

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Minutes

14 January 2021. 5:00PM-6:30 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members, Kathy Flaccus (President), Tom Bean (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Denielle Perry (Vice President), Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, James Major, Ed Schenk, and Treasurer-in-waiting Sara Day. Absent: Allen Hayden

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); JWPowell Specific Plan (Barb); Rio de Flag tour for smartphones (Paul & Tom); planning Members' Meetings (TBD-perhaps a new Board Member); maintaining website (Denielle); managing email correspondence (Secretary); 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.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings on Dec 10 and Dec 17 2020.

Barb provided two corrections to the previous minutes; the corrected version is posted to the Friends' Google Drive. The corrected minutes were approved by acclamation.

WARF update – Kelly Burke

Webinar #5 is next. Writing is underway on descriptions of the reaches and other sections. Kelly may recruit some of us to review some sections. After the last webinar on Feb 3, there will be a followup WARF meeting on implementation.

Right now the WARF is working under a guidance document, which needs to morph into a document specifying the structure that will continue after the grant ends in June. Developing this document will probably take more than one meeting.

The Draft WARF plan will be put out for public review, with feedback via written comments and another Zoom meeting.

Quarterly report to Bureau of Reclamation is due Jan 31. Kelly is working hard on this.

Treasurer's report – Tom Bean

Bank balance = \$20,217, but \$2700 earmarked for Bureau of Reclamation, \$2800 is PPP loan which will probably be forgiven, \$3000 for SDR, and \$1500 for Rio tour, and \$1100 D&O insurance, and cost of POBox & website. That leaves about \$8,000.

The appeal for year-end contributions (since 14 Dec) = \$2600 which is close to the \$3,000 we asked for.

Sara Day is willing to take over as Treasurer. Tom Bean intends to continue with Treasurer duties related to the Bureau of Reclamation grant until it ends at the end of June, but would like to start passing bookkeeping and other tasks to Sara. Sara will start taking over some tasks now, and will fully take over in June. On January 16, Paul sent Sara a Board Member Contract and our bylaws, and asked Sara for a brief candidate statement. We will vote to invite her to serve as Treasurer at our February meeting.

Growing Water Smart – possible application by a Flagstaff team.

GWS is funded by Sonoran Institute and Babbitt Water Policy Institute at University of Arizona. Applicants need to be a team of 5-7 officials including long range land use planners, elected officials, City water managers, community members, and others. These efforts focus on integrating various sections of the city on water issues. But GWS might not be offered in Arizona this year. Kathy talked with Erin Young today about Flagstaff applying and will talk with Erin again next week. Apparently last year GWS selection panel indicated that Flagstaff planning was so far advanced that the City did not need a GWS grant.

Reviving the “Adopt-the-Rio Stewardship Program” (Paul)

In 2017 Chelsea Silva launched this program. Our website describes it as follows: “The Adopt-the-Rio de Flag Stewardship Program is a partnership between the Friends of the Rio de Flag and the City of Flagstaff Community Stewards Program that gives schools a chance to adopt nearby sections of the Rio de Flag Watershed. It combines learning opportunities through citizen science and stewardship to build awareness and stimulate involvement of youth within the Flagstaff community. The pilot program is only open to local schools. After 1-2 years, we will open up the program to more schools, community members, organizations, and businesses... The enrollee must make a one-year commitment to EITHER collect citizen science OR stewardship activities at least twice a year on the adopted Rio section.”

On 14 Jan 2021, Chelsea provided this background: “ the Adopt-the-Rio program was focused on partnerships with schools or specific teachers at schools. The original goal was to have a coordinated program where a FoRio representative would visit the school once or twice a year to provide an introduction to watersheds/citizen science, and then the class would adopt a section of the Rio near their school. The adoption would consist of whatever worked best for the teacher.

One example was that I worked with Lina Lenz at Flag High through a partnership with FoRio and AZ Department of Environmental Quality where students collected data on the Rio throughout the year and borrowed equipment from DEQ through their Arizona Water Watch program. The DEQ staff member (Meagan Smart) who runs the program came to Flagstaff to help with the data collection effort. Another example: Ms. Ashley Esparza at Kinsey Elementary. I did a few presentations in the classroom for Ashley's class through Scientists in the Classroom which is an existing program. We also did walks along the Rio, a trash cleanup (using supplies borrowed from Sustainability), and a visit to the WWTP at the I-40 wetlands.

As time went on, I realized that the Adopt program would have to be scaled back due to lack of capacity. Rather than doing environmental education with every class, I worked 1:1 with teachers to introduce them to the Rio/tributary near their school. The goal was to encourage use of these places for outdoor education. I also provided lesson plans that they could deliver. The first approach was obviously more successful. Teachers are often too busy to take on new projects themselves. But with outside help, they can make it happen. Also, it was much more fun going into the classroom but I am biased because I like teaching and working with kiddos. But it takes a lot more work.

The Adopt program could take many forms. Sometimes I felt the work I was doing, especially the environmental education, was drifting into Willow Bend's work. I think I was working on a small enough scale that it was not an issue, but I am sure Moran and Cassandra would be interested in combining forces with FoRio. There is no perfect or right or right way to do it. One thing I think that would work well and I am personally passionate about is an annual Adopt celebration. This could be centered around the Annual Wet/Dry mapping event which we have held at the end of May. This event was very popular in the past with volunteers really enjoying it. If the Adopt program took off then this event would be a natural fit. Adopters could opt to survey their own sections of the Rio or they could choose to check out a new section and explore their watershed. This was done in partnership again with ADEQ as well as Willow Bend who let us use the cabin at Frances Short Pond for training and celebration. At the end of the day, volunteers could come together at Frances Short Pond (or wherever) to enjoy a meal, receive awards (most clean ups held per year, etc.), and enjoy the Rio.” (end of Chelsea’s email)

The Board discussed the idea and decided to explore reviving a Stream Stewards (Adopt-a-Reach) program. We intend to coordinate with (1) City Sustainability Office which would have to approve of any stewardship activities; (2) The active efforts by City Open Space and others at Picture Canyon; (3) City Stormwater, which recognizes 165 stream reaches that they maintain. In the year before COVID Stormwater worked with Sustainability to organize 6 cleanup days. Ed says Sustainability’s roving cleanup effort might be able to shift to adopting fixed sections, or we could make our effort one that regularly changes its spatial focus. (4) Willow Bend Environmental Education Center, especially if we retain an education aspect (as Chelsea noted above). (5) Efforts by Arboretum at Flagstaff & Museum of Northern Arizona on weed control, currently limited to the “Treatment of invasive plants post-Museum Fire” project (5,200 acres) but could be expanded. Kathy offered to take the lead. Kathy, Paul, and Ed should plan how to start a discussion with these key players.

We will ask the key players for ideas, and for funding to support activities that require more than volunteer labor. Elements of the program could include (1) cleanup of adopted reaches, or reaches that change year to year, (2) training in stream stewardship, (3) weed control, (4) erosion control, (5) trailside fencing (with City permission), (6) fund raising. We should open the program not only to schools, but also to individuals and groups. We should develop an agreement form, specifying appropriate activities and behavior of volunteers. We would also need a volunteer to supervise the Program. The Supervisor could be a volunteer, but better yet it might be a City staffer. The Supervisor would not necessarily have to be a Director (Board Member), but the board would need a liaison to the program

After the meeting with key players, we will draw up a proposal of 1-3 pages for future discussion.

Members Meetings (outings, presentations)

We need a member of the Friends (not necessarily a Director) to volunteer to lead this activity. If the leader is not a director, we need to designate a board member as liaison.

For the February Board Meeting, please bring

- your suggestions for topic & activities for Members Meetings to the February meeting. We can start outside walks in March or April. Perhaps we would have participants register online so that we can limit group size. Paul suggests: (a,b) outings to Veit & Leroux Springs. (c) Once the smartphone tour is up and running, a test by users, coupled with a themed walk led by an expert.
- your suggestion for a person to oversee the planning of members Meetings. Paul suggests Rod Parnell.

Developing a list of priorities for the next year....and beyond (Kathy)

For the February meeting, please bring your suggestions!

Barb suggested: we should start projects that engage Southside and other minority neighborhoods, to make ourselves more relevant. Perhaps work on a potential city park near Dupont Avenue in Southside

Planning for the Jan 21 meeting.

This meeting will solely focus on next steps for implementing the WARF after our Bureau of Reclamation grant ends in June. At that time, we will have a plan. But who will carry it forward? How will the Friends participate? How will the effort be funded? How do we address the lack of dedicated funding, lack of cross-jurisdictional authority, and lack of an entity responsible for implementation. We decided not to invite any outside persons to the Jan 21 meeting, but that at that time we should identify persons to invite to a follow-up meeting, which must include key players from WARF.

Impending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan

Sara Dechter, David Pederson and Barb discussed the JWPowell project on January 8 regarding possible ways to get survey information on rare and invasive plants

Rio de Flag Tour for smartphones

Paul and Tom are leading the effort to create a Rio de Flag tour for smartphones. We have nothing to report at this time.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board

Minutes of

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Staffing, partnerships, and strategies to sustain our priority activities

21 January 2021. 5:00PM-6:45 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Tom Bean (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Denielle Perry, Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, James Major, Ed Schenk, Allen Haden
Also present: Kelly Burke

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/82047068806> Passcode 582215

There was no agenda for the meeting. This meeting was originally conceived as how Friends of the Rio de Flag will ensure that WARF will carry on after our Bureau of Reclamation grant ends in June. That remained a major focus, but this meeting more broadly addressed how the Friends will sustain all our priorities, including participation in WARF, the JWPowell Blvd Specific Plan, Adopt-the-Rio, and other efforts that require a combination of staffing, funding, and partnerships.

The strong sentiment of the Board (Rick, Kathy, & Paul most vocally, with no dissenting voices) is that we prefer that the WARF devise a strategy to run implementation of the WARF, rather than have Friends of the Rio de Flag take on that role. The Friends will be an important part of that “Future WARF” entity, but we do not intend to dominate it. **Several of our Board members will join a meeting of the WARF shortly after Feb 3, outlining what we can offer, and exploring ways to move forward.**

Key traits of the “Future WARF” entity

- Must have **501(c)(3) status** to serve as a conduit for funds
- Must be a **watershed group** to be eligible for future Bureau of Reclamation grants
- Must have **administrative capacity** to receive and distribute funds, monitor accounts, and ensure that required reports are submitted. This is too much work to expect of a volunteer treasurer and board. It would require at least a quarter-time staff person, and a bigger budget than the Friends currently has. Although the Friends may eventually grow our budget to the point where we can do this (see below), there is **no way** we can do this by the time our current WARF funding ends in June.
- Ability to coordinate the required 50% match for implementation grants from Bureau of Reclamation. The Friends can provide match as a partner in the WARF entity by providing labor (not cash). During the discussion we learned that labor value can be calculated at specified rates for particular types of work, perhaps capped at \$17/h or \$26/h for manual labor.
- For some grants that pay **ONLY** by reimbursing past expenses, the entity must have enough money in the bank to pay expenses until the entity is reimbursed.
- A requirement of the current grant is that the WARF must set up an MoU creating the entity that will administer the grant. The MoU must specify key partners, a steering committee, and how decisions will be made.

Kelly mentioned Friends of the Verde River effort (which has huge funds, see Background Notes below) as a model of the type of collaborative entity we need to create. However, as the only river in Arizona that is free flowing for most of its length, the Verde has much greater ability to attract dollars, and the commitment of partners such as TNC.

Partners with administrative capacity, money in the bank, watershed group status, etc.

- TNC
- Sierra Club
- Wilderness Society
- City of Flagstaff. Ed is skeptical. City staff is tremendously overworked. Stacy Brechler-Knaggs is a fantastic grants administrator, but she will retire soon, at which time the City capacity will plummet.
- NAU: no way. They demand more indirect costs than WARF can afford.

- **Coconino Plateau Watershed Advisory Council (CPWAC) and Watershed Partnership.** They can play the same role we can play. They can receive grants. Kira has worked for them, but she is not sure how they are funded. It is not clear CPWAC (or one of their partners) has the admin capacity we need. CPWAC was founded in 2013, and has been chaired by Ron Doba (former City water manager and utilities director, too, I think). The govtribe.com website lists no federal grants to CPWAC. **Somebody needs to talk to CPWAC and learn more about their ability and willingness to take on this role for WARF.**

What does Friends of the Rio de Flag want to be? Do we want to grow?

In this most interesting discussion, we started with an aversion to growing pains. But we gradually agreed that we have so many ambitions (watershed planning, restoration of riparian areas, participation in City's JW Powell Specific Plan, Adopt-a-Rio, weed control, phone tour of the Rio,...) that **we do indeed need to grow, and this requires growing our budget.** Moreover **we are at a critical point:** having the WARF in place will get people excited and inspire contributions. Getting an implementation grant would motivate contributions even more. While we will maintain our current focus on advocacy and education and providing volunteers, **this is indeed the time to start to grow our budget..**

The first place to grow the budget is through members – getting donations from members and increasing their numbers. We decided (no votes, but strong voices in the discussion)

- **We will not require all members to pay dues,** and we will not purge people from our membership list for not paying dues. These people are still important because they can volunteer, advocate, and raise awareness. And we benefit from being able to claim large numbers of members when we advocate for actions. Some members are financially constrained and we do not want to treat them poorly.
- We will create classes of membership based on annual contributions, with some classes corresponding to dollar contributions and other classes corresponding to labor contributions. Those giving no contributions can be labelled “supporters” or some other name. Kelly has worked for many nonprofits, and advises that we will not get a lot of money at first, but over the years (if we keep doing good projects), small donors will become big donors, and will provide most of our operating funds.
- Processing donations will take 5-10 person-hours a week. That person should be paid. At first this might take all of the money we get from member contributions. This “Coordinator” job could include tabling at events, enrolling volunteers, and other tasks that would make them feel like more than an accountant. One possible money stretcher would be to get an NAU volunteer. The NAU volunteer program requires us to provide supervision, and most volunteers work only one semester, so this might not work. The NAU Env Science volunteer program is run by Taylor Joyal (husband of photographer Amy Martin).
- If we ask members to donate, what do we give them for their money and time?
 - The pride of knowing they are implementing restoration projects and other projects.
 - Special hikes.
 - Bumper stickers like “Fish the rio de flag? I do.” or “Rio de flag yacht club” (Thanks, Ed!)
 - Bandannas. We have them, but we can advertise them on our website.
 - beer mugs.
 - Mother Road or Historic could name a beer for us? Kira was part of the Kolsch that benefits AGFD. Historic did a batch for Arizona Wildlife.

- A fun run along Sinclair Wash and the Rio from Univ Heights to Little America or Continental.
- Pay and Take can sponsor a night where we get 10% of profits... We advertise it and encourage our people to show up, creating (after COVID) a social event.

The next pages (indented on both Right and Left) were a Briefing Document for the meeting; this include past minutes, relevant emails, and notes of a phone discussion on Dec 22 2020 among some Board members, Kelly Burke, and SDR staff.

Excerpt from the minutes of 10 September 2020: 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.

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 are asked to suggest additional invitees.

(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)**

Excerpt from Minutes of 15 October 2020 meeting

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). 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.**

Dec 2020: Three emails from Kelly on this topic

(1 Dec 2020) This initiative led by Friends of the Verde is a possible model for the WARF and FoRio relationship. Note that the VWRC has a couple of program staff and a broad stakeholder steering committee. <https://verderiver.org/verde-watershed-restoration-coalition/about-the-verde-watershed-restoration-coalition/> . This is easy to set up through an MOU and allows for project staff to be funded from multiple sources via contracts/agreements between the lead org and agencies and other orgs. FoRio would have a lead role, but have many other stakeholders helping to figure out funding and staffing for the collective work.

SDR is on the Steering Committee of the VWRC and Andi or Tahnee could surely provide guidance/insight for the FoRio board. In my experience, this kind of structure allows alliance members to help financially and with staffing resources. I've watched several multi-stakeholder coalitions become stand alone nonprofits where the Steering Committee structure is replaced by a Board and then the visibility, financial/fundraising burden, and capacity building falls solely on the stand alone and its Board Members.

(Dec 21 followup) I'm concerned that we are moving precariously close to unintentionally planning an implementation structure outside of the WARF framework with the potential to confuse or even undermine our efforts to build and empower a highly engaged and broad WARF—essentially re-inventing a parallel effort and without buy in from the full and engaged current WARF we've worked so hard to bring together. I fully support FoRio having a robust discussion on how FoRio would be structured to FACILITATE hosting the WARF, as a fiscal sponsor, or even restructuring and renaming to encompass the WARF. Folks like Moran, myself, maybe Michele James, SDR leadership, the ED of Friends of the Verde, would all be very helpful to have for advisement in this special Board Meeting. However, beyond that I feel strongly that a discussion about funding the implementation phase and creating a steering committee should be launched by the planning core team, facilitated by SDR and undertaken by the full WARF, with each representative, including FoRio, coming to the table with what they can offer to a successful launch of the implementation phase, and a commitment to work together as the WARF going forward.

I fully believe that this is in the best interest of both the Watershed and FoRio because far more resources with much greater influence could potentially be pooled, as I've witnessed in numerous successful collaborative efforts like this. I sincerely don't want to in any way diminish the energy that we have as FoRio to move forward, but I feel a little bit like I haven't truly been heard in our previous conversations.

(Dec 21, 2nd followup) We truly have a shot at making this a high functioning effort like it is on the Verde and on the Escalante—it is so critical to every other thing that any of these stakeholders are trying to do going forward. If we try to do that without the full force of the WARF, I think it is likely to remain underfunded and disconnected.... The next BOR grant is only one grant and it needs significant matching funds. With the resources of the City, County, NAU, maybe Babbitt Ranches, AZGFD, FoRio, SSI, Willow Bend, Wild Arizona, Arizona Trail Association, the Coconino NF, 4FRI, Natural Channel Designs and so on, we could see this plan be included in budgets and grant proposals and implemented and adapted over at least the next 5-10 years. And FoRio could continue to play a leadership role while better building our own capacity to do so. With climate change it will only become even more central to solving water quantity and quality and a multitude of other societal issues.

(end of Kelly's emails)

List of persons we might want to invite for meetings on this topic

- Someone from SDR: Andi Rogers, Tahnee?
- Michele James FFF
- Moran Henn, Willow Bend
- Nicole Antonopolous (Sustainability)

- Robert Wallace (Open Spaces)
- Monica Rabb (Stormwater Section Manager)
- Carrie Eberly (SDR)
- Chelsea Silva (the Friends' first and only ED, circa 2016-2018)

Ed Schenk, 21 Dec 2020

WARF does need to be a collaborative group but there isn't any one governmental agency that will pick up much of the heavy lifting. I can help with grant writing but with my current Water Services Director I doubt that I will be given approval to spend considerable amounts of time on pursuing new WARF initiatives/funding/projects. I think the same likely holds true for other city staff in other divisions, lots of interest but probably little capacity to lead a large or complicated watershed project without a clear directive from Council or city management.

Carrie Eberly, Kelly Burke, Kathy Flaccus, Rick Miller, Paul Beier, 22 Dec 2020
phone call

WARF Internal Planning Team (4: Rick, Kelly, Carrie, Lisa, and sometimes "Andy")

WARF Internal core team (9 persons: the above 4 plus John Carr [County], Ed Schenk, Sara Dechter, Josh Peck [Deputy District Ranger for Flagstaff RD of CNF], Jim Duffield [Hopi Tribe], lacking a member of Navajo Nation)

WARF key stakeholder group (15-18, all of the above plus Tom Whitham, Malcolm Alter, Abe Springer, Deb Harris [Southside Community], Hannah Griscom [AGFD], Amanda Atcheson [County development], and maybe a couple more)

About 10-12 of these people have attended the first workshops.

Feb 3 WARF workshop topic is stewardship, which should include funding. Kelly and Carrie said the WARF will convene a meeting to Plan for the Future around Feb 3 (Kelly favors doing it before, but it might be shortly afterwards); they want Rick, Kathy, Paul, Allen, and perhaps another of our Board members to attend so that we have a substantial presence but are not outnumbering the Core Team.

Our Jan 21 meeting will be primarily an internal board meeting on how Friends can move forward, perhaps with guests such as experts on nonprofit funding and partnering strategies. If we emerge with some clear ideas, we will be in a better position to find

- a conservation investor. For example Verde River restoration project is funded by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust is giving \$1m/year for 3 years, matched by Walton Family Foundation (also \$1m/y for 3 y), with the money funneled through TNC who distributes the cash to the partners and pays the salary of the restoration coordinator.

- a partner such as FFF, TNC, etc., who can play a key role such as receiving and financially managing a \$1 million riparian restoration grant. Kelly thinks that perhaps Wild Arizona could be such a partner if the Great American Outdoors Act funding comes through. Wild Arizona mission is to fund community efforts in Flagstaff, Prescott, and Tucson areas.

Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (CPWAC, founded in 2013) might provide some good lessons for us. CPWAC is an (unfunded?) autonomous consortium of agencies and citizens.

Email from Michele James, ED of Friends of Flagstaff's Future, 5 Jan 2021

I've been gathering some information about the ongoing effort of the Civic Services Institute at NAU who are currently putting together a needs assessment for Coconino County for "environmental stewardship and education needs that aren't currently being met." I understand that a separate but related step of this effort is that the Institute is looking for ideas from organizations now and are open to proposals for the use of Americorps volunteers in the future as it relates to the needs identified in their grant proposal. This info comes from Peter Friederici as he is involved in the grant proposal given his position at NAU.

This got me thinking about the conversation Paul and I had back in October during the Make a Difference Day event, namely, to share a position between the Friends of the Rio and F3. Rick and I also talked about this as a potential idea for the future.

It's my understanding that the requirements of the grant to which the Civic Services Institute is applying would require the Americorps volunteer to spend at least 80% of their time doing on-the-ground environmental stewardship and/or environmental education.

I've proposed this idea of a partnership with Friends of the Rio to the F3 issues committee and we are interested and we're spending some time thinking about how we could best use such a volunteer to help us in our work.

Is Friends interested in pulling together a joint draft proposal? The cost match for a full-time Americorps volunteer would be \$9-10,000 and there is an option to have less than a full-time position... By submitting a proposal to the Institute while they are still writing their Needs Assessment (which should be happening in February according to what Peter knows), we could increase the chance of receiving an Americorps position should the Institute be awarded the grant.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Minutes

11 February 2021. **5:00PM**-6:30 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Tom Bean (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Denielle Perry (Vice President), Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, James Major, Ed

Schenk, Allen Hayden. Incoming Treasurer: Sara Day. Rick presided because Kathy is attending by phone from Montana.

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/83869081124> passcode 929013

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 (all); 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 (Kathy during March-May, then transitioning to a new Board Member); maintaining website (Denielle); managing email correspondence (Secretary); managing our finances (Treasurer); Adopt-a-Reach (Kathy, Ed, Paul). 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.

The zoom recording of this meeting will be available until March 13 at https://nau.zoom.us/rec/share/rJZc4PnRKZ9gNSBx04LCTDmfDFsYHJkhCATTcf2MYKjgM5XjCveCri_s_xvAFsSd.EfCidPsDIsRde1YT

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of Jan 2021.

If nobody emails the Secretary with corrections before our meeting starts, the minutes are approved by acclamation.

WARF update

Kelly is not feeling well, did not attend. We need to set the date of WARF meeting on organizing a plan to implement the WARF Watershed Plan after the grant ends in June.

Paul: At the last WARF webinar, we learned that having a project listed in the WARF Watershed Plan, especially if the Watershed Plan is approved by City Council, will make it eligible for funding and staff support that would otherwise not be available. So we definitely want the Watershed plan to include every project we might want to do! Any of us can propose a project as follows:

- Look at the map of dots of all projects that have already been proposed; each dot can be clicked to read the proposed project. Here is the clickable map: <https://sites.google.com/site/watershedalliancefortherio/home>
- Read the list of all the projects (same info, but in a different format). Paul promised to send the Board the spreadsheet he got from Carrie Eberly at SDR.
- Propose new projects via this link: <https://arcg.is/1fqHLH> where you click on the map and propose a project at that location. Paul feels we should not be constrained by the map-focused format! If you want to propose a project that is watershed-wide, or that cannot be assigned to a dot on the map, I suggest that you click on City Hall and make the geographic focus clear in your text.

We do not know the deadline for proposing projects. Rick said he had a list of projects that Chelsea had put on a map, and he intends those projects to be put on the WARF website. Not clear if someone has been assigned to do this.

Our involvement with CPWAC & CPWP

The Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council is a 501(c)(4), and the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership is a 501(c)(3). As a 501(c) organization, they might be able to serve as facilitator and money handler for implementing the WARF Watershed Plan. Friends of the Rio de Flag could ask to be a non-voting member of CPWAC/WP even if CPWAC/WP does not sponsor WARF because it would be a good way to raise awareness of our activities. Kathy suggested that the Friends of the Rio de Flag become part of CPWAC, and that one of our Board members should regularly attend meetings, which are 10AM on the last Friday of each month. When in person, the meetings are on the USGS campus near Buffalo Park. Several Board members strongly supported Kathy's proposal. Kira volunteered to be our liaison, and to regularly attend meetings, and ask the CPWAC to admit Friends of the Rio de Flag as a member. James offered to attend meetings when Kira cannot do so.

Treasurer's report

\$25K deposit on 29 Jan from Bureau of Reclamation. Paid Flagstaff Connection annual fee of \$299. Bank balance = \$42,512. Tom will ask SDR for an invoice so we will know where we stand. Quarterly report to Bureau of Reclamation was sent in on Jan 30, including Tom's financial report. Our 10% IDC is being used for routine bills, and Tom feels we are on a trajectory to spend it down by the end of the grant. We have been advised to wait a few weeks before we ask for forgiveness of the Payroll Protection Plan loan we received in Spring 2020.

Vote to appoint Sara Day as Treasurer-Elect

Tom will continue as co-treasurer through end of Bureau of Reclamation grant in June. Sara is taking over some tasks now, and will fully take over in June or earlier. Sara has signed a board commitment form and provided a bio sketch and reviewed our bylaws. Kathy moved, Paul seconded, to invite Dara Day to serve as Treasurer-Elect. The motion was unanimously approved. Tom and Sara will work out a transition plan.

Sara Day' Candidate Statement

From my childhood, I have been involved in volunteer organizations and in volunteering in my community. I have participated in many ways, from collecting money for UNICEF and clothing for the local clothes closet as a child, to contributing to efforts to address economic challenges facing pastoral leaders and serving meals at the Flagstaff Family Food Center as an adult. I understand the importance of volunteer and non-profit organizations to our society, particularly in this age when people are asking for smaller governments.

While I have an interest in environmental issues and in the Rio de Flag, I have no detailed knowledge in the areas the Friends of the Rio de Flag work with. Instead, I bring concern as a member of the public that values the wonderful environment around Flagstaff.

As relates to the Treasurer's position with the Board, I do have the general knowledge necessary. I am not a CPA or a trained accountant, but I have worked as a treasurer for other small non-profits.

Reviving the "Flagstaff Stream Stewards" Program (Kathy, Ed, Paul)

To revive the Adopt-a-Rio program that Chelsea started 4 years ago, Kathy, Ed, and Paul met on Feb 2 with Maggie Twomey and Marissa Howe of City Sustainability and Ed Schenk of City Stormwater (Ed wore two hats!). We made a lot of progress, summarized in the Appendix to this document. Yellow highlight indicates work that needs to happen.

Board members were excited at the prospect of revising this program. Paul was concerned that a lot of work will be necessary, especially to include community science as an option for Stewards. Kathy pointed out that it will take several months to get this up and running. Kathy will soon convene a meeting with Paul, Ed, and Barb to start moving forward. After this first small meeting, Paul wants the group to convene a larger advisory group, which should work hard to include indigenous, Black, and other minorities as early in the process as possible so that the program will look like Flagstaff.

Board members had many helpful suggestions; Paul pasted these suggestions into the working plan for the Stream Stewards program (appended below).

- Kira says that Sharon Masek Lopez created an extensive bibliography of work on ecological conditions across the Coconino Plateau. Kira will send this to the full Board.

Upcoming member outings & presentations

Each Board member was asked to suggest topics, speakers, or activities for future Members' Meetings. These suggestions included:

- Top priority: Update on the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Flood Control Project. The City just received the Revised Concept Plan for the new channel from Bonito St to Route 66, that will be built atop the box culvert that ACE will build, and City Engineering will soon put it out for bid. We strongly want to do a walking tour for our May 6 Members Meeting. Trevor Henry of City Engineering would probably lead it, with Allen Hayden of NCD assisting. This would be our first in-person meeting since the pandemic stopped our in-person meetings about 12 months ago, and we would take COVID-19 precautions.
- Experience the phone app tour (coupled with an outdoor site visit). Perhaps in July...
- Veit Spring
- Leroux Spring

Assigning a coordinator for Members Meetings. Although Board discussions are helpful, we could plan ahead more efficiently if one person (not necessarily a Board member) kept a running list of suggestions and coordinated the process of selecting speakers and events for Members Meetings. Kathy volunteered to serve as **Coordinator for Members Meetings** for the next 3 meetings. After that, we will probably transition to another person, such as Rod Parnell, Bryan Bates, or Malcolm Alter. Rick volunteered to ask Bryan about his interest in serving in this capacity or some other capacity.

Recruiting Black and Indigenous persons for the Board and other roles

Paul wants the Friends to develop a strategy to recruit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or other Person of Color) for our Board, for the advisory group for our Stream Stewards program, and every major project we undertake. If our nation is to sideline fascist racists like our last president, every organization and project must become more inclusive and diverse.

Denielle tried to recruit indigenous persons for the Board a few months ago, and said she may try again. Rick offered to ask Matt Muchna to recommend persons from Southside. Barb suggested attending the Lived Black Experience townhalls at Murdoch Center, especially if they return to in-person meetings. Paul is considering talking to former mayor Coral Evans, Southside leader Deb Harris, City planner Sara Dechter. Paul also plans to contact some or all of the indigenous persons who attended one of the meetings on reclaimed water last month, namely Fawn Toya (Native Americans for Community Action), Samantha Honanie (publications manager at Museum of Northern Arizona), Rose Toehe (indigenous coordinator for the City of Flagstaff), and Meg Kabotie-Adakai. Paul knew Meg when she was a child and the Kabotie and Beier families were friends. While working on her biology degree at NAU, Meg worked in stream ecology on Fossil and Beaver Creeks.

Neighborhood Grant Program - Kira

The City of Flagstaff's Neighborhood Sustainability Grant provides up to \$2,000 for community sustainability projects that lie within Flagstaff City limits. The City encourages projects that address climate action, food, resilience, waste, and water conservation. Friends of the Rio de Flag (FoRio) addresses many of these concerns, and these grants could help fund several projects. The Board of FoRio might want to consider applying for these grants for various projects continually as long as the grants exist. One potential project might center on a carbon sink in an agreed upon location on the Rio, along with consideration and input from board members and community members who have a good understanding of the best plants for such a project. Upon consideration of each project by FoRio within the city limits, the Board of FoRio might want to consider applying for these grants. Kira volunteers to write these grants (with Board review), unless someone else prefers to do so.

The Feb 5 2021 deadline just passed. Kira is investigating if there is another cycle in April, or if we must wait a year.

Information Items

- Malcolm Alter will lead the Wet/Dry Mapping Effort for the Friends of the Rio de Flag in 2021. Details pending.
- Denielle will send out a request for volunteer evaluators for posters and slide presentations for Student Water Symposium on April 15-16. Restoration theme this year.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Briefing Document and Agenda

11 March 2021. **5:00PM**-6:30 PM by Zoom conference call

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Tom Bean (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Denielle Perry (Vice President), Rick Miller, Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, James Major, Ed Schenk, Allen Hayden, Sara Day (Incoming Treasurer).

Meeting URL: <https://nau.zoom.us/j/83314423119>

Passcode: 449407

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 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul represents Friends on CSCRW); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom); planning Members' Meetings (Kathy during March-May, then transitioning to a new Board Member); maintaining website (Denielle); managing email correspondence (Secretary); managing our finances (Treasurer); Adopt-a-Reach (Kathy, Ed, Paul). When appropriate, the Board point of contact for an effort should send the Secretary an update for the Board Briefing Document by 5 PM Tuesday preceding the next Board meeting.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of Feb 2021.

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

WARF update (Kelly)

Core Team Data Synthesis Meeting will occur on March 23 (about 2-3 weeks later than originally planned) at which meeting the Core Team will also create agenda for followup stakeholder meeting(s). That Stakeholder Meeting might be April 5-6 or the following week. The Core Team will create a matrix or criteria for prioritizing projects before the meeting. The Draft Plan should be complete by June 30, with a followup public meeting in July, Revisions in August, and completion in September.

We need a No Cost Extension (NCE) to go past the current end date of June 30. A NCE only works if we have cash on hand to get work done. Tom and Kelly have worked through this, and they think we are spot on, with the extra \$3,000 we allocated for SDR.

Tom is now the Project Manager, but he wants to change to Rick Miller as project manager as part of the NCE. At the meeting Rick agreed to this change in responsibility, and the Board concurred.

When will WARF meet with Friends of the Rio de Flag to work on future plans (what entity will oversee it)? Andi and Carrie at SDR have recently done an interagency agreement to continue another project to continue follow-up activity when a grant-funded entity dissolves, and Kelly believes WARF and Friends of the Rio de Flag can use it as a template for an inter-agency agreement. Rick concurred with this idea, but was less certain how the arrangement would work. The March 23 Core team meeting will set the stage for this forward-looking interagency agreement, but likely will need a 2nd meeting to finalize.

SENATE BILL 1431 (Ed)

If this passes I strongly suggest someone from FoRio advocate to be on the citizen's advisory board for the Coconino County Flood Control District.

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 48-3611 AND 48-3616, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICTS.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 48-3611, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

48-3611. Citizens' flood control advisory board; qualification; functions

A. The board of directors shall appoint a citizens' flood control advisory board consisting of 6 members. Each member of the Board of Directors shall appoint one person who is a resident taxpayer and qualified elector of the supervisorial district, at least three of whom shall be residents of the cities in the district of the appointing Board member. At least one of the board members who are residents of cities shall be a resident of the largest city in the district. An appointed member of the Advisory Board may not be a City or Town employee. The chief engineer or manager of a major irrigation or agricultural improvement district, or the representative of the Chief Engineer or Manager, shall be a non-voting advisory member of the advisory board with all other rights and privileges granted to other board members.

B. In appointing members of the advisory board, the board of directors shall designate which appointive member shall serve for one year, which for two years, which for three years, which for four years and which for five years. Thereafter the term of each appointive member is five years except for a member appointed to an unexpired term.

C. The citizens' flood control advisory board shall meet at least quarterly and may request information from the chief engineer and general manager and district staff, engineering personnel from cities in the district and any other person with a knowledge of flood control practices. They shall have access to budget information and shall make recommendations regarding the Flood Control District Budget. They may recommend employing consultants to obtain technical information and recommendations regarding flood control and floodplain management practices.

D. The advisory board shall study the flood control, floodplain regulation, drainage and water conservation needs of the district, shall meet with the Board of Directors at a public meeting at least annually and advise the board as requested by the board and may submit to the board reports and recommendations relating to such studies, but the recommendations are advisory only.

Sec. 2. Section 48-3616, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

48-3616. Survey and report of flood control problems and facilities; comprehensive program; adoption by board; hearing.

A. After a flood control district has been established in a county having a population of over three hundred thousand persons, the board shall cause the chief engineer to make or have made by the flood control engineer or by qualified private engineers a survey of the flood control problems of the district and to prepare a report describing existing flood control facilities in the area, recommendations as to cooperation between the district and the owner or owners of existing facilities, recommendations and a preliminary plan for the construction or other acquisition of facilities to carry out the purpose of the district, a description of the property proposed to be acquired or damaged in performing the work, a program for carrying out the regulatory functions, a map showing the district boundaries and location of the work proposed to be done and property taken or damaged, an estimate of the cost of the proposed work and such other things as the board of directors may request. Before submission to the board of directors, the report shall be submitted to the citizens' advisory board for its review and recommendations. The report shall be prepared at least every five years beginning in 1985 and shall indicate the past efforts of the district in eliminating or minimizing flood control problems and state the planned future work of the district to eliminate or minimize flood control problems.

B. The chief engineer and the Chief Engineer's staff shall then prepare a comprehensive program of flood hazard mitigation, taking into consideration the recommendations submitted in the report. When a comprehensive program satisfactory to the board is available, the board shall tentatively adopt and schedule a public hearing on the program and the performance of the proposed work. The comprehensive program shall be reviewed and modified as necessary to reflect the past and future planned flood control works of the district. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of jurisdiction, the first of which shall be at least ten days before the date fixed for the hearing.

C. The chief engineer and the Chief Engineer's staff shall prepare and submit to the board a five year capital improvement program in a form approved by the board. The program and annual extensions shall be submitted to the board at least three months before the final date for submission of the annual budget. The program shall separately identify capital improvements for engineering, rights-of-way and land acquisition and construction with such supporting explanations, cost estimates and completion schedules as the board may require. The program shall be annually reviewed for endorsement by the citizens' advisory board.

D. After a flood control district has been established in a county with a population of fewer than three hundred thousand persons, the chief engineer may conduct a survey of flood control problems, AND prepare a comprehensive program for flood control and a five year capital improvement program pursuant to this section. the Chief Engineer shall at least make an assessment of flood control problems in the area of jurisdiction and make an annual report of the Chief Engineer's findings and recommendations for dealing with them to the board.

Sec. 3. Retention of members

Notwithstanding section 48-3611, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, all persons serving as members of a citizens' flood control advisory board on the effective date of this act may continue to serve until the expiration of their normal terms.

Amendments:

The citizens' flood control advisory board shall meet at least quarterly

The citizens' flood control advisory board shall meet with the Board of Directors at a public meeting at least annually.

Ed strongly wants someone from Friends of the Rio de Flag to be on the citizen's advisory board to oversee priorities for the County Flood Control District. It is a good bill. Coconino County has no citizens advisory group. The bill will restrict the City from being part of the CAG that advises the County. The County has \$6-8 m/y, and most of that comes from people who live in the RdF watershed. Even if the Bill does not pass, the County needs input from the residents of the watershed and we should push for an advisory board. We should set up meetings with a couple Supervisors. Kathy knows Patrice, could talk to him even before the Senate acts.

FYI: The legislature just passed (or probably soon will pass) another Bill that will end the "use it or lose it" policy that has prevented someone who owns the right to withdraw water to leave the water for in-stream use. This is a hopeful step forward for environmental waters. It probably doesn't affect the Rio because our watershed does not have any rights to withdraw the (nonexistent) surface water.

Updates on CPWAC & CPWP (Kira or James)

The Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council is a 501(c)(4), and the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership is a 501(c)(3). Kira is our liaison, and James will attend meetings when Kira cannot do so. Kira attended the meeting last week. Most of it was about a new Arizona Water Blueprint created by the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University. The Blueprint website is

https://azwaterblueprint.asu.edu/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAYocCBhCTARIsAOfpKximXliTgpWhwx7BOQvYczqb_EheNgKvI44fbLvFQvIZdvGFE0JYik0aAIDrEALw_wcB The Friends may find useful resources here, and we might be able to contribute information to the site.

Kira asked if the Board wants us to join CWPAC. The only obligation is to meet one Friday/month at 10:00 AM. (Kira is already on their Technical Advisory Committee for her business). The Board strongly felt that creating this connection would be good, and would have no downside and asked Kira to formally join.

Kira said she will make sure that James gets the meeting minutes of CPWAC.

Treasurer's report

Bank balance = \$33,100. After we make final draw of Bureau of Reclamation funds in April, we will have ~\$12,000 available that we can use for various purposes.

In his conversation with Kelly last week, Tom learned that we had not covered Workers Comp payments for Kelly, which we are legally required to do. So Tom and Barbara (at Payroll Connection) are working to remedy this. We may have to pay in arrears. Also our Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance coverage ends on March 19. Last year D&O was \$1100, but may go up to \$1900 for next year, partly reflecting that about \$479 in Workman's comp will be bundled with our D&O Insurance. Still working on it. Details soon.

We applied for PPP loan forgiveness last week. Waiting for a response.

Launching the "Flagstaff Stream Stewards" Program (Kathy, Ed)

Kathy thinks we can launch this spring. Ed, Kathy, Paul will work on mapping reaches on March 15-16. Maggie Twomey has provided helpful documents on how the City runs the FUTS trail stewards program.

For Community Science part, Allen says the directions on how-to take photos and score them might be rolled into the NCD 2017 report; if not he can get it for us.

Paul has made initial contact with Fawn Toya, Meg Kabotie, Deb Harris, and others on recruiting BIPOC for the FSS advisory committee, and possible future Board service. He will follow up next week.

Barb has set training days for weed control starting late May.

Wet-Dry Mapping

Allen sat down with Malcolm Alter about 2 weeks ago. Malcolm seems enthusiastic about making it happen, perhaps on Memorial Day. It looks like it will happen.

Upcoming member outings & presentations

We intend to have our first in-person meeting since the pandemic stopped our in-person meetings about 12 months ago, and we will take COVID-19 precautions, such as using a Bullhorn and

limiting numbers of attendees. We agreed to pursue the following in-person meetings this May-August

- Top priority: Update on the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Flood Control Project. The City just received the Revised Concept Plan for the new channel from Bonito St to Route 66, that will be built atop the box culvert that ACE will build, and City Engineering will soon put it out for bid. We will invite Trevor Henry of City Engineering (project manager) to lead it, with Allen Hayden of NCD assisting. Trevor's calendar might dictate if he can do this, and we need to ask if City allows him to lead an in-person meeting. The City recently allowed in-person meetings with a cap of 10 attendees, but they may expand that limit very soon as vaccinations accelerate.
- Jim David: founding of Frances Short Pond. He just put out a book *Just A Teacher* (available at Brightside Books).
- Experience the phone app tour (coupled with an outdoor site visit). Perhaps in July...
- Museum Fire Flood Monitoring. We could meet at the gate on Mt Elden Road near runoff gages & cameras. James knows potential speakers who run the monitoring system: Abe Springer, Ben Ruddell, Joe Loverich, Cory Hilton (Paul may have mis-typed the last 2 names).

Kathy has volunteered to serve as **Coordinator for Members Meetings** for the next 3-4 meetings. But a continuing agenda item is to recruit **a coordinator for future Members Meetings**. Rick volunteered to ask Bryan about his interest in serving in this capacity.

EARTH DAY: City plans to send staffers to 10 city parks. Friends could volunteer to lead at some of them.

Impending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan

Barb has written a proposal to do plant work in the area, probably won't get funded but the text is written.