

Madison River Foundation

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 7/22/2015

Location: Foundation Offices, Ennis

Board Members in Attendance:

J. Dilschneider
J. Montag
B. Richards
B. Barker
S. Shows
M. Petroni
R. Clark

Board Members absent:

N. DiMeola

Others Present:

Liz Davis – ED
R. Lessner -- Guest

Minutes

In a clarification to June 8 Minutes, there were some questions about the Hank Patterson presentation. Bruce Richards will follow up and advise.

With that change, Bruce moves to accept and Mark seconds, Minutes from 6/08 were approved.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director provided a written report, here attached. Further comments are shown below:

- West Yellowstone guide event: small, but with good energy and useful input. The Board discussed helping to fund an economic impact study, and the Board discussed the general subject of why the guides feel this way. The guides also suggested because of sensitive spawning grounds below Hebgen, the first 100-500 yards of the river should be closed to fishing. Question about “compensatory mortality”? Ray said he would pass this along to the Science Advisory Committee. Should there be a change in protocol for the FWP fish population studies...no, the value of the data is the uniformity in method, locations, and timing of the annual studies.
- Gala: lots of positives and negatives. Additional positive comments were great location, the auction paddles, Busby did a terrific job, and the speeches were well received. Additional negative comments were 12 people got sick, too many paintings, and confusion over artists demanding a share of the proceeds. Overall, Directors thought it was a highly enjoyable and successful event.

- ***Secretary's Note: It is suggested MRF needs a policy on dealing with donated art (see Ken Hall and Ed Totten items below), and a form that is filled out and signed by the artist in advance so we can avoid misunderstandings.***
- **Fly Fishing Festival:** Liz went through a detailed list, here attached, of progress to date. A pre-meeting of Jeff, Liz, and Richard helped to clarify a number of items. [Thank you, Richard!] A big question yet to be answered is who will run the bucket raffle? Brian will pick up the posters at Executive Services. A list of sponsors is contained in the agenda. There was further discussion about setup for the movie. John Rolfe will serve wine and beer.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Montag presented his report, which centered on final tallies from the Gala. In comparison to 2014, our best year to date, the accounting (not yet final) shows 2015 slightly exceeded that high-water performance. The \$10k from Odell auction was a major reason. Jeff then presented a balance sheet, here attached, and concluded by saying the Foundation has unrestricted cash on hand amounting to \$117,465.00 to take us through the expenses of the festival and toward the slower time of year.

Discussion ensued about whether to offer Craig Mathews his usual guide fee for the second day on Odell. It was agreed this offer should be made. Jeff, Ray, and Liz already talked with Jeff Laszlo about this issue and he has agreed to leave all proceeds with MRF and look instead to mutually beneficial efforts between Granger and MRF in the future. At that meeting, Jeff agreed to become a Steward of the Madison.

We got off on discussion about West Yellowstone as a possible venue for the 2016 Gala. Liz said she would check to see if it is open on our date.

Sherry said there is no way the 2015 caterer will be asked back. Consensus was reached that Bountiful Table should be approached for next year's dinner.

Old Business

More discussion about the logistical difficulties of the Free Memberships distributed through the local fly shops. Joe says the participants are persistent in trying to sign up their clients, however, and we are making progress.

We now have clarification that Ken Hall's share of the Sundog Art Gallery event on August 15 will be split 50-50 between MRF and the Odell project. This is one of Bozeman's finest galleries and it is hoped the Directors and Membership will turn out for the opening.

New Business

1. Since Jeff Montag is stepping down from the EXCO, he nominated Brian Barker as his replacement. Brian has graciously agreed to serve, and his appointment was approved by acclamation. EXCO will meet Friday the 24th, at 8:00 a.m., and the Board will meet next on August 10.

2. As soon as Liz determines whether West Yellowstone is available for the Gala in 2016, the Board will address the question of where the event will be held. There is strong support for the El Western meadow location.
3. Kelly Welch is ready to update the MRF website for \$800-1,000. The Board agreed this was a worthy project and a great value, and Jeff confirms the cash is available. Jeff moves, Sherri seconds, and the motion to engage Kelly is passed.
4. Ed Totten wants to make a contribution to MRF through sale of his paintings, but it was unclear exactly which paintings (internet, gallery, or both?). What does he want in return? There was discussion about what “in-kind” contributions (paintings or otherwise) will earn the donor the designation of Steward? We should consider a more definitive policy on this question.
5. Joe says there are cows in the river bottom between Varney and town and he wants Directors to know they are not Granger cattle. This problem is extraneous to our fencing project on Granger, not because our fencing efforts have failed. Joe continues his discussion about the beavers in this stretch of river. He has learned the situation is solely the responsibility of the landowners. There was discussion about possible use of restricted Odell Project funds (in MRF accounts) to help resolve this on the Granger lands.
6. Liz asks for remembrances of Storrs Bishop for the newsletter. Directors who knew Storrs will respond.
7. Good Times Camp: some casting instructors are needed. Liz will call on some of our Membership.
8. Ray asked ED to come up with a plan for updating our database, focusing specifically on email addresses. We have a great deal of data in various software applications, but it needs to be cross-checked and in some cases revised. Ray suggests a target date for completion of this effort as October 1.
9. The retreat will be held in early October, and the Moonlight Building was suggested as its location. Brian asked that Ray’s memo on focus and branding be discussed at that time.
10. Bruce requested more frequent communications from the Foundation to the Membership as a way of keeping people engaged and improving renewals. He thought it would be possible to do a weekly blog with fun items and information as a supplement to our newsletters.

MEETING ADJOURNED

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MEETING ADJOURNED