most likely City entity to take leadership, but only within City Limits. The only County entity is Public Works, but implementing a Watershed Plan is not their focus.

The Board should schedule a special meeting on Implementing the Watershed Plan.

Options include (1) Friends of the Rio de Flag is the implementing entity (no independent WARF). (2) The Friends creates and lead an alliance with one or more entities, which could include Willow Bend, Friends of Flagstaff's Future (F³), City Sustainability, or City Stormwater.

In any event, the Friends will **need a paid executive director (probably less than full time) and a paid bookkeeper**. The bookkeeper job could be contracted out. The paid ED would be much harder to fund. During our 2019 search that ended with us hiring Kelly, we learned that there are many highly-qualified persons in or near Flagstaff. This is a timely discussion, because we will need a year to gear up by creating an alliance with a paid Executive Director.

The City hired Chelsea Silva through the Americorps program to work with local schools and allowed some of her time to be our Director. Allen pointed out that City Sustainability or Stormwater might be able to provide another Americorps position that could be split with FoRio if we can show that our goals are aligned.

F³ is now working to resurrect themselves, and is working to hire a paid ED and get at least \$50K in startup funds. They have conducted many interviews (led by Susie Garretson and Nat

White). Perhaps we could align the WARF with them, by sharing an ED or having the WARF coordinator hired by F³. At a minimum we might get some friendly advice from their leaders.

For this special meeting, we should invite Kelly Burke (15-years of experience running a shoestring environmental NGO), Moran Henn (Willow Bend) and 1-3 key persons from F³. Board members: please suggest other persons to invite to help us address this challenge.

(Post-meeting notes from Kelly: The WARF can nicely exist under the FoRio ‘fiscal sponsor’ umbrella via an MOU that sets up a structure of a steering committee, which would include a continuous representative slot for FoRio. Fiscal sponsorship is appropriate because the work clearly furthers our mission. The WARF steering committee can be elected by WARF members. With a MOU to spell out its role, term limits, structure, and function. The steering committee oversees the creation of budgets and work and funding plans by the WARF. A WARF Coordinator can then be hired, preferably a full time position, as an employee of FoRio, but funded entirely by the WARF entities, which could include an affordable/realistic portion from FoRio. The WARF Coordinator reports to and is guided by the Steering Committee and FoRio has no special authority over that person other than that they follow FoRio’s employment policies. The FoRio board only has authority in the sense that you could decide to end the fiscal sponsorship if it wasn’t continuing to be in your interests. This structure creates a true alliance for collaboration and long term commitment, where no one entity has full or disproportionate control. For Grants that need a big match, the WARF collectively provides that rather than falling entirely on Friends of the Rio de Flag

A first step is for FoRio to register the trade name of WARF, Friends of the Rio de Flag dba Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag. Then obtain a separate bank account under the trade name. All of the finances are reported together on a FoRio 990. The WARF name can then legally be a grant applicant. Tax deductible contributions can also be made to either name. The entities can have separate ED, or combine the two, with plenty of flexibility in that process. When GCWC was very small, the ED (I) did all the bookkeeping and membership work. GCWC coalition. established this way, has been in place, growing, and functioning well for about 15 years now.

WARF could be funded partly by the City, County, and others having watershed implementation line items in their annual budgets. Hopefully they would subcontract some of that work to the WARF. And WARF can subcontract to member implementers according to stipulations in grant agreements such as with BOR WaterSMART or AWPf. That gets more complicated, but it is worth exploring. Mainly, I feel that Friends of the Rio is the right place for this all to live. **End of Kelly’s notes)**

Recruiting new Board members; changes of officers

Rick wants to step down as President. He may step down from the Board entirely. He emphasizes that he is simply tired, and remains supportive of the Friends and on good terms with other Board members. Tom does not want to be Treasurer during another big grant.

We need to recruit some good new people for the Board, including someone willing to serve as Treasurer, and hopefully someone with fund-raising experience. We also could use help for

Kathy as webmaster and help for Tom as email answerer. Rick will start by opening a call to members at our Sep 17 meeting. Rick will also invite Bryan Bates to rejoin the Board. (On Aug 4, Bryan lost the Democratic primary race for County Board of Supervisors).

But re-engaging Bryan and broadcasting an appeal at our members' meeting will NOT suffice. **Each of us should come to the October board meeting with 1 or 2 suggestions for new board members. Think about your network of friends and associates. Pay attention to names in the local news** (or how we need good local news!).

Member meetings

We should invite John Carr, County Floodplain Manager, to tell us about the flood control system for Sinclair Wash. We would not ask him to focus on the recent Mtn Dell project (the concrete has been poured), but rather to educate us on the County's plans and activities related to the Rio and its tributaries.

Denielle should update us on her progress getting Brian Richter as featured speaker at our next meeting (October).

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting

15 Oct 2020. 5:30-6:47 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members attending: Rick Miller, Tom Bean, Kathy Flaccus, Paul Beier, Denielle Perry, Barbara Phillips. Not present: Allen Hayden

Update from Kelly Burke on public outreach for WARF

Kelly has invited speakers for public webinars as part of the public outreach. Introductory webinar will be 5:30-7:00 PM on November 10, 11, or 12; it will have many speakers, including the Supervisor Laura Jo West of Coconino NF, each talking for 5 minutes on the importance of the watershed. Art Babbott is enthusiastic about participating. Kelly and SDR are working out a plan to organize the feedback. Recordings will be available online. Kelly is working on a domain name, and will ask Kathy to secure it with the help of the Friends' paid webmaster (about \$250/y).

Recruiting new Board members

Two prospects for Treasurer

After 8 years of service as Treasurer, Tom wants to step down in May or June when our grant ends.

Sara Day. Tom invited her to take over as Treasurer (). Sara recently retired from a financial background, has been a Friends member who attends our meetings. Tom is creating a list of treasurer tasks: using quickbooks, balancing checkbook, filing taxes, etc., to share with prospects. Sara will attend our next board meeting to learn more about us.

Kris Bellmore: Paul could invite Kris, who handles finances of School of Forestry, including all faculty grants, to be Treasurer. Let's wait to see if Sara Day steps up.

Prospects for Board of Directors

Bryan Bates is busy campaigning to get a good person on the County Board of Supervisors, then will take a break. He will decide whether to the Board in January

Heather Green would be a good prospect, but Barb says she just joined the Board of Diablo Trust.

Rebecca Best: aquatic ecologist, works on restoration of cottonwoods and other riparian system. She is well versed in website maintenance and outreach as she manages website for School of Earth & Sustainability. Denielle asked her and she said “Yes”.

Dr James Allen Aquatic ecologist and hydrologist, will be stepping down from his job as Executive Director of the NAU School of Forestry (he was my boss until I retired on Aug 1). In a phone conversation with Paul, Jim said he would be happy to serve after July 1.

Elizabeth Bechok. Paul contacted her because she is an excellent writer, could help on grant applications. Young, energetic, works with City Sustainability on a community garden on City land abutting the Rio, has been involved with several small community groups (mostly on sustainable agriculture). In a zoom call with Paul, she expressed interest in answering emails (once she learns more about us), writing grant applications, and perhaps writing for website. Is due to have 2nd child in February, so a spring start would be better than now. (On our zoom call, we did *not* discuss the possibility that Elizabeth might serve as a part-time AmeriCorps Vista volunteer for us, that *might* be possible.)

Dr. Rod Parnell (former head of Env Sci at NAU, now retired). Paul contacted him by email. Rod responded with interest, and also suggested **Nathan Schott**, who worked with Rod on Fossil Creek and flow management in Grand Canyon, and went on to become a lawyer with H2M2. We have not yet arranged a time to talk.

Kira Russo, Founder of Global Water Policy Consulting. Paul emailed her and she responded positively. She will have zoom meeting with Paul on Oct 19.

Dan Neary, Senior Research Soil Scientist with RMRS, mostly on riparian issues. Responded by email that he could not assume treasurer role, but perhaps could take charge of planning members meetings, or monitoring and responding to email. Currently working remotely from Hawaii. We have not yet arranged a time to talk.

Our bylaws specify that we have an election in December. On 19 October, I sent each of you a 1-page text and attachments that you use in an email to prospective Directors.

Special board meetings on creating an entity to implement the Watershed Plan

We agreed on a two-step process. (1) our Board meets for 2 hours, inviting a few experienced community organizers (e.g. Moran Henn, Kelly Burke, an F-cubed leader, someone from WARF, a staffer from City Sustainability). Rick will take a poll and select a date for this 2-hour meeting, checking first with Denielle (whose daytime calendar is most restricted). Please immediately email Rick with any dates that are impossible for you. At the meeting we will outline options for staffing, options for how staffing will be paid for, options to partner with the City or other groups on staffing and implementation, options for creating a WARF steering committee, and options for how the Friends can serve as fiscal sponsor while ensuring broad

community participation. (2) Ask the WARF to invite us to a meeting to identify the preferred options from Meeting #1.

Notes on potential funding sources: Friends of the Rio de Flag partnered with the City Sustainability office about 5 years ago when the Friends and the City shared an **AmeriCorps Vista volunteer** (Chelsea Silva) as our first Executive Director. The Friends' share of Chelsea's salary through AmeriCorps Vista was \$3,000, which we funded by appeals to our members. On September 27 2020, Maggie Twomey of City Sustainability emailed Kathy that the City Community Stewards Program is very interested in sharing a new AmeriCorps Vista volunteer with the Friends. Kathy also attended a webinar on Environmental Stewardship Planning Grants, where she learned that the Civic Service Institute (CSI) at NAU has a new \$48,000 planning grant from Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family; this program launched Sep 1, and will explore new service opportunities focused on environmental stewardship in Coconino County. Ramsay Shannon at NAU is the PI (ramsay.shannon@nau.edu, 523 1571). It is not clear to me if this program is the same as the AmeriCorps Vista program – perhaps Kathy can resolve this.

Treasurer's Report (Tom Bean)

Patagonia announced that due to decreased revenue they will not hold their annual Network for Good gift program (usually in December) that netted us \$4090 last year .

Bureau of Reclamation grant: by Dec 31, we will have drawn 56K of the 99K grant, so we have \$43K to spend by May.

Information Item on Flagstaff's *Community Stakeholder Committee on Reclaimed Water*

On 21 Aug 2020, the City sent out an announcement asking for 10 individuals to form a committee to guide future management of Flagstaff's reclaimed water, 1/3 of which is committed to NAU, golf courses, and other customers; the group will help decide how the other 2/3 is used. The committee will help rank the alternatives. Paul volunteered to be the Friends' representative. On 5 Oct 2020. Erin Young invited Paul (and Rod Parnell, Nina Schmidt, Shelley Kelch, Emilee Jung, Thomas Smith, Meg Burke, Paul Turner, Max Evans, Robert Vane, Joe Shannon, & Michele Lee) to serve on the City's Community Stakeholder Committee on Reclaimed Water. The City is working with Brown & Caldwell (the consulting team on the Reclaimed Water Master Plan (the "Plan") to craft a committee "road map" designed to provide relevant background information and receive feedback and address concerns from the committee, to meet the objectives of the Plan. As a committee member Paul will attend three virtual meetings, each 2-3 hours, tentatively during November through January. Meetings will be recorded and available for review. Review materials provided by the City in preparation of the meetings. The resources will be posted at <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/2265/Water-Resource-Planning>.

"Rio walking tour app for smartphones"

Denielle reports that lost the student who would have put the app together, but she thinks she can find another student with tech skills. The main task is gathering content: place-specific photos and stories. Paul volunteered to work with Rick to solicit content from (a) Robert Wallace

and Friends of Picture Canyon, (b) Richard Holm's 2019 *Geologic history of the Rio de Flag*, (c) AGFD Watchable Wildlife program, and (d) Barb Phillips on native and invasive riparian plants.

Barb is concerned that the app might encourage undesirable social trails, and wants the app to provide clear guidance on how to access the sites with minimal disturbance.

Member meetings

For November, we will push our WARF outreach meetings

Kathy will also broadcast two meetings on Thursday, November 12. (1) PARCHED is about water in the southwest. <https://flagartscouncil.org/2020/05/parched/> (2) Screening of DamNation by Society for Ecological Restoration (SER NAU) at 5:30 pm, followed by a panel discussion on the impacts of dams and river restoration (6:30-7:30). Note that Nov 12 is second Thursday (our usual Board meeting time): should we move our Board meeting to Nov 5?

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting Notes

19 Nov 2020. 5:00PM (Early!)-6:30ish PM by Zoom conference call

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

Others: Kelly Burke (for a brief update on WARF)

Major activities of the Friends of the Rio de Flag (Board leader in parentheses)

The WARF watershed plan (Rick)

WARF implementation post June 2021 (TBD)

prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul represents Friends on CSCRW)

JW Powell Specific Plan (Barb)

Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom)

Planning Members' Meetings (TBD);

Maintaining website (Denielle)

Managing email (Secretary)

Finances (Treasurer)

Resurrecting FOSPR (on hold for now)

For each activity, if any significant development has occurred since the last meeting, the

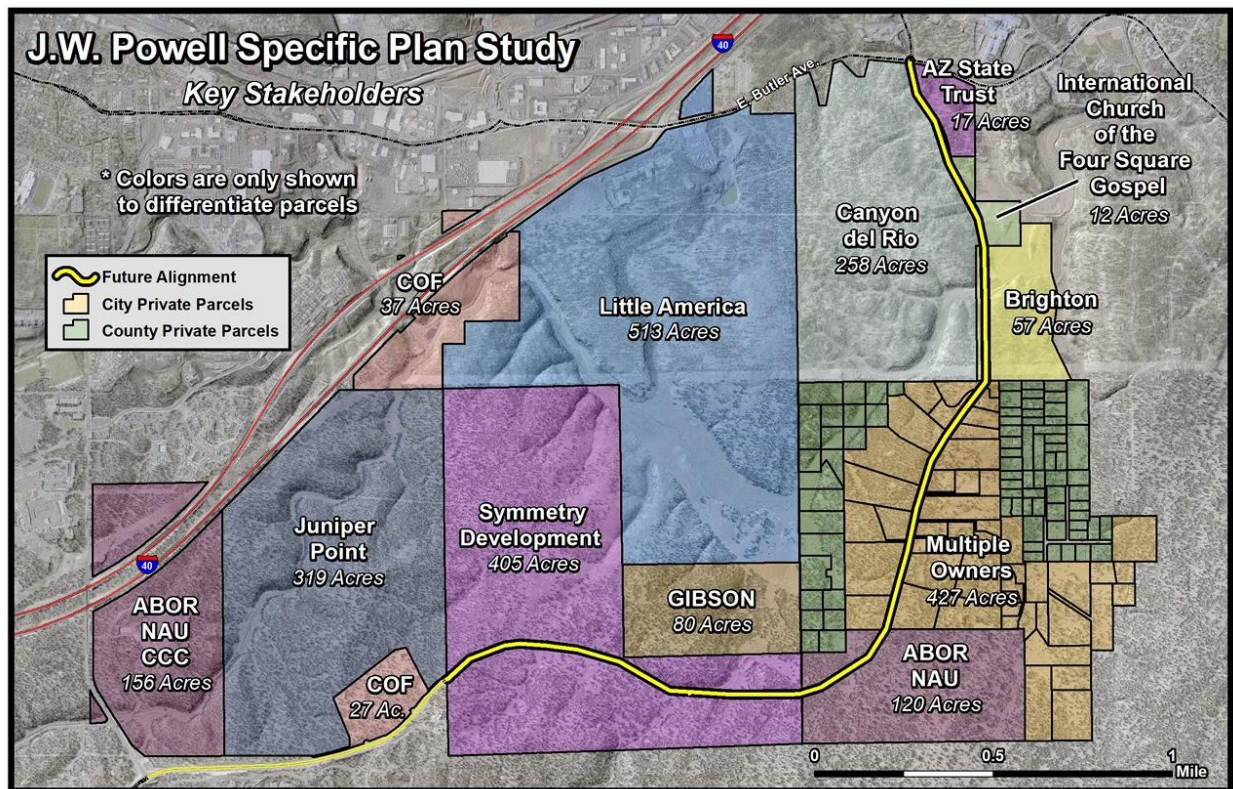
Scheduling a special Board meeting on a strategy to implement the WARF plan

We will devote a full Special Meeting on January 21 2021, separate from our regular meeting (January 14) to discuss various aspects of implementing our watershed plan, including a timeline of actions, who will write the next Bureau of Reclamation grant, what WARF priority project(s) would be targeted, how much administrative support is needed (and how much of that might be paid for on the grant), how we would find the 50% match (dollars or in-kind such as volunteer

labor), best partners for nonfederal match (City, AGFD, etc.),. We may need to hire a grant writer (Kelly is willing, but we'd have to pay her).

Impending JW Powell Specific Plan

At the recent WARF webinar, City Planner Sara Dechter mentioned that the City is initiating the process of developing a new Specific Plan that will cover 2 miles of the Rio from the I-40 wetlands to Fox Glenn. This area is over 90% private property and represents the least disturbed part of the watershed in the city limits. The map below shows the parcels. The Symmetry Development Parcel is shown as ASLD land on most recent maps. The map colors do not clearly indicate that the parcels just east of the Gibson parcel (about ¾ mile from north to south and 1/8 mi east to west) form an island of County land. So far the City is only talking with the landowners and developers. After the webinar, Barb Phillips visited part of the planning area with Kathy Flaccus and pointed out rare plants and noxious invasive plants in the area. Sara Dechter is willing to orient us to the planning process at our **Board meeting on Dec 17 at 5PM**. Barb will invite Sara, and any colleague Sara wishes to bring, to that meeting. Barb also volunteered to be our liaison on the JW Powell Specific Plan.



Update on WARF (Kelly Burke)

First public webinar, held on November 10, was attended by 55 persons, including all Board members except Denielle. Art Babbott, Maggie Twomey, and Moran Henn of Willow Bend will be speakers at second webinar on Dec 2. The WARF website is being updated, and will include the presentations in Denielle's class yesterday.

Election of Officers

The Board agreed to the following: Rick Miller will step down as President effective in January. At that time Kathy Flaccus will assume the role of President. Denielle Perry will assume the role of Vice-President, with the understanding that she will preside over Board meetings for the 3-4 months each summer that Kathy is in New Hampshire. Tom Bean wishes to step down as Treasurer as soon as a replacement is found, but will continue to serve for a few more months. Paul Beier will continue to serve as Secretary.

Scheduling and running elections

Elections involving the full membership are held annually, and focus solely on electing Directors who were recruited by the Board after the last election, and re-electing Directors whose 3-year term is ending if they wish to continue serving. (The Board elects the 4 officers, who need not be member-elected Directors.) Although Barb and Denielle were eligible for election at or near the January 2, 2020 potluck at the Thorpe Adult Center, we cannot find any documentation that an election occurred then. Tom and Kathy were elected as Directors at the January 3 2019 meeting, so their terms run through the end of 2021. Because officers are elected by the Directors, there was no need for the members to elect Tom, but it happened, meaning he is both a Director and an Officer. Paul started in September 2018, and assumed the role of Secretary at the Feb 2019 Board meeting. Because officers are elected by the Directors, Rick, Paul and Tom not need stand for members election if they continue as officers. But Rick is stepping down as President, so we will put him up for election. Although Tom is stepping down as Treasurer sometime in 2021, his member-elected term runs through 2021. **Our slate to stand for election will include Allen Haden, Rick Miller, Barb Phillips, Denielle Perry, Kira Russo,** and other persons who may be added. Each candidate should provide Kathy with a 1-paragraph statement of qualifications and interest. Kathy will announce to members that they can volunteer to be added to the slate. We should present the slate to the members 30 days before the vote. Kathy will contact Chelsea for advice on electronic voting (probably via Survey Monkey).

Updates on prospective board members

See BBD for updates on Rebecca Best, Elizabeth Bechok, Rod Parnell, Kira Russo, and Nathan Schott. Sara Day might serve as Treasurer after January (Treasurer position is not elected by members).

Allen will invite Ed Schenk. Bryan Bates might be willing to return in January 2021 or later.

List of the Major activities of the Friends of the Rio de Flag

The list appears at the top of page 1 of these notes. The Secretary (Paul) intends to put this list at the top of every Board meeting agenda, so that we can be aware of items that might need to be discussed at the meeting. We reviewed the list at this meeting, and we assigned a Board lead or liaison for each major activity. That lead person will (if appropriate) send the Secretary a brief update by 5PM on Monday preceding a Board meeting; the secretary will paste the updates into a Board Briefing Document to be distributed on Tuesday.

We agreed that the Secretary should receive all emails, and then route emails asking for support to President, emails on money to Treasurer, and other emails to the appropriate person. Kathy will get the emails forwarded to Paul, so he can start doing this task.

Paul also needs to put the minutes of our last 2 years of Board meetings up into an accessible location.

Board interest in trying to resurrect the FOSPR (Flagstaff Open Space Parks & Recreation) bond initiative. The 2017-ish effort was led by Jack Welch and Chuck Hammersley. Barb says that in 2019, City Parks & Rec and City Open Space went through a big process again, but City Council nixed it. Rick says that Robert Wallace said that it fell apart because of COVID and that Robert Wallace wants to resurrect it after COVID. Rick thinks that merging the two efforts (the City-led effort, and the well organized effort by Hammersley and Welch) would be powerful, especially if the effort used the Rio and its tribs as the backbone of an open space and FUTS system. So the Friends should definitely be involved. The Board strongly agreed that the effort should be restarted, hopefully with Jack and Chuck as key players, plus City Sustainability, F3, the Friends, and others.

Reminder of annual donation by each Board member to the Friends

Tom reminded us that we should contribute by Thanksgiving. Tom does not report the amounts of each donation, but he'd like to report that 100% of us did contribute

Rio de Flag Tour on Pocketsights

Paul communicated by email with 4 developers of tour apps for smartphones (Clio, Pocketsights, Strictly Business, and MyTours) and looked at some examples of their tours. Pocketsights seems to be the best value for the money. Tom and Paul had a 35-minute zoom with Allen Ward who founded Pocketsights in 2014-ish. Tom and Paul are willing to do the work of gathering content and uploading it to our tour. Our tour will NOT be a stand-alone app bearing the Friends logo on every page; instead we will be a tour available inside the Pocketsights apps for Apple & Android phones. Paul has spent over 20 hours playing with the apps, talking with developers, and generating content for about 10 Points of Interest. The Board committed to spend up to \$3,000 to get the tour up and running, and the annual fees for the first 3 years, with the understanding that after that the annual fee will be \$500/year. We will make a year-end appeal to our members to donate funds toward this \$3,000 goal. Allen said that NCD would provide \$1,000 that we can use as a 1:1 match for other donations, and Paul will provide another \$500 in match. Paul to draft text of the appeal to members, also asking them to suggest Points of Interest and content, as well as dollars, for Kathy to broadcast soon.

Treasurers report

As of Nov. 18, 2020. Current bank balance \$15,176.32

BOR Grant

Total funds available during our 2 year grant \$99,567

Total funds received to date \$56,783

Total Grant available funds not yet requested \$42,784

Total funds already received but not spent \$1,787
FoRio obligated spending share of grant \$688
Indirect Cost, di minimis as part of our received BOR grant funds to date \$5678
Total di minimis Indirect Cost received but not spent \$2,087.96
Other dedicated funds PPP Loan is \$2,800
Funding voted by Board to make available to SDR during 2021 \$3,000

Informational item

Barb says that Nat White and others want trees and shrubs planted on the west side of the Rio between Frances Short and Beale Ave (City Land). This would create some riparian vegetation to compensate for the fact that the ACE flood control project will remove all woody plants from east bank of the Rio. The City Engineer turned flatly rejected the proposal because the heavy equipment will tear up that area as part of removing the trees on the east side. This means there will be about 3 years with no woody riparian vegetation in this basin.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Briefing Document and Draft Agenda

10 December 2020. 5:00PM-6:30 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Tom Bean (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Denielle Perry, Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Allen Hayden, Kira Russo (that's KIE-ra), James Major.

Not present: Ed Schenk.

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/89895458336> Passcode: 325676. This link is also in the calendar invitation that you received.

Monthly reminder: The Friends is engaged in these efforts and activities, any of which can be an agenda item at a Board meeting: The WARF watershed plan (Rick is liaison); creating a plan to implement WARF when it is completed in June 2021 (lead TBD); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul represents Friends on CSCRW); City planning for the 2 miles of the Rio de Flag from the I-40 wetlands to Fox Glenn (Barb); Rio walking tour for smartphones (Paul & Tom); planning Members' Meetings (lead TBD-perhaps a new Board Member); maintaining website (Denielle); managing email correspondence (Paul); managing finances (Treasurer). When appropriate, the Board point of contact for an effort should send the Secretary an update for the Board Briefing Document by 5 PM Monday preceding the next Board meeting.

Treasurer Report

Balance \$20,299.82 due to more funds from Bureau of Reclamation, and \$1465 from 7 donors. At least \$3500 is not encumbered or needed as a reserve for normal operations.

Results of elections; Welcome new Board members

Kathy Flaccus: Unanimous votes from membership to retain Directors Allen Haden, Rick Miller, Barb Phillips, and to bring on new Directors Ed Schenk, Kira Russo, and James Major. Their

terms will end in December 2023. Each should sign the standard contract form, which will be attached to the email with these minutes.

Other prospects for the Board and other leadership positions

Paul reports: (1) Elizabeth Bechok has declined to run for the Board due to new baby, new home, and other commitments; but she is interested in serving in other capacities, and perhaps on the board in a year or two. I invited her to the regular Board meeting in January 2021 so we can get to know her. (2) Dan Neary has declined. (3) Rod Parnell is still interested, will probably submit a statement soon. (4) Jim Allen will probably volunteer when he steps down as Director of NAU Forestry in July 2021.

Sara Day (prospective treasurer) will join our meeting on Dec 17, and perhaps today's meeting. Malcolm Alter (formerly a Director) emailed us on December 4, stating he would love to work with us again. malter3@msn.com. Allen will talk to Malcolm about serving, and report back.

Bryan Bates asked to be a liaison to the board from the Flagstaff Water Group, but not rejoin the board.

Rio de Flag Tour for smartphones

Paul and Tom are leading the effort to create a Rio de Flag tour for smartphones. Our philosophy in developing this tour is that people only protect what they love, and only love what they know, and we want this tour to increase that love and knowledge.

As recorded in the June 2020 meeting minutes, Denielle reported that Pocketsights is an app available for free download on iPhones and Android smartphones. When the user opens the app, they will see a list of all tours within 50 miles of where they are (presently 1 tour in Sedona is all you see here). Users can also search for tours in other locations (e.g. places they plan to visit). As described in the November 2019 meeting minutes, Paul spent hours contacting 4 app developers before settling on PocketSights because it had by far the lowest price and reasonable features. The Friends of the Rio de Flag will be acknowledged as the developer of the tour and we will be featured prominently on the opening screen of the Rio tour on PocketSights, and on other pages in the tour. But the Rio tour is not a stand-alone app with our logo on every page. It would cost an **additional** \$5,000 (on Pocketsights) to \$50,000 (other developers) to create our own stand-alone app, put it up on the Google Play Store for Android phones, and put it up on Apple's App Store for iPhones, plus additional expenses every time Apple or Google creates a new smartphone operating system. And there is a big advantage to being part of the Pocketsights app – namely that anybody in Flagstaff who opens PocketSights will see the Rio tour prominently on their screen. If we created a true stand-alone app, people would have to search for and download our tour from Google Play or Apple Apps. If we want people to find our stand-alone app, we'd have to advertise, adding perhaps \$1,000/year to the cost.

Paul and Tom are strongly committed and already planning to coordinate with City offices for FUTS, Sustainability, and Water, and other groups. Content will evolve over time. We estimate

there will be about 100 Points Of Interest (POI) at launch. The cost will be about \$3000 to get content loaded and running for the first 3 years. Thereafter an annual fee of \$500/year.

Paul and Tom are designing the tour to protect resources. The home page of the tour starts with Leave No Trace principles. Text at many POIs will explain not merely how to slow down the rate at which things get worse, but to improve conditions. These explanations will focus on the need to support community action such as trail hardening, trailside fencing, and permanent open space designations, as well as individual behavior at the site.

At our Nov 19 Board meeting, the Board approved (with no formal vote, but not a word of dissent) proceeding with the Rio tour on PocketSights. As part of that discussion, we decided to accept matching 1:1 donations of \$1000 from NCD and \$500 from Paul Beier, and use that \$1500 match in an appeal to members for donations for the PocketSights tour.

On Nov 27, Kathy and Barb sent an email to Paul and Tom suggesting that we should reverse our Nov 19 decisions. Because the lead point in that email suggested a tour would bring resource damage, and because Barb raised that same issue at the June 2020 meeting, I asked Barb and Kathy to provide 2 or 3 specific examples where including a point of interest on a PocketSights tour would necessarily lead to resource damage despite our earnest intent to promote stewardship.

On Dec 4, Kathy sent this email to the board:

(start of Kathy's email)

I think my main concern is one of priorities. With many things we can spend our limited funds and time on, is this what we choose?

In the WARF meeting last night, the respondents indicated that field trips, sponsored walks, lectures, and signage were the most popular way to learn about the watershed. Digital devices were not mentioned.

I need to learn how people will find out about the app, how will they know to even look for an app about the Rio? Is this better than something on the website, Or signs where folks would encounter them?

I checked out the Friends of the Verde River website (wow- I was a little ashamed to think that I had been trying to work on ours) It has a lot of useful information, many conservation ideas, maps etc, and all available on smart phones. Maybe this is a better approach.

The apps I have tried to use on the Rio don't always work, for example FloodAware has many problems and I have seen frustrated people trying to send in their photos. Those people did see the signs though. We used Survey123 to do the wet/dry studies with volunteers in the past, and I haven't seen the results from that, and I wonder how useful that has been. It is lots of fun ,tho, to walk the Rio with a partner and record data.

Barbara had a different set of concerns, that I sent to most of you, but if you didn't get it I am adding her list below.

I just don't see this as best use of our Board time and expertise right now. I have several concerns but to be brief:

It would draw more people to already impacted sites;

need to involve land owners/managers and be part of an overall plan for the Rio.

It seems real hasty to be working on it when FoR Board should be more involved in the watershed planning effort.

Future efforts by the Board should be developed as part of WARF plan.

More care/thought should be put into goals, locations, what to put in the app, gathering input from reliable sources, making it unique, interesting, devoted to topics that highlight the purpose of FoR.

The app shouldn't be out there to the public in draft form while being constructed

I believe Paul said the site he found to use isn't going to recognize FoR for being behind the app

We need to check on what apps are already out there and/or what other groups like the city might be planning as far as education, signage, emphasis locations

There a lot of issues/concerns with the Rio and the watersheds and I think we should be spending our efforts examining them, such as impacts in headwaters, Ft Valley, side drainages, invasive species, this new 2 mile planning area, the concreting of drainage in Mt Dell, following the progress of ACE project, reclaimed water, etc,

(end of Kathy's email)

We discussed at length and will vote on this at the meeting next Thursday December 17 2020.

WARF update

Kelly gave a short update. About 70 persons at first meeting, and about 55 at the second public meeting. Third meeting Wednesday.

Access to the Friends of the Rio de Flag files on Google Drive

Paul: Groups often use cloud storage services like Dropbox and Google Drive to store and share electronic files such as word documents, spreadsheets, etc. In spring 2019, Chelsea Silva organized hundreds of the Friends' files into folders on Google Drive. Paul will attach to these minutes a document titled "Contact info Friends of the Rio de Flag Directors+Google Drive Access.docx." This file will provide you with (1) email, phones, and addresses of Directors, and (2) information on how to access our Google Drive. The first two folders in the Google Drive are (A) a folder with minutes of board meetings, and (B) a folder titled "00 Board Sharing Folder" (the prefix guarantees it will always be at the top of the directory), to which you have full editing rights. That way, if (for example) our webmaster asks you to share photos, powerpoints, or other items (some of which may be too big to attach to emails), she can ask you to put them into the

Board Sharing Folder where she can retrieve them. At 7:05PM on 11 Dec 2020, google sent you a note giving you this access.

As Secretary Paul has Read-Write (R-W) access to the Friends Google Drive, meaning he can delete files, edit files, and create new files on the drive. Kathy, Rick, and Tom also have R-W access. R-W access is dangerous because with one accidental keystroke, someone can delete a file, and if no one notices it for 30 days, that file is gone forever. Anyone with R-W access can also edit files, which might be inappropriate for some historical documents. The Secretary can provide R-W access to specific folders, for example, when several individuals (not necessarily board members) need to collaborate on a project that requires editing files in the Google Drive.

Updating the website of the Friends of the Rio de Flag

Denielle (our webmaster) asks that you go to <https://friendsoftheriodeflag.org/> and click the “Projects” tab, and provide her with information on which of the 8 projects are current, which need updating, and which should be archived to “past/completed projects.”

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Minutes

Second meeting of December to focus on City’s pending eastside Specific Plan

17 December 2020. 5:00PM (Early!)-6:30 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Tom Bean (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Denielle Perry, Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Allen Hayden, Kira Russo (that’s KIE-ra), James Major, Ed Schenk.

Special guests from City of Flagstaff:

Comprehensive Land Use Planner Sara Dechter

Capital Improvements Engineer Bret Petersen (first 15 minutes only)

Capital Improvements Project Manager David Pedersen (MS, NAU Forestry 2010)

Civil Engineer Julie Leid, Peak Engineering, working with City on planning for JW Powell Blvd extension.

Monthly reminder: The Friends is engaged in these efforts and activities, any of which can be a discussion item at a Board meeting: The WARF watershed plan (Rick is liaison); creating a plan to implement WARF when it is completed in June 2021 (TBD); prioritizing use of the City’s reclaimed water (Paul represents Friends on CSCRW); City planning for the 2 miles of the Rio de Flag from the I-40 wetlands to Fox Glenn (Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom); planning Members’ Meetings (TBD-perhaps a new Board Member); maintaining website (Denielle); managing email correspondence (Secretary who will route ~6 emails per week to President for emails asking for support, to Treasurer for emails on money, or to others as appropriate; Kathy will get the emails forwarded to Paul); managing our finances (Treasurer). When appropriate, the Board point of contact for an effort should send the Secretary an update for the Board Briefing Document by 5 PM Monday preceding the next Board meeting.

Impending Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio

The City is initiating the process of developing a new Specific Plan that will cover 2 miles of the Rio from the I-40 wetlands to Fox Glenn. Except for 1 City parcel (for low-income housing), a 17-acre ASLD parcel, and 2 parcels owned by NAU-ABOR-CCC, this is 100% private property and represents the least disturbed part of the watershed in the city limits. Tonight we spent nearly 90 minutes learning how the planning effort will unfold over the next 18 months or so. We were provided with a pdf version of the powerpoint slides in advance of the meeting. The WARF should call for appropriate protections and actions. We (the WARF or the Friends of the Rio de Flag) should provide input to David Pedersen.

You can access the ZOOM RECORDING until January 16, 2021. Please remember that City staff asked that we not share this recording outside of our group.

Rio de Flag Tour for smartphones

Paul and Tom are leading the effort to create a Rio de Flag tour for smartphones. Our philosophy in developing this tour is that people only protect what they love, and only love what they know, and we want this tour to increase that love and knowledge. We discussed this at the Dec 10 2020 meeting. Tonight continued that discussion and voted on two motions:

1. Proceed with the development of the tour, with cost to the Friends not to exceed \$3000 total over the first 3-year period, followed by estimated cost of \$500 per year until the project is terminated. Vote: Yes: 10. No: 0. Abstain: 0.
2. Use a \$1,000 donation from Natural Channel Design and a \$500 donation from Paul Beier as 1:1 matches for donations in our year-end appeal for donations from members and citizens. Vote: Yes: 9. No: 0. Abstain: 1.

Growing Water Smart – can we gather a team from Flagstaff, who, how?

City lead would be Sustainability's Nicole Antonopolis, or Monica Rabb (Ed Schenk's new boss). Kathy will call Nicole and/or Monica and try to spark interest in a plan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Next Board meeting: Thursday January 14 2021, 5PM-6:30PM

Special Board meeting: Thursday January 21, 2021, 5:00 PM- 7:00PM, solely to develop a strategy to implement the watershed plan.

Please use an electronic calendar so that when the Secretary sends you a zoom invitation, the time and zoom link will be easily accessible, and your electronic device will (if you let it), automatically remind you to attend. There are many FREE electronic calendars.