

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting **DRAFT** Minutes

27 January 2022

via Zoom

Board members present: Kathy Flaccus (President), Denielle Perry (Vice President), Sara Day (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Allen Hayden, Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, Rick Miller, James Major, Ed Schenk. Also attending: Clarice Linskey

Call to order at 5:05 by Allen Hayden (Kathy on phone from Yellowstone; Denielle ill)

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 2021 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Paul, Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom Bean); planning Members' Meetings (James); maintaining website (Denielle); managing email correspondence (Secretary); managing our finances (Treasurer); Stewards of the Rio (Kathy, Ed, Paul); Water treatment issues (Rick); Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (Kira). The Board point of contact for an effort can send agenda items to the Secretary, preferably by 5 PM Tuesday preceding the Board meeting. In addition, any Board Member can directly amend the agenda on Dropbox at any time.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of 9 Dec 2021.

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The Minutes are therefore approved by acclamation.

Urban Waters Learning Network award

We can use part or all of the Urban Waters Learning Network award to design or print the WARF final report or brochure. Although the award is \$6,000, it is all to a DC contractor that charges big hourly fees. On January 15, Paul sent Abu Moulta Ali (the EPA administrator for UWLN, moulta-ali.abu@epa.gov, 202-566-1068, 917 609 9373) a one-page request for 3 services/products: (1) design a four page summary of the Watershed Plan for the Rio de Flag, due to be completed by March 31 under contract to Bureau of Reclamation. The summary would be a visually-pleasing overview that we would share as a pdf and on our website. I provided Abu with emails of Kelly and Rick so that the EPA subcontractor (Eastern Research Group) can contact them directly. ERG should get back to us in February to work out the details. This is our top priority for UWLN funds. (2) Pay PocketSights up to \$2,000 for changes to their app. (3) If any funds remain, 100-200 Rio map bandannas (we have only a few left).

Mountain Sports Donation

Lisa Lamberson of Mountain Sports (<lisa@mountainsportsflagstaff.com>, 928/226-2885, 928/699-7388 cell) notified President Flaccus on 9 December 2021 that Mountain Sports will

send the Friends a check for \$1000. At tonight's Board meeting, we agreed to use this for the Stream Stewards program.

Finishing the Watershed Plan and creating a permanent Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF): Rick

We have spent all our Bureau of Reclamation money. Kelly has promised that Wild Arizona will cover her labor costs to wrap up the project, but they will not cover administrative costs. Kelly estimated the admin costs will be 20 hours of her time. Rick made a donation to Friends to cover 40 hours of Kelly's time for the admin costs that Wild Arizona will not cover.

At Rick's request, Kelly provided an outline of how we will get to the end of the process. Rick has also received an editable version of the Final Plan, and spent a full day trying to trim it from >100 pages down to <50 pages. Rick has started to edit it. **Rick will share the outline with us and may ask some of us to help edit the Final Plan.**

TWO big missing pieces:

1. We must ask both Sara Dechter (City Planner) and the County land use planner to suggest changes needed to ensure the Watershed Plan is likely to be adopted by City Council and County Supervisors. It is also crucial that we have City and County planners in the final public meeting (next point).

2. We should have one final meeting (on zoom) to present the Plan to the public. Issues:

- The meeting will cost money from our unreserved funds or from new donations.
- In December, Southwest Decision Resources said they had no staff time for this project; Rick will ask SDR if they might have time in March or April.
- We cannot ask the public for comments, because we do not have paid staff time to revise the Plan in response to comments, and revision could delay us past June 30. This is not a big problem because the WARF represents many key community interests, and community members have already provided input during the well-attended workshops in 2021.

Adoption by the City Council and County Supervisors will require the WARF and the Friends of the Rio to send spokespersons to those meetings. Rick will discuss this at the next WARF meeting.

In December, the Board unanimously agreed that the Friends of the Rio de Flag will take necessary steps to become the fiscal sponsor of the WARF. At that time, we agreed that **Rick, assisted by Paul, will draft a WARF Charter, and an Agreement on fiscal sponsorship and circulate to the full Board by Dec 15.** Matthew Cline (Denielle's husband, attorney) is happy to review the documents for us. **at this January meeting, we failed to discuss Where are we on this task?**

Smartphone Tour

Pocketsights. The issues noted in the December minutes (mainly the instability of the "North at Top" feature) have not been fixed. Once it is fixed, we owe Pocketsights \$1500 per the contract we signed in July.

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

Kathy and Paul are working with City of Flagstaff to co-fund an AmeriCorps volunteer to serve as Coordinator of the Stream Stewards program using this [AmericaCorps opportunity announcement](#) from the NAU Center for Service and Volunteerism (CSV). The program requires the applicant to provide a staff person to serve as Mentor and backup Mentor. Because the Friends does not have staff, we must partner with the City. Kathy, Paul, Marissa Molloy (City interim Volunteer programs coordinator) and Nicole Antonopolous had a good discussion. Nicole was very confident of getting a volunteer. The position would “reduced full-time (long)” defined as 1200 hours spread over 40 weeks, at 30-32 hours per week. Kathy and Paul filled out most sections of the application form and on Jan 7 we forwarded that form to the City for them to complete. The federal government pays about half the volunteer salary and the local applicant (City & Friends) must pay \$6400 of salary. The City indicated they can pay \$4,000, leaving \$2400 for the Friends to cover. The City can also provide \$500 in professional development funds (cannot give them extra salary).

The City has hired a new director of Volunteer Programs, namely Steven Thompson. Within days of being hired, Stephen wrote Paul & Kathy a friendly email to say hello, and indicating enthusiasm for collaboration.

Paul needs to email Nicole and Stephen and ask (a) Has the application been submitted? Do Paul and Kathy need to revise any of it? (b) When would the AmeriCorps volunteer start work? (c) can the City provide office space? (d) should we have a virtual or in-person chat soon? Will the total compensation suffice given housing costs in Flagstaff. Paul sent this email on Jan 28.

Paul and Kathy and Ed met with Corryn Smith and Sophia Melfi (the 2 GIS staffers for City of Flagstaff Water Services) and Ed Schenk (in his capacity as City Stormwater staff). Water Services GIS has created a clickable map and form that will allow groups to adopt.

Kathy is trying to recruit environmental science teachers in each of the 9 schools located near adoptable stream channels to give them first chance to adopt that reach. Kinsey School, FALA, and Alpine Academy have signed on. **At tonight’s meeting, Denielle indicated that Flag Junior Academy may sign on.**

FFF, and GC Chapter of Sierra Club, and Southside Community Association have agreed to be Partners if the program. To qualify as a Partner, FFF and Sierra Club will (a) adopt at least one reach, (b) advertise the program on their website and in emails to their members, and (c) sponsor one volunteer event per year on a stream reach that cannot be enrolled on the City’s website (for example due to private property issues). Partner logos can appear on flyers and any signs that may be posted on reaches. FFF immediately responded with a commitment to be a Partner. Deb Harris at Southside Community Association says the SCA Board is enthusiastic about being a Partner in the program, working to clean the section of the Rio/Clay Ave Wash that flows through southside. Because almost all parcels crossed by the wash in this neighborhood are small private parcels, this reach cannot be posted for formal adoption, but forming this partnership could be a great way to engage SCA and regularly clean a reach that gets huge debris deposits. Paul did not ask SCA to hold an annual event outside their neighborhood.

About 50 more reaches need stewardship, including some that have FUTS trails along the reach, but they are not in the program because the stream channel is on private land, or access is difficult. For many of these, it would take legal agreements (and payments to lawyers) to put these into our official program. In the meantime, we will encourage groups to organize one-off events to clean these reaches with formal or informal agreements with local property owners. In

some locations, we will recruit “Partners” to clean these private reaches, similar to the SCA partner role. On January 26, Ed consulted with City legal department and reported “we will be working up a revised volunteer waiver form. The City is okay with private owners adopting their own property (e.g. Mike Hard adopting his own parcel).”

Signs to be posted on adopted reaches to give public credit to the Steward of that reach, and encourage people to support the Stream Steward program. Denielle and Clarice will oversee a design contest and will work with NAU students to generate designs. Denielle requests that we add material to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sVX6GRLsx8_R77vugqWKjKkEambJMz4heC_iFq1q5k8/edit?usp=sharing so she can launch the program.

Deadline for submission: April 22, followed by a vote of all members, decide by mid-May. City may take a couple months to produce the signs. We don’t know how many reaches will be adopted. It is fine for the signs to be rolled out late. We can broadcast this via City website, our list serve, Sierra Club, all partners, Southside Community Association, FFF.

Denielle says Flag Junior Academy will likely adopt; she will put Kathy in touch with them.

Clarice will send contest info to Green Jacks. She will ask a local sporting goods store to donate a gift certificate as an additional prize.

Member outings & presentations (James)

- James needs help on arranging programs. He lacks contacts, but is happy to serve as Friends Point of Contact if we suggest speakers or content.
- February 10: “Rights of Rivers” movement. Denielle is leading a virtual Rights of River conference on Feb 9 from 9-10 AM, with up to 100 online participants. It will be recorded. We will invite members to attend live or later in the day. We will have an additional live discussion of 30 minutes with our members. Advertisement should highlight that Denielle (major organizer of the national program) will lead our discussion. Denielle and Clarice will develop good publicity fast!.
- Return to indoor meetings. Montoya Center has renewed our reservation for first Thursdays for the coming year.

Treasurer’s report

Bank balance of \$16,469. BuRec Grant expenses are still being worked on. As noted above, we have \$1500 outstanding on a contract with Pocketsights. If our AmeriCorps application is successful, the Friends will have to pay \$2400 over a 40 week period after the grant begins. Rick’s donation will cover up to 40 hours of Kelly’s time on admin duties for the Watershed Plan. Paul donated \$1,000 to cover part of the AmeriCorps stipend.

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: no news to report.

Equity and Inclusion (Paul)

Please always think about how to make our activities more inclusive. We will revisit this at future Board meetings.

Next Meeting: 10 March 2022

Adjourn. 6:31.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting Minutes 10 March 2022

In person at Natural Channel Design, with Zoom link for remote participation

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

Call to order at 5:00

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 2021 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Paul, Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom Bean); planning Members' Meetings (James); maintaining website (Denielle); managing email correspondence (Secretary); managing our finances (Treasurer); Stewards of the Rio (Kathy, Ed, Paul); Water treatment issues (Rick); Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (Kira). The Board point of contact for an effort can send agenda items to the Secretary, preferably by 5 PM Tuesday preceding the Board meeting. In addition, any Board Member can directly amend the agenda on Dropbox at any time.

After a brief discussion, we decided that future Board meetings will start at 5:30

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of 27 January 2022.

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The Minutes are therefore approved by acclamation.

Board Transition

Denielle Perry is stepping off the Board to spend more time with her young children and manage her NAU professor job. She will continue to offer support and share opportunities with students, with Clarice as a conduit for some requests. We thanked her warmly for her service.

James will assume Denielle's webmaster job, assisted by Clarice. They will also push the sign design contest.

Clarice Linskey would like to join the Board. The Board encouraged her to apply. She will send Paul her bio sketch and statement of interest for distribution to the full board. She is now a sophomore, so likely would serve for 2 years.

Treasurer's report

Bank balance ~\$17,000.

Indemnity Insurance has been renewed.

SAM renewal has been accomplished; it was painful.

Workmens comp has been renewed for an additional year, starting March 18, 2022.

We have \$1500 outstanding on a contract with Pocketsights. For the AmeriCorps staffer who will serve as Coordinator for Stream Stewards, the Friends will have to pay \$1,120 (40% of \$2800) for the first 14-week period (~May 26-Aug 31) and then \$2400 (40% of \$6k) over the next 40 week period. Rick's donation will cover up to 40 hours of Kelly's time on admin duties for the Watershed Plan. Paul donated \$1,000 to cover part of the Friends' share of the AmeriCorps stipend.

We have sufficient funds that we can pay SDR \$1900 for work on the final WARF meeting

Finishing the Watershed Plan; creating a permanent Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF): Rick

We have spent all our Bureau of Reclamation money. Kelly has promised that Wild Arizona will cover her labor costs to wrap up the project, but they will not cover administrative costs. Rick made a donation to Friends to cover the admin costs that Wild Arizona will not cover.

Rick may ask some of us to help edit the Final Plan.

Southwest Decision Resources is willing to lead the final Public Meeting that we must have (with City and County participant) in March or April. Cost \$1900. Rick moved, Paul seconded to pay Southwest Decision Resources \$1900 to lead the final public meeting on the Watershed Plan. **Unanimously approved.**

We will not ask the public for comments, because we do not have paid staff time to revise the Plan in response to comments by June 30. But the WARF includes key community interests, and community members have already provided input during the well-attended workshops in 2021.

Adoption by the City Council and County Supervisors will require the WARF and the Friends of the Rio to send spokespersons to those meetings. City Council will hear WARF presentation on the Watershed Plan at a **work session that starts at 3PM on April 26; all Board members should attend this meeting if possible, especially if it is in person.** The Council vote will occur at a later meeting. Sara Dechter need us to provide the following documents by April 12 for the packet for the work session: (1) the draft WARF plan. (2) a summary of public participation. (3) A slide deck that includes preliminary information about a Master Participatory Agreement.

In December, the Board unanimously agreed that the Friends of the Rio de Flag will take necessary steps to become the fiscal sponsor of the WARF. Rick drafted a WARF Charter, and an agreement on fiscal sponsorship and sent it to the Board in December. **Each Board member should review these two documents (appended to these minutes) and send comments to Rick by March 18.**

Rick has a draft of most sections of The Watershed Plan, except for the conclusion chapter that lists the priority projects (the most important section). It is now at 105 pages, and needs to be trimmed. Sharon Masek Lopez, a new staff person in City Stormwater, is helping revise for the next few days.

The summary of public outreach is still to be completed. At the next WARF meeting, the main agenda item will be planning the public outreach meeting. We are not required to have that last public meeting before City council meeting.

City Planner Sara Dechter is drafting an agreement between City of Flagstaff and Friends of the Rio de Flag. That agreement can (with minor tweaks) also be used as a template for agreements between each pair of key partners (Friends of the Rio de Flag, WARF, County, Forest Service).

We intend the WARF to operate independently. This will certainly happen if the City, County, and Friends of the Rio de Flag remain engaged; it would be helpful but perhaps not essential for the Forest Service to remain engaged. Denielle pointed out that Forest Service has more money this year, and more flexibility to spend that money, and much of it will go to local projects. Having FS active in the WARF would probably help WARF projects to be funded. Kelly said that at the last WARF meeting, the participants expressed strong interest in remaining engaged, but Rick is concerned about their level of long term commitment.

Rick may or may not stay on as Friends of the Rio de Flag representative on the WARF after June. The WARF is eligible for future Bureau of Reclamation funding under Phase II, and Rick indicated that another Board member may have to take over his role as our WARF representative in June.

Launching the “Flagstaff Stream Stewards” Program (Kathy, Ed, Paul)

Kathy and Paul, Nicole Antonopolous, and Steven Thompson (new volunteer coordinator with City of Flagstaff) submitted a **successful** application to the AmeriCorps “Environmental Literacy Corps” (ELC) program administered by NAU Center for Service and Volunteerism. AmeriCorps ELC is not the same as AmeriCorps “VISTA,” so let’s get used to “ELC.”

The ELC staffer will serve as Coordinator of the Stream Stewards program. The initial appointment is for a “quarter time” position that covers 450 hours to be completed by August 31. Then we will be awarded a “reduced full-time (long)” position defined as 1200 hours spread over 40 weeks, at 30-32 hours per week. The Friends agreed to cover \$2400 of the \$6400 cost (40%) for the “reduced full time (long)” position before we learned that the award will come as two positions. I assume we also owe the city 40% for the quarter time position; 40% of \$2800 = \$1120, for a total obligation of \$3520.

The City will provide office space for the coordinator. The primary Mentor will be Steven Thompson; the secondary Mentor will be Paul Beier. On March 2, Kathy and Paul met with City

staff (Steve Thompson, Marissa Molloy) and NAU ELC staff (Andrew Facemire (3-2199), Russ(ell) Dickerson (3-40490, and Ramsay Shannon) to discuss details of selection and hiring.

Denielle pointed out that some juniors in Env Sci programs are required to do internship programs (ES408, and other course lines). If the AmeriCorps member is in one of these programs, they can count their summer work for us as hours in the fall internship. This could increase our applicant pool. Programs include Environmental Communication and Sustainability Communities. If we send the announcement to Denielle and Kira, they can circulate to appropriate professors. **Kathy and Paul will share our advertisements for the AmeriCorps position and ask you to broadcast it through your networks.**

We are making progress developing the City website where volunteers sign up to be Stewards, and where Stewards report their activities.

Kathy is making good progress recruiting environmental science teachers in several schools located near adoptable stream channels to give them first chance to adopt that reach. Kinsey School, FALA, and Alpine Academy, Flag Junior Academy

Barb pointed out that the AmeriCorps coordinator can help ensure that Stewards continue the Museum weed project, and Jan Busco's weed project, -after the end of their funding.

Clarice said that entries in the design contest for Stream Steward signs are due Earth Day. After that James will post the entries on our website for members to vote on. We will then select a design in May.

Member outings & presentations (James)

As James transitions to webmaster, a local board member could take over the role of developing Members Meetings. **At the April Board meeting, each board member should suggest at least one person to take over the role of Coordinator of Members Meetings; if you do not volunteer yourself, you should suggest another person. And please talk to that person about their interest in such service.**

Alex Brooks, a remote professional staffer for Lotic Hydrology (based in Carbondale CO) is willing to lead an outdoor event and might be available to lead a members meeting on Thursday May 5. alex@lotichydrological.com; 617.922.7289. He recently earned his PhD in stream hydrology (?), and recently moved to Flagstaff. He spoke with Paul on zoom earlier today.

Earth Day 2022. Saturday, April 23rd from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Bushmaster Park. All vendors and exhibitors must register by 4/1/2022 by clicking [HERE](#). “Outreach should focus on the motto “Show me, don’t tell me” in our shared efforts to provide actionable skills and reduce giveaway items that turn into items that are thrown away later. You are welcome to team up with another organization and develop a joint or related educational activity. This can include sharing booths, collaborating on a project, or simply coordinating with other organizations in your focus area to avoid overlap. Sharing, collaborating or tabling alone are all options. Direct your questions to steven_thompson@flagstaffaz.gov.” Booths are \$45 for businesses, \$25 for non-profits, or \$0 with volunteer or service contribution (for more information reach out to Steven Thompson).

Denielle will send info on an river event on evening of April 20 that we can circulate to our members.

Smartphone Tour

Pocketsights has not completed making “north at top” remain stable. We owe them \$1500 when that task is done.

We can use some of our EPA WaterSmart grant to have Pocketsights make some additional changes (very simple ones, stripping out distracting features – no new features).

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: They are working to bring federal infrastructure dollars.

Equity and Inclusion (Paul)

Please always think about how to make our activities more inclusive. We will revisit this at future Board meetings.

Next Meeting: 5:30 PM April 14.

Adjourn. 6:37

APPENDIX 1

Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag

Working Draft Charter as amended by Rick Miller

December 2021

Background

Friends of the Rio de Flag (Friends) came together around the idea that the Rio de Flag and its watershed is an ephemeral river and riparian corridor connecting the Flagstaff area community through a multitude of environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits. The Friends received a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant to develop a watershed group which became the WARF, and a plan for the watershed including conceptual improvement projects for the Rio de Flag Watershed. The WARF will act as a self-governing organization under the umbrella of its association with Friends of the Rio de Flag.

Purpose of the Watershed Alliance

The Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag promotes watershed health, benefits human and ecological communities, and increases public engagement through the development and implementation of the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan. The Alliance provides value through convening and coordinating dialogue among community members and leaders, government agencies, Indigenous Tribes and Nations, and non-profit organizations. It is a forum and working group for information sharing, education and outreach, planning and policy reform and for encouraging investment in collaborative watershed preservation and restoration/stewardship projects. The WARF harnesses the collective knowledge and networks of community members

working on watershed land and waters preservation, water and flood security, ecosystem preservation, watershed function, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Through these efforts, the Watershed Alliance seeks to ensure protecting many important environmental and public health benefits of green and open space conservation.

The WARF will coordinate partnership efforts to issues related to water supply, water quality, watershed function and ecological integrity, environmental justice, public use, education, awareness and engagement by acting as a hub of information sharing, project planning, collaboration, and identifying funding.

The WARF will pursue implementation of the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan with emphasis on the initial list of priority projects in that plan. The WARF may amend, add to and delete from that plan as becomes appropriate over time. The WARF may partner with other organizations to accomplish its objectives and complete projects.

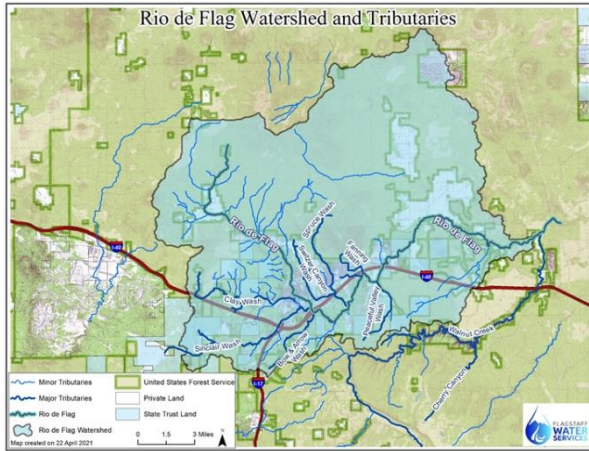
WARF mission statement:

“The Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag promotes watershed health, benefits human and ecological communities, and increases public engagement through the development and implementation of the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan”

Goals

1. Increase integrated cultural, scientific, and historical understanding of the Rio de Flag watershed.
2. Protect and enhance Rio de Flag watershed health to deliver ecosystem services to present and future generations.
3. Benefit human communities in the Rio de Flag watershed
4. Benefit ecological communities of the Rio de Flag watershed
5. Increase public awareness and engagement to strengthen the community’s connection to the Rio de Flag watershed.
6. Create a sustainable funding stream for management of the Rio de Flag watershed.

Geographic Region and Operating Scale



Guiding Principles

As a long-term collaborative effort, the Steering Committee and Working Groups commit to following basic principles of successful collaboration. These include:

- Balance and inclusiveness
- Transparency
- Shared leadership, shared responsibility, shared funding, shared credit
- Outcome orientation and focus on collective impact
- Constructive and active participation
- Consensus-based decision making

Standards of Conduct:

Personal Conduct

- In the spirit of progress and cooperation WARF participants commit to the following standards:
- Treat one another with civility, both within and outside the meeting environment
- Respect each other's perspectives and other points of view
- Refrain from personal attacks on any participants, partners, agency representatives, facilitators
- Be honest in communications among and about one another

Participation

- Prepare for and participate actively in meetings and activities
- Maintain group accountability to the goals, protocols, and standards of conduct
- Focus on the future rather than belaboring issues of the past. Recognize and learn from the past, acknowledge the present, and visualize a successful future
- Focus on practical solutions and implementable outcomes

Alliance Governance

The WARF is a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort open to any individual, organization, or public agency that shares a commitment to the goals and objectives of the WARF.

Steering Committee/Core Team

The Steering Committee (SC) is the WARF's primary guiding body. The SC meets bimonthly to advance the goals of the Coalition, share information, evaluate its work and impact, celebrate its successes, and adapt its approaches to meet changing needs.

- **Purpose:** Provides strategic leadership and decision making for the Alliance, coordination among the partners, and guidance to the working groups. SC members elevate the profile of the WARF and its priorities among their networks.
- **Number of members:** 4 to 6
- **Qualifications/Expertise:** Members areas of essential expertise and experience. Collectively, members provide racial, cultural, gender, socioeconomic, and other forms of balance
- **Terms:**
- **Meeting attendance:**
- **Meeting preparation:**
- **Work between meetings:**
- **Communication:**
- **Decision-making:** Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible. Consensus has been reached when everyone agrees they can accept whatever is proposed after every effort has been made to meet the interests of all participants. If consensus cannot be reached, points of agreement and disagreement will be noted, and SC will work with WARF members to determine how best to proceed.
- **Funding:** SC members lead and/or support fundraising efforts for the Coalition and its priorities. Stipends to support participation?.
- **Recruitment:**
- **Removal of a SC member:** If a member of the Steering Committee is unable or unwilling to follow the guiding principles and/or fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the charter, they may resign from their position and/or be asked to vacate their seat.
- **Group Agreements:**
 - Listen with an open mind (e.g., "What if it's true?").
 - Make space; take space. Also, understand some may have restrictions due to their professional position that limit their ability to participate on certain issues or actions.
 - Respectfully raise differing opinions and accept feedback.
 - Maintain confidentiality - take the lessons, leave the details (e.g., names).
 - Focus on solutions; avoid gossip or finger-pointing.
 - Be present and engaged.
 - Assume best intent; attend to impact.
 - Speak positively about the Coalition to others.
 - Be accountable for Steering Committee member responsibilities. If possible, let facilitators know 2 weeks prior of conflicts so they can reschedule.

Project Implementation Coordination

Funding

- Initial funding to support the development of the Alliance was provided by the BOR WaterSMART program.
- The WARF may pursue grants and other forms of additional funding with the concurrence of the Friends of the Rio Board (As long as the Friends of the Rion remains the sponsoring organization).
- Initially the Friends of the Rio will be responsible for handing and accounting for funding received by the WARF until and unless the WARF and the Friends agree to changes in this relationship.

Communications

One of the primary tasks of the WARF is to communicate with program partners and with the broader public. It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee to ensure consistency in this messaging. Communication with the public may include, but is not limited to:

Amending this Charter

The contents of this document reflect current conditions and context, opportunities, and interests of the partners. The Charter will be reviewed annually and may be modified, as needed, through agreement by the Steering Committee.

Current members of the Steering Committee/Core Team

- a. Representatives of the land owners, managers and water rights holders including the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, the USDA Forest Service.
- b. Representatives of local NGOs, including the Friends of the Rio.
- c. Local interested residents elected by the members of the WARF

Initial Projects

Museum Fire Restoration
 Trash and Weed Removal Watershed Plan and Implementation
 Use of reclaimed water for riparian restoration
 Sinclair Wash connectivity/restoration
 Channel Maintenance Program for the watershed
 Water Rights Research
 Plan for Aesthetic and Riparian Values Along RDF
 Springs Studies
 Springs Restoration in RDF watershed
 Riparian Protection
 Meadows
 Increase Awareness of Springs, Wetlands and Alluvial Plains
 State of the Watershed panel

APPENDIX 2

Draft Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

Yellow highlight = details to be decided at the last minute.

Letter of Understanding between the Friends of the Rio de Flag and the Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF)

This Agreement made this XX th day of January 2022 between the Friends of the Rio de Flag and the WARF.

Purpose of Agreement:

The WARF (WARF) has proposed that the Friends of the Rio de Flag serve as fiscal agent in facilitating the receipt and disbursement of funds associated with improving the environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits of riparian areas in the Rio de Flag Watershed.

The Friends of the Rio de Flag Board of Directors, on January XX, 2022, determined that sponsorship of the WARF projects is consistent with its goals, and wishes to make arrangements for the implementation and operation of watershed improvement projects by the WARF.

1. Friends of the Rio de Flag hereby agrees to serve as fiscal agent and to provide financial management help for purposes of the requirements of funding organizations. WARF shall notify funders of Friends of the Rio de Flag fiscal sponsorship, requesting funding payments be made directly to Friends of the Rio de Flag.
2. WARF activities shall be consistent with the Friends of the Rio de Flag tax-exempt status, and the purpose and goals of the Friends of the Rio de Flag, as described in this agreement, the bylaws of the Friends of the Rio de Flag, and the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan that was produced by WARF in January 2022. No material changes in the purposes or activities shall be made without prior written permission of Friends of the Rio de Flag and in accordance with any requirements imposed by funding organizations, nor shall the WARF carry on activities or use funds in any way that jeopardizes the Friends of the Rio de Flag's tax-exempt status.
3. WARF shall indicate proper credit to the Friends of the Rio de Flag in publicity and communications. Example: The WARF Water Quality Improvement Project is sponsored by fiscal agent Friends of the Rio de Flag with funding provided by (funder's names).
4. WARF will provide Friends of the Rio de Flag with reports describing programs and services of the work in accordance with the following schedule:
 - A project summary and timeline will be provided to Friends of the Rio de Flag before funds are deposited and dispersed for each separate project.
 - By January 15 of each calendar year a report describing WARF activities for the previous year will be provided to Friends of the Rio de Flag for the purposes of the yearly Friends of the Rio de Flag financial audit.
5. WARF will provide all information and prepare all reports, including interim and final reports, required by funding organizations, with Friends of the Rio de Flag's assistance and final approval. Reports will be submitted to Friends of the Rio de Flag for approval at least six weeks prior to the reporting deadline.
6. Friends of the Rio de Flag will disburse funds from the WARF account in the following manner:

Upon receipt of a request for payment that indicates satisfactory completion of work ordered by WARF or expenses approved by the WARF Board, Friends of the Rio de Flag shall disburse funds as requested. Requests for payment shall be accompanied by a WARF Board resolution authorizing payment. Does WARF have a Board?

7. The WARF Board of Directors designates ___ (name) ___ to act as authorizing official. The authorizing official shall act as principal coordinator of WARF's daily business with Friends of the Rio de Flag, and shall have authority to sign disbursement requests. WARF will be responsible for notifying Friends of the Rio de Flag if there is a change in the authorizing official.

8. Friends of the Rio de Flag and WARF will maintain all financial records relating to the watershed improvement work according to generally accepted accounting practices, retain records as long as required by law, and make records available to auditors as required by law.

9. This agreement will be subject to review at the September board meeting of Friends of the Rio de Flag each year. This agreement shall expire four weeks after either the WARF or the Friends of the Rio de Flag has given written notice of its intent to terminate the agreement.

10. In the event this Agreement is terminated, Friends of the Rio de Flag and WARF will comply with any termination conditions imposed by funding organizations. Remaining funds will be transferred to another organization, as designated by WARF Board resolution, for the purpose of improving the environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits of riparian areas in the Rio de Flag Watershed.

11. Friends of the Rio de Flag will charge the WARF an annual fee of 5% of funds (set this at the max rate Bureau of Reclamation will allow on their grants.) handled for the fiscal agent services. If additional project work by Friends of the Rio de Flag staff is requested by WARF, a separate contract and fee from WARF will be required.

Accepted for the Friends of the Rio de Flag:

Board President

_____ Date

For the WARF:

WARF Board President Does WARF have a president?

_____ Date

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting Minutes **14 April 2022**

In person at Natural Channel Design, with Zoom link for remote participation

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Sara Day (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Allen Hayden, Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, Rick Miller, James Major, Ed Schenk. Also attending: Clarice Linskey

Absent: Ed Schenk.

Also attending: Alex Brooks (Lotic Hydrological)

Call to order at 5:32 PM

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 2021 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Paul, Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom Bean); planning Members' Meetings (Alex Brooks); maintaining website and managing email correspondence (James); managing our finances (Treasurer); Stewards of the Rio (Kathy, Ed, Paul); Water treatment issues (Rick); Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (Kira). Any Board member can send agenda items to the Secretary, preferably by 5 PM Tuesday preceding the Board meeting. In addition, any Board Member can directly amend the agenda on Dropbox at any time.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of 10 March 2022.

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The Minutes are therefore approved by acclamation.

Board Transition

Vote whether to ask Clarice Linskey to join the Board. She is now a sophomore, so likely would serve for 2 years. Paul moved, Kathy seconded, unanimously approved. Clarice agreed to serve.

Sara nominated Allen Hayden to serve as Vice President (after Denielle Perry resigned), Paul seconded. Unanimously approved. Allen agreed to serve.

James is doing well as webmaster, and has agreed to monitor email to deflagrio@gmail.com. In this capacity he forwards financial emails to Sara Day (about 5 per week), forwards emails on the Stream Stewards program to Kathy and Paul, forwards WARF emails to Rick, deletes the obvious spam, and similarly forwards other emails. He can then delete the forwarded emails to keep the box tidy.

Treasurer's report

Bank balance ~\$17,000.

We have sufficient funds to cover: (a) \$1250 outstanding on a contract with Pocketsights. (b) Our share of the stipend for the AmeriCorps staffer who will serve as Coordinator for Stream Stewards: \$1,120 (40% of \$2800) for the first 14-week period (~May 26-Aug 31) and then \$2400 (40% of \$6k) over the next 40 week period. (c) \$1900 to Southwest Decision Resources for work on the final WARF public meeting

Finishing the Watershed Plan; creating a permanent Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF): Rick

Kelly said that at the last WARF meeting, the participants expressed strong interest in remaining engaged, but Rick is concerned about their level of long term commitment.

At the City Council work session on April 26, Rick will present the WARF, the WARF charter, and the agreement that the Friends will serve as the 501(c)(3) sponsor. **Every board member should try to attend the April 26 City Council work session. We should each also review the WARF charter and the fiscal agreement (appended to these minutes) and send comments on these documents to Rick ASAP so he can revise these ASAP.**

We should all have read the WARF Plan previously, and we should review it before the meeting. We don't need to worry about editing the Plan, because the City will make some changes, and we can worry about final edits after those changes are drafted.

At the Work Session: Rick will show a 7-minute video, then a powerpoint, Kelly will be present. Rick will make an "ask" for the City to approve the Master Participating Agreement. **Rick will ask Sarah Dechter if it is OK for us to ask the City to "adopt" the plan.**

Rick may or may not stay on as Friends of the Rio de Flag representative on the WARF after June. The WARF is eligible for future Bureau of Reclamation funding under Phase II, and other Board members may have to take over his role as our WARF representative in June. **The Board strongly encourages Rick to emphatically demand individual board members to help, such as when we apply for future grants with Arizona DWR or Bureau of Reclamation. We greatly appreciate Rick's enormous work on WARF for the last 3 years, and we will fully respect his decision to curtail or resign from his lead role on this effort.**

Allen suggested that Matt Storosh, hydrologist & development staffer with Coconino County, is an enthusiastic, sharp person who could play a lead role for the County on WARF.

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

The City has launched the website where volunteers sign up to be Stewards, and where Stewards report their activities. Kathy is making good progress recruiting environmental science teachers in several schools located near adoptable stream channels. FALA and Kinsey have signed up; the sign-up system works. One friend of Kathy adopted a reach as an individual. **Each of us should visit <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/4691/67742/Stream-Stewards?activeLiveTab=widgets> to become familiar with the scheme.** Also please sign up if you feel you can commit to the work.

Clarice has selected finalists for the design contest for Stream Steward signs. She will encourage people who visit our table on Earth Day to vote on the top designs. Paul, Clarice, and Kathy, and (probably) Allen will attend Earth Day 2022, on Saturday, April 23rd from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Bushmaster Park. Paul, Clarice, and Kathy will show up at 10AM to help with setup.

We (Kathy Flaccus and City Volunteer Coordinator Steven Thompson and Sharon Masek Lopez of City Stormwater) have interviewed 3 excellent applicants for the AmeriCorps position that would run the program, with an office in the City building on East Industrial. We made an offer to our top choice on 11 April. She is a person of color. Any of the three would likely be excellent. The selected person will probably start in May.

Member outings & presentations (Alex Brooks)

We warmly welcomed Alex Brooks, a remote professional staffer for Lotic Hydrology (based in Carbondale CO), who has agreed to serve as Members Meeting Coordinator. He recruited Allen and Ed to lead a Spruce Wash members meeting on Thursday May 5 (or a date near that if

it works better for Ed). We provided Alex with several suggestions for speakers and events. Please add Alex phone and email to your address book: 617 922 7289; alex@lotichydrological.com and contact him at any time with suggestions. Richard Holm could lead another geology walk from Museum south. Wayne Ranney could do a winter indoor meeting on various theories on how the Grand Canyon was formed. Several other fine suggestions.

Smartphone Tour

Pocketsights has not completed making “north at top” remain stable. We owe them \$1250 when that task is done.

EPA told us we could use our \$6,000 WaterSmart grant to have Pocketsights make some additional changes (very simple ones, stripping out distracting features – no new features) to our virtual tour. But on 11 April, the EPA subcontractor sent Paul an email that they cannot do this. Paul emailed back and asked them to be nicer. He will try to get them to a zoom talk. We might simply burn this \$6K award if they cannot be reasonable.

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: They have yearly field trips. This year will have 2 trips in fall. When Kira gets details, we will share the info with our members.

Next Meeting: 5:30 PM May 12

Adjourn. 6:58

APPENDIX 1

Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag

Working Draft Charter as amended by Rick Miller

December 2021

Background

Friends of the Rio de Flag (Friends) came together around the idea that the Rio de Flag and its watershed is an ephemeral river and riparian corridor connecting the Flagstaff area community through a multitude of environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits. The Friends received a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant to develop a watershed group which became the WARF, and a plan for the watershed including conceptual improvement projects for the Rio de Flag Watershed. The WARF will act as a self-governing organization under the umbrella of its association with Friends of the Rio de Flag.

Purpose of the Watershed Alliance

The Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag promotes watershed health, benefits human and ecological communities, and increases public engagement through the development and implementation of the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan. The Alliance provides value through convening and coordinating dialogue among community members and leaders, government agencies, Indigenous Tribes and Nations, and non-profit organizations. It is a forum and working group for information sharing, education and outreach, planning and policy reform and for encouraging investment in collaborative watershed preservation and restoration/stewardship projects. The WARF harnesses the collective knowledge and networks of community members working on watershed land and waters preservation, water and flood security, ecosystem preservation, watershed function, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Through these efforts, the Watershed Alliance seeks to ensure protecting many important environmental and public health benefits of green and open space conservation.

The WARF will coordinate partnership efforts to issues related to water supply, water quality, watershed function and ecological integrity, environmental justice, public use, education, awareness and engagement by acting as a hub of information sharing, project planning, collaboration, and identifying funding.

The WARF will pursue implementation of the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan with emphasis on the initial list of priority projects in that plan. The WARF may amend, add to and delete from that plan as becomes appropriate over time. The WARF may partner with other organizations to accomplish its objectives and complete projects.

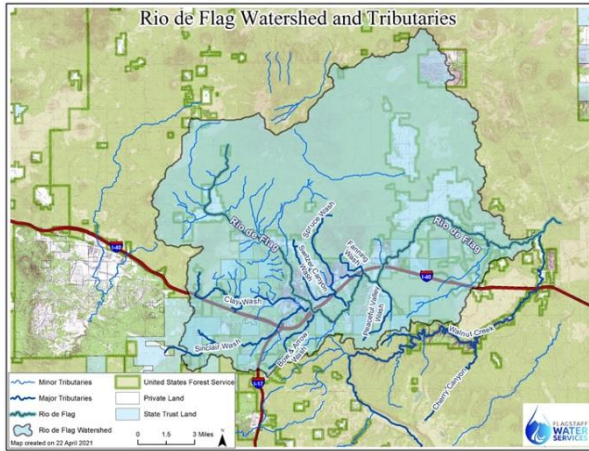
WARF mission statement:

“The Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag promotes watershed health, benefits human and ecological communities, and increases public engagement through the development and implementation of the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan”

Goals

7. Increase integrated cultural, scientific, and historical understanding of the Rio de Flag watershed.
8. Protect and enhance Rio de Flag watershed health to deliver ecosystem services to present and future generations.
9. Benefit human communities in the Rio de Flag watershed
10. Benefit ecological communities of the Rio de Flag watershed
11. Increase public awareness and engagement to strengthen the community’s connection to the Rio de Flag watershed.
12. Create a sustainable funding stream for management of the Rio de Flag watershed.

Geographic Region and Operating Scale



Guiding Principles

As a long-term collaborative effort, the Steering Committee and Working Groups commit to following basic principles of successful collaboration. These include:

- Balance and inclusiveness
- Transparency
- Shared leadership, shared responsibility, shared funding, shared credit
- Outcome orientation and focus on collective impact
- Constructive and active participation
- Consensus-based decision making

Standards of Conduct:

Personal Conduct

- In the spirit of progress and cooperation WARF participants commit to the following standards:
- Treat one another with civility, both within and outside the meeting environment
- Respect each other's perspectives and other points of view
- Refrain from personal attacks on any participants, partners, agency representatives, facilitators
- Be honest in communications among and about one another

Participation

- Prepare for and participate actively in meetings and activities
- Maintain group accountability to the goals, protocols, and standards of conduct
- Focus on the future rather than belaboring issues of the past. Recognize and learn from the past, acknowledge the present, and visualize a successful future
- Focus on practical solutions and implementable outcomes

Alliance Governance

The WARF is a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort open to any individual, organization, or public agency that shares a commitment to the goals and objectives of the WARF.

Steering Committee/Core Team

The Steering Committee (SC) is the WARF's primary guiding body. The SC meets bimonthly to advance the goals of the Coalition, share information, evaluate its work and impact, celebrate its successes, and adapt its approaches to meet changing needs.

- **Purpose:** Provides strategic leadership and decision making for the Alliance, coordination among the partners, and guidance to the working groups. SC members elevate the profile of the WARF and its priorities among their networks.
- **Number of members:** 4 to 6
- **Qualifications/Expertise:** Members areas of essential expertise and experience. Collectively, members provide racial, cultural, gender, socioeconomic, and other forms of balance
- **Terms:**
- **Meeting attendance:**
- **Meeting preparation:**
- **Work between meetings:**
- **Communication:**
- **Decision-making:** Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible. Consensus has been reached when everyone agrees they can accept whatever is proposed after every effort has been made to meet the interests of all participants. If consensus cannot be reached, points of agreement and disagreement will be noted, and SC will work with WARF members to determine how best to proceed.
- **Funding:** SC members lead and/or support fundraising efforts for the Coalition and its priorities. Stipends to support participation?.
- **Recruitment:**
- **Removal of a SC member:** If a member of the Steering Committee is unable or unwilling to follow the guiding principles and/or fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the charter, they may resign from their position and/or be asked to vacate their seat.
- **Group Agreements:**
 - Listen with an open mind (e.g., "What if it's true?").
 - Make space; take space. Also, understand some may have restrictions due to their professional position that limit their ability to participate on certain issues or actions.
 - Respectfully raise differing opinions and accept feedback.
 - Maintain confidentiality - take the lessons, leave the details (e.g., names).
 - Focus on solutions; avoid gossip or finger-pointing.
 - Be present and engaged.
 - Assume best intent; attend to impact.
 - Speak positively about the Coalition to others.
 - Be accountable for Steering Committee member responsibilities. If possible, let facilitators know 2 weeks prior of conflicts so they can reschedule.

Project Implementation Coordination

Funding

- Initial funding to support the development of the Alliance was provided by the BOR WaterSMART program.
- The WARF may pursue grants and other forms of additional funding with the concurrence of the Friends of the Rio Board (As long as the Friends of the Rion remains the sponsoring organization).
- Initially the Friends of the Rio will be responsible for handing and accounting for funding received by the WARF until and unless the WARF and the Friends agree to changes in this relationship.

Communications

One of the primary tasks of the WARF is to communicate with program partners and with the broader public. It is the responsibility of the Steering Committee to ensure consistency in this messaging. Communication with the public may include, but is not limited to:

Amending this Charter

The contents of this document reflect current conditions and context, opportunities, and interests of the partners. The Charter will be reviewed annually and may be modified, as needed, through agreement by the Steering Committee.

Current members of the Steering Committee/Core Team

- Representatives of the land owners, managers and water rights holders including the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, the USDA Forest Service.
- Representatives of local NGOs, including the Friends of the Rio.
- Local interested residents elected by the members of the WARF

Initial Projects

Museum Fire Restoration

Trash and Weed Removal Watershed Plan and Implementation

Use of reclaimed water for riparian restoration

Sinclair Wash connectivity/restoration

Channel Maintenance Program for the watershed

Water Rights Research

Plan for Aesthetic and Riparian Values Along RDF

Springs Studies

Springs Restoration in RDF watershed

Riparian Protection

Meadows

Increase Awareness of Springs, Wetlands and Alluvial Plains

State of the Watershed panel

APPENDIX 2

Draft Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

Yellow highlight = details to be decided at the last minute.

Letter of Understanding between the Friends of the Rio de Flag and the Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF)

This Agreement made this **XX th day of January** 2022 between the Friends of the Rio de Flag and the WARF.

Purpose of Agreement:

The WARF (WARF) has proposed that the Friends of the Rio de Flag serve as fiscal agent in facilitating the receipt and disbursement of funds associated with improving the environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits of riparian areas in the Rio de Flag Watershed.

The Friends of the Rio de Flag Board of Directors, on **January XX**, 2022, determined that sponsorship of the WARF projects is consistent with its goals, and wishes to make arrangements for the implementation and operation of watershed improvement projects by the WARF.

1. Friends of the Rio de Flag hereby agrees to serve as fiscal agent and to provide financial management help for purposes of the requirements of funding organizations. WARF shall notify funders of Friends of the Rio de Flag fiscal sponsorship, requesting funding payments be made directly to Friends of the Rio de Flag.
2. WARF activities shall be consistent with the Friends of the Rio de Flag tax-exempt status, and the purpose and goals of the Friends of the Rio de Flag, as described in this agreement, the bylaws of the Friends of the Rio de Flag, and the Rio de Flag Watershed Plan that was produced by WARF in January 2022. No material changes in the purposes or activities shall be made without prior written permission of Friends of the Rio de Flag and in accordance with any requirements imposed by funding organizations, nor shall the WARF carry on activities or use funds in any way that jeopardizes the Friends of the Rio de Flag's tax-exempt status.
3. WARF shall indicate proper credit to the Friends of the Rio de Flag in publicity and communications. Example: The WARF Water Quality Improvement Project is sponsored by fiscal agent Friends of the Rio de Flag with funding provided by (funder's names).
4. WARF will provide Friends of the Rio de Flag with reports describing programs and services of the work in accordance with the following schedule:
 - A project summary and timeline will be provided to Friends of the Rio de Flag before funds are deposited and dispersed for each separate project.
 - **By January 15** of each calendar year a report describing WARF activities for the previous year will be provided to Friends of the Rio de Flag for the purposes of the yearly Friends of the Rio de Flag financial audit.
5. WARF will provide all information and prepare all reports, including interim and final reports, required by funding organizations, with Friends of the Rio de Flag's assistance and final approval. Reports will be submitted to Friends of the Rio de Flag for approval at least **six** weeks prior to the reporting deadline.
6. Friends of the Rio de Flag will disburse funds from the WARF account in the following manner:

Upon receipt of a request for payment that indicates satisfactory completion of work ordered by WARF or expenses approved by the WARF Board, Friends of the Rio de Flag shall disburse funds as requested. Requests for payment shall be accompanied by a **WARF Board resolution** authorizing payment. **Does WARF have a Board?**

7. The WARF Board of Directors designates ___ (name) ___ to act as authorizing official. The authorizing official shall act as principal coordinator of WARF's daily business with Friends of the Rio de Flag, and shall have authority to sign disbursement requests. WARF will be responsible for notifying Friends of the Rio de Flag if there is a change in the authorizing official.

8. Friends of the Rio de Flag and WARF will maintain all financial records relating to the watershed improvement work according to generally accepted accounting practices, retain records as long as required by law, and make records available to auditors as required by law.

9. This agreement will be subject to review at the September board meeting of Friends of the Rio de Flag each year. This agreement shall expire four weeks after either the WARF or the Friends of the Rio de Flag has given written notice of its intent to terminate the agreement.

10. In the event this Agreement is terminated, Friends of the Rio de Flag and WARF will comply with any termination conditions imposed by funding organizations. Remaining funds will be transferred to another organization, as designated by WARF Board resolution, for the purpose of improving the environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits of riparian areas in the Rio de Flag Watershed.

11. Friends of the Rio de Flag will charge the WARF an annual fee of 5% of funds (set this at the max rate Bureau of Reclamation will allow on their grants.) handled for the fiscal agent services. If additional project work by Friends of the Rio de Flag staff is requested by WARF, a separate contract and fee from WARF will be required.

Accepted for the Friends of the Rio de Flag:

Board President

_____ Date

For the WARF:

WARF Board President Does WARF have a president?

_____ Date

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting Minutes **12 May 2022**

In person at Natural Channel Design, 2900 N West St FLG
(and on Zoom)

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Sara Day (Treasurer), Paul Beier (Secretary), Allen Hayden (Vice President), Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, Rick Miller, James Major, Ed Schenk, Clarice Linskey. All present in person or online except Ed Schenk & Clarice Linskey
Regular invitees: Sanoma Boynton, Alex Brooks (not present at this meeting)

Call to order at 5:42 PM

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 2021 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Paul, Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom Bean); planning Members' Meetings (Alex Brooks); maintaining website and managing email correspondence (James); managing our finances (Treasurer); Stewards of the Rio (Kathy, Ed, Paul); Water treatment issues (Rick); Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (Kira). Any Board member can send agenda items to the Secretary, preferably by 5 PM Tuesday preceding the Board meeting. In addition, any Board Member can directly amend the agenda on Dropbox at any time.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of 14 April 2022.

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The Minutes are therefore approved by acclamation.

Earth Day event in Bushmaster Park, April 23, 2022

The Earth Day event was attended by hundreds of people, and our table (featuring the Stream Stewards program) was well attended. Sara, Kathy, Clarice, and Paul staffed our table. About 10 people signed up to be members of the Friends.

Opportunity to appear on Radio Sunnyside

Radio Sunnyside broadcasts in a limited area at 101.5 FM, and streams on the internet at <https://radiosunnyside.org/>. We should each get familiar with the programming, and (assuming it has good local programming) we should talk up the best programming to our friends and neighbors. Talyne Corlyn of Radio Sunnyside (audaciousovaries@gmail.com) has offered to mention our Members Meetings on the station; James can send her that info about a week ahead of time. Talyne does a Monday "Learn, Know, and Grow" program – each is an interview of a local person – and she invited a spokesperson from Friends of the Rio de Flag to be the interviewee on or after May 30. On May 13, Paul will email talyne and Sanoma to suggest that Sanoma present on Rio Stewards program in June. Rick will contact her to talk about the WARF and Watershed Plan in July.

Use of reclaimed water to recharge aquifer, provide amenity flows, and maintain water-loving plants and animals in Sinclair Wash east of Lone Tree after the Army Corps project dewater that reach.

Please see the City proposal that the Water Commission will consider on May 19 ("city reclaimed water proposal May 2022.pdf" – attached to the email with this agenda). Paul and Rick would like the Board to formally support this proposal when the Water Commission reviews it on May 19. City Water Services is proposing releases into Sinclair Wash and Bow & Arrow Wash as a way to recharge the C-aquifer 1-3 miles "upstream" from 6 City wells that provide some of our municipal water. The releases are "upstream" from the wells because the C-

aquifer flows NE from these 2 washes. The water levels in some of the City's wells have been dropping 10 ft/yr for 10-20 years. Eventually this might lead to expensive new wells, importation (Red Gap Ranch), and loss of natural springs. One partial solution is to recharge the aquifer. Today Flagstaff releases about 4 million gallons per day of reclaimed water, but sadly it is not doing much to recharge our aquifer. At today's meeting, the board unanimously approved (with Allen Hayden abstaining) having Paul and Rick submit a statement of support that embodies the ideas in these two paragraphs:

The Friends of the Rio de Flag support releases of reclaimed water into Sinclair Wash and Bow and Arrow Wash just west of Lone Tree Road. We especially approve releases into Sinclair Wash because the 1.25 mile of the Sinclair Wash downstream of the discharge point is arguably the most beautiful and most natural stream reach in the City of Flagstaff, and runs alongside a heavily-used section of the FUTS for the entire distance. Regular flow of reclaimed water will improve the amenity value of this area, including many moisture-loving plants and birds that occur almost nowhere else in town, and which will suffer from the loss of water flows once the Army Corps of Engineers puts the Rio de Flag into a concrete box for 2 miles. In this gorgeous canyon one can find cottonwoods, maples, willows, Arizona honeysuckle, red desert columbine, wild hops, lazuli buntings, yellow warblers, blue grosbeaks, gray catbirds –and an occasional Wilson's phalarope and American dipper. And this fabulous amenity is part of the underserved community of Southside, immediately adjacent to Brannen Homes, the City's largest low-income housing project. Unlike Pine Canyon, this is an amenity for all Flagstaff citizens. Every inch of this 1.25 miles of stream is publicly owned from the stream bottom to the top of the canyon rim.

Some good citizens are concerned that such releases may allow Compounds of Emerging Concern (CEC) into the aquifer from which we draw City water. However, the City has been releasing reclaimed water into the C-aquifer upstream from 5 City wells for over 20 years, with no evidence of CECs above a few parts per billion. This is one thousand times smaller than levels of concern (which are in parts per million). These rare detections of minuscule levels may have been caused by contamination during the collection process (e.g., a pipette that someone accidentally breathed on). We strongly support more frequent monitoring of CECs in all City wells, and aggressive City planning for more advanced treatment, because our current discharges are indeed reaching the C-aquifer used by Flagstaff and communities and tribal lands northeast of Flagstaff, including Red Gap Ranch. Prohibiting the proposed releases would NOT keep CECs out of the C-aquifers from which drinking water is pumped, and could increase the risk of CEC's to other communities to the northeast. By moving the release site 1.25 miles further west than the current I-40 release site with respect to these 5 city wells, we would have another 1.25 miles of soil filtration. Because the new release sites are highly accessible to Flagstaff citizens and have FUTS trails alongside them, these above-ground flows (with appropriate signage) will greatly increase public awareness of our aquifer and water system. In the long run, such knowledge will greatly increase public support for advanced treatment of our reclaimed water. Thus it will advance the agenda of reducing levels of CECs in the aquifer used by Flagstaff and surrounding communities.

Treasurer's report

Sara filed our 990 has on time.

We have \$1250 outstanding on a contract with Pocketsights. For the AmeriCorps staffer who will serve as Coordinator for Stream Stewards, the Friends will have to pay \$1,120 (40% of \$2800) for the first 14-week period (~May 26-Aug 31) and then \$2400 (40% of \$6k) over the next 40 week period. We have about \$10K available after debts, so our finances are OK.

We have sufficient funds that we can pay SDR \$1900 for work on the final WARF meeting. Our \$6000 Grant from EPA can only be spent at Eastern Research Group which designs printed material, logos, and PR material. We had hoped to use it for our Pocketsights virtual tour of the Rio, but that is not possible. The Board decided we should ask EPA and ERG to print bandannas using the design we have already created, and (if funding is sufficient) a popup tent for events. Kira has volunteered to be our Point of Contact with EPA's Abu Moulta-Ali (moulta-ali.abu@epa.gov, cell 917 609 9373, office 202 566 1068) and Kira ("keera") Kondis at ERG (Kyra.Kondis@erg.com, 919-279-5328), with Paul assisting as needed.

Finishing the Watershed Plan; creating a permanent Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF): Rick

Kelly said that at the last WARF meeting, the participants expressed strong interest in remaining engaged, but Rick is concerned about their level of long term commitment.

Rick may or may not stay on as Friends of the Rio de Flag representative on the WARF after June. The WARF is eligible for future Bureau of Reclamation funding under Phase II, and Rick indicated that another Board member may have to take over his role as our WARF representative in June.

Rick: It is hard to schedule another WARF meeting, but they hope to have one within 2 weeks to get formal approval. We must submit final Report to Bureau of Reclamation by June 30. 4 docs: The Plan, Agreement for us to be fiscal sponsor, WARF Charter, and a Master Participation Agreement for partners.

The Final public meeting on the WARF, led by SDR will be 6:00PM Thursday, May 19, via zoom. Paul will push the invite to your calendar.

City Council work session on April 26. Rick led a presentation on the WARF. He started with our 6-minute video. Several Board members attended. Rick asked the City to approve the Master Participating Agreement and "adopt" the plan (Rick will ask Sarah Dechter what that means, or if a different term is needed). Rick Miller did not read his presentation, but spoke directly to the council. The video and powerpoint were perfect. City Council expressed amazing and enthusiastic support.

- Austin Aslan volunteered to be Council liaison to WARF. Aslan and 2 other council members expressed strong support for release of reclaimed water for amenity flows.
- Aslan also stated that the developer of the 6 huge apartment towers currently being constructed east of Sawmill Road informally offered to help support restoration and enhancement the adjacent reach of Sinclair Wash

- Jim McCarthy strongly supports restoration, enhancement, and protection of the Rio. Strongly supports the City joining the WARF. He waxed poetic, calling the Rio “a ribbon of life.”
- Becky Daggett is very excited about this.
- Regina Salas said “sign me up as a member of Friends of the Rio de Flag”. She wants the City to be an engaged partner and wants to provide funding from the City.
- Mayor Deasy said the City should partner on the WARF, and he looks forward to collaborating.

Launching the “Flagstaff Stream Stewards” Program (Kathy, Ed, Paul)

Kathy Flaccus, City Volunteer Coordinator Steven Thompson, and Sharon Masek Lopez of City Stormwater interviewed 3 excellent applicants for the AmeriCorps position that would run the program, with an office in the City building on East Industrial. Sanoma Boynton accepted the position. (928) 814-2426 and Sab622@nau.edu. She will be in Hawaii June 23-July 4 2022. She will start May 15. Exciting things will happen fast!

We are making progress developing the City website where volunteers sign up to be Stewards, and where Stewards report their activities.

Kathy is making good progress recruiting environmental science teachers in several schools located near adoptable stream channels. FALA and Kinsey have signed up. Not clear if the sign-up system works. We have asked Sharon Masek Lopez to get it fixed.

Clarice: design contest for Stream Steward signs. She has received hi-resolution images from only 5 of the finalists, will push the others to submit files so that voting will happen soon.

Mayoral candidate forum at CCC

FFF and Northern Arizona Interfaith Council are sponsoring a forum for candidates for Mayor of Flagstaff probably on the evening of Wednesday June 22, and probably at Coconino Community College. Paul has offered that Friends of the Rio de Flag will have a table there, at which we can promote our Stream Steward program. We ask Sanoma to staff our table at that time. The Friends table banner, watershed map, and other “tabling materials” are stored in a metal cage in the basement of NCD, in a chest-high metal cage. The main materials are in a plastic box clearly labeled “Tabling” and the large fold-out map is in the same cage.

We may have to pay \$25 or \$50 for the table space.

Member outings & presentations (Alex Brooks)

Alex Brooks, a remote professional staffer for Lotic Hydrology (based in Carbondale CO) is our new Members Meeting Coordinator. He recruited Allen to lead a members outing on lower Spruce Wash (near Humane Society and lower Fourth St) on Thursday May 5.

Contact Alex at 617 922 7289 or alex@lotichydrological.com with suggestions. Richard Holm could lead another geology walk from Museum south.

Alex asks for suggestions for June. Paul will email to suggest Dick Holm and Larry Stevens.

Smartphone Tour

Pocketsights has not completed making “north at top” remain stable. We owe them \$1250 when that task is done.

EPA told us we could use our \$6,000 WaterSmart grant to have Pocketsights make some additional changes (very simple ones, stripping out distracting features – no new features) to our virtual tour. But on 11 April, the EPA subcontractor sent Paul an email that they cannot do this. Paul emailed and phoned but got nowhere. Paul plans to investigate whether an NAU student could create a smartphone tour on google maps. How hard can that be? Paul will ask Denielle Perry if this is feasible, and who might do it. Paul may also talk with Pocketsights about a small-budget fix.

Other

City plans several volunteer clean up days, could have Marissa Malloy or Stephen Thompson from Community Stewards provide an update to FoRio if we want to coordinate.

Ed says Allen's alluvial fan restoration work is going great in the upstream segments of Spruce Wash.

James gave updates on website.

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: CPWAC would like us to give a presentation on the Watershed Plan and WARF. **Rick agreed to coordinate with Kira to arrange this.**

Next Meeting: tentatively planned for 5:30 PM June 9. Kira will miss June and July meetings.

Adjourn. 7:02

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting Minutes 16 June 2022

In person at Natural Channel Design, 2900 N West St FLG
Typically we meet at 5:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Paul Beier (Secretary), Allen Hayden (Vice President), Rick Miller, James Major, Clarice Linskey.

Also attending: Sanoma Boynton, Alex Brooks

Absent: Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, Sara Day (Treasurer), Ed Schenk,

Call to order at 5:38

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 2021 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Paul, Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom Bean); planning

Members' Meetings (Alex Brooks); maintaining website and managing email correspondence (James); managing our finances (Treasurer); Stewards of the Rio (Kathy, Ed, Paul); Water treatment issues (Rick); Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (Kira). Any Board member can send agenda items to the Secretary, preferably by 5 PM Tuesday preceding the Board meeting. In addition, any Board Member can directly amend the agenda on Dropbox at any time.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of 12 May 2022.

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The Minutes are therefore approved by acclamation.

Radio Sunnyside

Sanoma will be interviewed on KSZN (Radio Sunnyside) from 6:30-7:00pm on Monday July 25. We should try to tune in and listen.

Paul's notes on how to access KSZN

Android PHONE: It takes about 5 minutes to use your phone browser to go to KSZN and (a) download the VLC app, (b) go back to the browser to copy the URL to your clipboard, (c) Open "streams" in VLC and paste <http://208.113.128.99:8000/stream> into the box. (d) press Play. After listening, you may need to shut down and reboot your phone to stop VLC from running in the background, possibly using battery power.

Windows PC: The obvious choice (going to KSZN website and hitting the Play button) does not work! Instead paste <http://208.113.128.99:8000/stream> into the PC's browser. You can "bookmark" the URL so that the PC can get there again in 2 clicks.

Apple users: Give yourself at least 5 minutes.

Rick will contact talyne at KSZN to talk about the WARF and Watershed Plan in August or later.

City effort to use reclaimed water to recharge aquifer and provide amenity flows in Sinclair Wash

Erin Young at City Water submitted an application to Bureau of Reclamation on June 15. The applications included strong letters of support from us and from AGFD.

Flagstaff Water Group wants to talk with us about this project. We may invite them to a future Board meeting.

Treasurer's report

Sara is away on vacation. Paul's notes here should be considered approximations of fiscal reality. We have about \$10K available after debts, so our finances are OK.

Our \$6000 Grant from EPA has proved entirely worthless. EPA will not use the money to create our Pocketsights app, or print bandannas. Paul has given up, and plans no further communication with EPA. If they call, Paul will politely say "no thanks. Please either drop this award or restructure it entirely." If the Board wants to pursue another course of action, please discuss and decide at this meeting. Otherwise, this will be dropped from future Agendas.

We have \$1250 outstanding on our \$2500 contract with Pocketsights. They never completed the work in the contract, so we can probably retain this last \$1250.

Finishing the Watershed Plan; creating a permanent Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF): Rick

The Final public meeting on the WARF, led by SDR, was held on Thursday, May 19, via zoom. We must submit final Report to Bureau of Reclamation by June 30. The report will include The Plan, Agreement for us to be fiscal sponsor, WARF Charter, and a Master Participation Agreement for partners. This will happen on time. Rick feels good about the report.

Kelly said that at the last WARF meeting, the participants expressed strong interest in remaining engaged, but Rick is concerned about their level of long term commitment. A meeting is scheduled for next week. FS, County, and City staff are all swamped with fire and flood work for the next few months. At this point, Rick's priority is to get the key parties to sign on be part of the WARF. This can take a few months. County hydrologist just left, so it may be a while before they are ready to join.

Rick may or may not stay on as Friends of the Rio de Flag representative on the WARF after June. The WARF is eligible for future Bureau of Reclamation funding under Phase II, and Rick indicated that another Board member may have to take over his role as our WARF representative in June.

Launching the "Flagstaff Stream Stewards" Program

AmeriCorps staffer Sanoma Boynton accepted the position and started on May 15. (928) 814-2426, Sab622@nau.edu. She will be in Hawaii June 23-July 4 2022. At tonite's meeting, Sanoma reported that the City website now allows volunteers to sign up to be Stewards, and Stewards to report their activities. We have suggested substantial changes to the online reporting form. Sanoma tabled at the Wednesday downtown market. 25 persons engaged. We will have a Stewards table (not always staffed by Sanoma) every 3rd week.

Sanoma is starting to organize some community cleanups events starting in July, and brainstorming how to get more stream stewards to sign up.

She is also starting to put together the "walk through time" – a day long event where the Flagstaff community gets together for various workshop activities (walk with a camel, basket weaving, make toothpaste from native plant species...). Sanoma wants an event where people stop at different points along the Rio and talk about the history, what is presently happening, and what the future will bring at that location. Sylvia Struss from Open Spaces will help with this event.

Clarice: design contest for Stream Steward signs. She has received hi-resolution images from 5 finalists, and will coordinate w James on voting ASAP.

Mayoral candidate forum at CCC

FFF and Northern Arizona Interfaith Council are sponsoring a forum for candidates for Mayor of Flagstaff probably on the evening of Wednesday June 22, at Coconino Community College.

Paul will staff the Friends of the Rio de Flag table there, at which we can promote our Stream Steward program. We paid \$35 for the table space.

Member outings & presentations (Alex Brooks)

Alex Brooks, a remote professional staffer for Lotic Hydrology (based in Carbondale CO) is our new Members Meeting Coordinator. Contact Alex at 617 922 7289 or alex@lotichydrological.com with suggestions.

July 7, Tuesday 5:30: [Gwendolyn Waring](#). Natural History of Rio de Flag and San Francisco Peaks. Likely meeting place is Northern Arizona Museum - walk down trail. Need to confirm

Aug 6 (Sat), half-day: [Richard Hereford](#): Climate Change and Mormon Lake. Likely meet at Mormon Lake overlook. Need to confirm.

September: perhaps Paul will lead a smartphone tour of the Rio on ArcGIS Story Maps.

October: Kristin Wolfe, or another representative of Arizona Water Futures /Sustainable Water Network. Talk about their statewide efforts on river/water policy. May be either over zoom or in person (depends on who is presenting).

November: Perhaps Rick will lead talk on WARF at an indoors members meeting.

Later this winter: Stefan Sommer: future of climate refugees (people) in Arizona or other in-person talk on climate change in Arizona.

Smartphone Tour

Pocketsights has not completed making “north at top” remain stable. We would owe them \$1250 when that task is done. But perhaps we will keep those remaining funds and drop the contract?

Paul has paid ESRI \$100 for a 1-year professional subscription to ArcGIS with the intention of developing an ArcGIS “Story Map” that can work on PCs, ipads, and smartphones. It will probably take Paul 10-15 hours to master – nay, become moderately competent with – the software and create the framework for our app. I will ask for reimbursement only if I succeed.

Other

City plans several volunteer clean up days, could have Marissa Malloy or Stephen Thompson from Community Stewards provide an update to FoRio if we want to coordinate.

James has updated our website to include a Link to Radio Sunnyside, and a Link to City sign-up for Stream Stewards.

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: CPWAC would like us to give a presentation on the Watershed Plan and WARF. **Rick agreed to coordinate with Kira to arrange this.**

Next Meeting: The Board voted to give itself a holiday and have NO MEETING in July. Our August meeting is tentatively set for August 18 2022.

Info item/future agenda items:

Allen says there is a tiny spring NE side of Elm St & Bonito intersection that puts < 1 liter/minute into the Rio channel. The ACE project would divert this into the buried box. A better alternative would be to pump it up and into the new above-ground Rio channel so that the flow can support ¼ acre of wetlands. The Army Corps will not pay for this, but could modify the design to allow it to be done by others. City Capital Improvements has not shown interest in paying for this. The Friends can be key to making it happen at some future point. In June Paul will start a term as a member of the City's Sustainability Commission.

Adjourn. 7:49.

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting Minutes 18 August 2022

In person at Natural Channel Design, 2900 N West St FLG

Zoom: <https://nau.zoom.us/j/81159914294?pwd=eUUyMTRUbUhXQWFTb080MVIHYUlaQT09>. Meeting ID: 811 5991 4294. Password: 206267 (Remove this link from Final minutes)

Typically we meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Board members: Kathy Flaccus (President), Paul Beier (Secretary), Allen Hayden (Vice President), Sara Day (Treasurer), Barbara Phillips, Kira Russo, Rick Miller, James Major, Ed Schenk, Clarice Linskey. All present (Kathy, Ed, James, Barb on Zoom)

Regular invitees: Sanoma Boynton (present)

Not participating in tonight's meeting: Alex Brooks

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 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Paul, Barb); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul & Tom Bean); planning Members' Meetings (Alex Brooks); maintaining website and managing email correspondence (James); managing our finances (Sara); Stewards of the Rio (Kathy, Ed, Paul); Water treatment issues (Rick); Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (Kira). Any Board member can send agenda items to the Secretary, preferably by 5 PM two days before the Board meeting.

Call to order at 5:40 by Allen.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of 16 June 2022.

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The Minutes are therefore approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's report

We have about \$22K total in the bank, so our finances are OK. In July, Lauren Vanier (no address or other information) made a \$5000 donation with a directive to put it to “best use.” We can consider this as our payment to the City for our third of Sanoma’s stipend. Paul thinks he remembers being told by Steven Thompson of City Sustainability that the City covered 100% of Sanoma’s stipend for her 2 months in the last fiscal year. We owe Southwest Decision Resources \$1900 for work on the final WARF meeting (we have not been invoiced yet).

We can delete the \$1250 remaining on our \$2500 contract with Pocketsights about 18 months ago. They never completed the work in the contract, so we can forget it.

Rick Moore (retired from GCT, now at N. Arizona Audubon, 928 607 8875; rmooreflag@gmail.com) reached out Tom Bean today. A foundation created by one Dina Greenwood makes donations to benefit wild birds. Ms Greenwood died a few years ago, and now her husband Randy is closing out the Greenwood Fund. He wants to give a local group \$7K for habitat restoration that includes a clear benefit to birds; the \$7K must cover all or most of the project cost. At our meeting we came up with several ideas, listed here in order of our priority.

- Direct the money to City Stormwater to add bird-friendly plants to the re-seeding mix (now 100% grass seed) in one or both of two areas being modified to manage post-fire flows, namely (1) Spruce Ave Wash below Butler Ave, and (2) 16 acres at the Y of Schultz Creek where the City is building 3 detention basins (the upstream basin will collect mud, but the next two could be moist marshes, wetlands, or grasslands). The City will finish initial sowing of grass seed within 3 weeks, but augmenting the seed mix can be done later. \$7,000 can buy a lot of seed. We prefer this idea because it can happen fast, is low cost, and can benefit birds that use non-grass plants.
- Alternatively, the City could use the \$7K to create bird-watching benches, canopy for birdwatchers, at one of several locations, including the I-40 wetlands, Picture Canyon, the new wet/moist areas at the Schultz Y and Spruce Ave Wash below Butler. In some areas, add a graded parking area for bird-viewer access.
- Direct the money to the City’s project to release reclaimed water to create near-perennial flow in 1-mile of Sinclair Wash within City Open Space. Erin Young submitted a proposal to Bureau of Reclamation in mid-June, and is optimistic. Many small projects such as stabilizing cut banks, planting bird-friendly water-loving plants, replacing the FUTS culvert with a ped-bike bridge, could piggyback onto this. Risk: The Bureau of Reclamation funding may not come through.
- Pumping water from the tiny seep near the Rio near Elm& Bonito across a street and into the artificial Rio channel that will be built above the Army Corps buried culvert in 2-3 years (see June minutes). Risks: it might not happen for a few years. Given that a pipe must go under a road, it might cost more than \$7K.
- Nest boxes in Sinclair Wash wetlands near I-40. Cost probably < \$7K. Risk: Do nest boxes qualify as “restoration”?
- Dredging the cattail marsh in the Sinclair Wash wetlands. Ed Schenk advised that the project MUST not interfere with the main channel flow of the Rio below the Army Corps project. We can probably demonstrate that it does not interfere with flow, but that could take time. Cost < \$7K?
- The perennial pond on City parcel south of I-40, ¼ mi east of where the Rio crosses under I-40. This is used by ducks, herons, and other birds. Eventually fish could be stocked, which would benefit herons, raptors, and other birds. Or slopes and vegetation could be enhanced. But we have no plan, and it must have a discrete \$7K component.

Paul conveyed these notes to Rick Moore right after our Board meeting.

Invite Flagstaff Water Group to discuss use of reclaimed water to recharge aquifer and provide amenity flows in Sinclair Wash

After our meeting, Paul emailed Bryan Bates of FWG to invite FWG to lead a half-hour discussion at our October 8 Board meeting.

Finishing the Watershed Plan; creating a permanent Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF): Rick

Rick is now our main point of contact with Bureau of Reclamation. The final report, including The Plan, Agreement for us to be fiscal sponsor, WARF Charter, and a Master Participation Agreement for partners, and a final financial report, has been submitted to Bureau of Reclamation since our June meeting. The WARF has yet to meet since the submission, partly because post-fire flooding has swamped FS, County, and City staff and the County hydrologist job became vacant in June 2022. A WARF meeting may happen in September

For the indefinite future (“forever”) our meetings will have an agenda item: how to tap into BuRec funding programs that are eligible to the Friends as a result of completing the Watershed Plan. Erin Young is well plugged in to Bureau of Reclamation funding. We should invite her occasionally. Kira says recent Bureau emphasis has been on drought-related projects.

Launching the “Flagstaff Stream Stewards” Program

Sanoma Boynton started May 15. (928) 814-2426, Sab622@nau.edu. We now have 12 stewards. She is working with City GIS and tech staff to upgrade the City’s website for signup and reporting. Walk Through Time last weekend had 30 people, including some knowledgeable about local history. Sanoma also led an invasive plant workshop at Foxglenn Park, with Barb Phillips assisting; it also had about 30 attendees.

Clarice: contest among 3 candidate graphics for Stream Steward signs. Voting began about 2 days ago, will be open for a week. She is working with Sanoma, Ed Schenk and others to modify the design as needed to make signs.

We missed the deadline to put an event in Flag Festival of Science and Science in the Park in September. We might be able to use the table-booth that Sustainability Office has reserved.

Member outings & presentations (Alex Brooks, 617 922 7289. alex@lotichydrological.com)

July 7: Gwen Waring, Natural History of Hidden Hollow. About 12 attendees enjoyed the walk to this rarely-visited tributary, which has some rare plants and markers showing where Beale Wagon Road passed.

For Aug 6 (Saturday, half day), Richard Hereford planned to lead a tour at Mormon Lake to talk about climate change and the Lake. Richard canceled, indicating he might shift it to September, but Alex just learned that will not happen. However, it could happen in October.

Future options: Rick Miller on WARF (indoors in Nov). Paul on the new smartphone tour of the Rio (when it is ready). Stefan Sommer: future of climate refugees (people) in Arizona

AZ Sustainable Water Network - Kristen Wolfe has confirmed that she (or another rep) of Arizona Sustainable Water Network can give a talk on either our October or November Thursday evening members meeting time. I'm waiting on confirmation on which date works best and this meeting may be on Zoom.

At today's meeting, Clarice offered to lead a talk on oystershell scale and other pathogens on native trees on October 6. She will pick a site and will ask Tom Kolb to assist. Clarice and Alex should coordinate.

Smartphone Tour

Paul is working on this. Nothing to report today.

Next Meeting: Thurs Sep 8, 5:30PM at NCD with zoom link. Flagstaff Water Group has been invited. **AGENDA ITEM:** **Slate of officers for 2023**, for vote at the January Members meeting.

Adjourn. 6:44

Friends of the Rio de Flag Board Meeting Minutes 13 October 2022

In person at Natural Channel Design, 2900 N West St FLG
With Zoom option
Typically we meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Board members present: Kathy Flaccus (President), Paul Beier (Secretary), Allen Hayden (Vice President), Kira Russo, Rick Miller, James Major, Ed Schenk.

Board members absent: Clarice Linskey. Sara Day (Treasurer), Barbara Phillips.

Regular invitees: Sanoma Boynton (present).

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 (all); prioritizing use of the City's reclaimed water (Paul); City's pending JW Powell Blvd Specific Plan covering 2 miles of the Rio de Flag (Paul); Rio walking tour app for smartphones (Paul); planning Members' Meetings (Kira); maintaining website and managing email correspondence (James); managing our finances (Sara); Stewards of the Rio (Paul); Water treatment issues (Rick); Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (Kira). Any Board member can send agenda items to the Secretary, preferably by 5 PM two days before the Board meeting.

Call to order at 5:34.

Approval of the minutes of Board meetings of 18 August 2022 (there was no September meeting)

Nobody emailed the Secretary with corrections before the meeting. The Minutes are therefore approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's report

We have \$22,439.01 in the bank with one outstanding check for \$1600 (AmeriCorps payment) for a balance of \$20,839.01. All is well.

Member outings & presentations

Alex Brooks is moving to Durango and is stepping down as coordinator for our Members' meetings (first Thursday of each month). Kira Russo volunteered to assume this role. One of Kira's first tasks will be to confirm that we can still use Montoya Center on those evenings during cold weather.

October 6: Kristin Waring and Rich Hofstetter event on oystershell scale and pine bark beetles was attended by about 20 people.

Nov 3: Kristen Wolfe or another rep from *AZ Sustainable Water Network* will give virtual presentation in November. Alex Brooks will coordinate the meeting, and will perhaps serve as moderator.

Current plans for later dates:

- December 1: Rick Miller on Watershed Plan and WARF (Montoya Center).
- January: Annual potluck in Montoya Center. Paul can introduce new smartphone tour.
- February: Sanoma on stream stewards program

Possibilities further out:

- Jessica Simmons, Coconino County Urban Wildlife Planner. 928-679-8008, jsimmons@coconino.az.gov
- Sheila Murray (the Arb) and Barb Phillips: Museum Fire restoration project.
- Stefan Sommer: future of climate refugees (people) in Arizona.
- Paul suggests Con Slobodchikoff, Randy Bangert, Bianca Perla, or Jennifer Verdolin on Gunnison prairie dogs. They studied prairie dog vocalizations in Rio floodplain for 20 years, wrote an excellent book on that topic. Some may still live locally.

Stream Stewards Program



Sanoma Boynton started May 15, 2022. (928) 814-2426, Sab622@nau.edu. We now have 15 stewards covering 16 sections, 3 new ones since last month.

Sonoma is in contact with project WET and Willow Bend to develop interactive displays to use at public events to recruit stewards and describe the program to the public.

In September this design won the member's vote for artwork to be used on Stream Steward signs. Ed said he would start to plan how the City will incorporate this design into signs recognizing stewards of individual reaches.

We are all encouraged to participate in Make a Difference Day on Cheshire wash of the Rio. Meet at Cheshire Park, 3000 N Fremont Blvd, 10am-2pm, on Saturday Oct 22.

Smartphone Tour

Paul used ArcGIS OnLine (AGOL) to make a smartphone tour with features that we did not have before: (a) The Point of Interest (POI) marker does not gray out after the user has visited it, and the user is free to roam without being directed to a “next” point, (b) Each PoI is an unnumbered pin, which when clicked leads to a paragraph and 2-6 photos. (c) Each wash is a thin blue line that the user can click to learn the name of the wash. (d) We can post >> 100 PoIs. (e) The app takes no space on the user’s phone (all the content is online). (f) North stays at top. (g) The user can click a re-center button to focus on what is nearby, but can also move anywhere on the map to view PoI’s miles away. As the user zooms in and out, the scale bar changes appropriately. (h) the Basemap is Satellite view with street names. (i) When the user exits a POI popup, they return to the last map view the user saw before clicking the Marker (the user is not popped out to the 20x20 mile “global view”). It has great photos by Tom Bean. Click this link on your smartphone: <https://arcg.is/SyfyC0>.

For an initial (perhaps not final) rollout, Webmaster James will create a prominent box on our home page that looks like a smartphone app screen and says something like “Download and open the virtual tour of the Rio de Flag in one click!”... when they click, they are “in the app”. They don’t need any App on their phone... if they want to use it anytime (like when they are walking along a wash), they simply use their phone’s browser to go to our website and click once. Advantages of this rollout are that users come to our website every time they want to use it. That connects more locals to Friends of the Rio de Flag. James will decide when to do this rollout, and how to advertise it. James, can we count the clicks to tally how many times people use the app?

Eventually we may want to use a smartphoneApp builder to create an “App” that we can put on the android Play Store and the Apple App Store. This would take a few hours of work, and would probably include annual fees to keep the “App” live and commercial-free. We use “” around “App” because truly it is just a URL link. The Tour does not actually reside on the user’s phone. One potential downside is that the app requires access to cell tower to download content. Cell coverage is probably broad enough that this is not a problem.

To create new PoIs, Paul’s priority reaches are Picture Canyon (Robert Wallace to help), Frances Short Pond to Southside, Spruce Wash & Schultz Creek (Allen Hayden and Ed Schenk, volunteered to provide text content, and perhaps some pictures?), Veit, LeRoux, Griffith, Elden and other springs (Larry Stevens), Weatherford Canyon.

Slate of officers for 2023, for vote at the January Members meeting

President: If someone will serve as President, Kathy wants to switch to Secretary. Allen “will think about it.” Each board member should think about it. You can do it!

Vice President: Please volunteer. It looks good on your CV, and your only job is to preside when the president can’t.

Secretary: Kathy volunteered to serve as Secretary if someone will take the President’s role. (Paul will remain active on the Smartphone Tour and the Stream Steward Program, but will not be one of the 4 named officers. He thinks that the job takes about 5 hours per month, much of that is going through emails to look for ongoing and emerging issues to put in the agenda. Paul’s

minutes have been more detailed than the Minutes of organizations in which each committee and working group submits a monthly written report. Because we do not have such reports, our minutes contain informal “reports” on various activities. As Secretary, Paul has morphed the last minutes into an informal and rambling “draft agenda” for each upcoming meeting. The new Secretary does not have to follow Paul’s practice as Secretary).

Treasurer: Sara will continue. Right??

Potential new Board members.

- Ed will approach Sharon Masek Lopez
- Allen will approach Art Babbott.
- AGFD Flagstaff’s Hannah Griscom got a recent promotion and said No. She said Flagstaff office will hire a replacement for her position, and that person might serve.
- Jessica Simmons (Coconino County Urban Wildlife Planner) declined to serve. She told Paul “maybe later; too busy with kids right now.”
- Paul is reaching out to Fawn Toya (formerly NACA, now sheriff’s office).
- Paul invited Mindy Bell; she said No.
- Paul will invite Mark Manone.
- Each of us should suggest people. Note that only 1 of the 7 people named above is BIPOC. Please help us diversify.

Bylaws on the Board:

The affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by its Board of Directors, which consists of the Officers and not more than eight additional Directors. The number of Directors may be changed at any time by action of the majority of the existing Board. Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by the Membership. The term of office for each Director shall be three years. Each Director shall serve without monetary compensation.

Officers shall be elected by the Board from within its ranks or members of the organization and shall serve for a one-year term without compensation. At the end of a term, Officers may be re-elected to the same office or be elected to a different office. Any vacancy in an office may be filled through appointment by the Board for the remaining term.

The President shall preside over meetings of the Board, and of the Membership. Furthermore, the President shall be responsible for periodic reports to the Membership and for communication to the members and the public including meetings times and location notices regarding various events.

The President may appoint standing or special committees and project coordinators to assist in the functions of the Corporation. Such appointments are interim appointments until approved by the Board.

The Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President and generally shall be responsible for the Corporation in the absence of the President or at the President’s discretion and oversee committee chairs and project coordinators and report their progress to the board.

The Secretary shall keep minutes (summary) of meetings of the Board and of the Membership, and shall be responsible for the correspondence and files of the Corporation. The Secretary shall oversee the maintenance of the FoRio website, Facebook page and/or other social networks.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintenance of the Corporation's assets and for all billings and payments due. The Treasurer shall prepare checks for payment of corporate expenses, but any expense of more than \$400 requires authorization by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer is responsible for preparing and submitting reports required by the Internal Revenue Service, the Arizona Department of Revenue, and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

The Treasurer or Secretary is responsible for maintaining the official membership list and collection of contributions to the corporation.

Other powers and duties of Officers may be specified by resolution of the Board.

Article 10. Elections

Not less than 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting, the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three Members to produce a list of candidates for Directorships. One of these three shall be a Director and shall chair the Nominating Committee; the other two may or may not include Directors.

A ballot, prepared by the Nominating Committee, shall be sent via email or other communication determined by the board to all Members with the notice of the Annual Meeting at least 14 days prior to the meeting. This ballot shall include the Committee's list of nominees plus spaces for nominees that may be written in by the Members. The Committee may nominate persons who are currently serving as Directors or Officers. To be available for tabulation, all absentee ballots and write-in votes must be received by the Secretary before 5 p.m. of the day preceding the election.

Candidates must have been a member in good standing of the FoRio. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes at the Annual Meeting shall be declared to be elected.

Send FWG editorial on Prop 441 to our members

To renew the City's sewage treatment plants. See pdf that Bryan Bates sent us. We unanimously voted to approve. James will publicize.

Invite Flagstaff Water Group to discuss use of reclaimed water to recharge aquifer and provide amenity flows in Sinclair Wash

Flag Water Group (Bryan Bates, Rob Vane, John Nauman, Ward Davis) **will meet with us on Wednesday Feb 1, 6:00 PM at NCD, with a Zoom option.** Paul sent out a calendar invite. This is not a formal board meeting, but rather a free-wheeling discussion of how to manage our reclaimed water for multiple benefits. At the board meeting Rick, Paul, Allen, Kira, James, and Ed indicated they will attend.

Finishing the Watershed Plan; creating a permanent Watershed Alliance for the Rio de Flag (WARF): Rick

Rick wants WARF members to pick a date and create an agenda for a WARF meeting.

We need to learn how to tap into BuRec funding programs that are eligible to the Friends as a result of completing the Watershed Plan. Erin Young is well plugged in to Bureau of Reclamation funding. We should invite her occasionally. Kira says recent Bureau emphasis has been on drought-related projects.

Next Meeting: Thurs Dec 8, 5:30PM at NCD with zoom link.

Adjourn. 6:45

December agenda items

Ask City to add a condition to permits for proposed projects that will disturb ground adjacent to the project area, especially on public open space. The condition would **require the Permittee to fully restore native vegetation and stabilize the disturbed area** from erosion and invasive plants. Allen will provide draft language for such a permit condition. In the past the City's Community Development office emphatically refused to consider this idea. If we develop a proposal, Paul will raise it with the Sustainability Commission. ADOT has similar requirements that they enforce well, but it does increase project costs. We should try to use language that will be effective but not overly burdensome.

Possible extension of work to control invasives in the Museum Fire Area (Barb). After 2.5 years, the grant that funded control of invasives on 5000 acres north of Rt 66 and east of Hwy 180 closed at the end of September. This has involved collaboration among the Arboretum, Museum of N AZ, the City, and others. Discuss how to keep the momentum going on the invasives treatments and restoration issues in context of the WARF.

Better seeding of the new Schultz Creek retention basins. Allen might have funding for a good seed mix, and the labor could be a superb project for volunteers recruited by the Friends of the Rio de Flag for a workday next Spring, and also for next years' MADD in Fall. If we incur additional expenses, we should tell our \$10K donor that we used her money this way. "Milkweeds for Monarchs" could be part of the theme. Allen will ask his neighbor David Smith (USFWS retired, a milkweed expert) for ideas, and might invite him to a Board meeting. This would be an exciting restoration project.