

Huntington Lake Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2022

The meeting was held at the China Peak Grove. Fifty-one cabins, camps and businesses were present at the meeting. Doug Bibb opened the meeting at 10 a.m.

There was a welcome, introductions, a flag salute, and a moment of silence for members lost during the past year.

Minutes: Ned Fox moved; Bob Felts seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2021, annual meeting. The motion passed.

Election of Board Members: The nominees are Larry Franks, East Central Division (Lower Line Creek), Linda Ballentine, West Central Division (Huckleberry), Will Mosgrove, West Central Division (Idylwilde), and Lyndsie Stocker, China Peak Landing (Commercial). Gail Ward Rigler moved; Glenn Johnson seconded the motion to nominate and elect the slate. The motion passed.

Budget and Financial Statement: Kelly Blocker presented the October 31, 2020-2021 financial statements. Mary Bracci moved; Todd Darling seconded the motion to accept the financials as presented. The motion passed

Kelly Blocker presented the November 1, 2022-October 31, 2023 budget. The assessment remains the same as the 2021-2022 year. A total of 75 cabins were lost. The membership count is now 340. Ned Fox moved; Linda Ballentine seconded the motion to approve the budget as presented. The motion passed.

Guest Speakers: Nathan Magsig, Fresno County Supervisor, reported there had been complaints about the garbage haulers. He is open to discussing options. The current vendor's contract still has three years. California requires counties to have garbage diverted from a landfill. Haulers must also separate the waste. There will be a community meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2022, at Foothill Elementary in Prather, CA at 6:30 p.m. Cabin owners would like to see the garbage picked up more often because of the bear problem. Users must also be sure to snap the bear locks on the lids. Nuisance bears would need to be removed/relocated. The chain of contact would be USFS, Fish & Game, County Supervisor. Nathan Magsig can be reached at 559-600-5000.

Linda Ballentine, National Forest Homeowners (NFH), reported that cabin owners are automatically members of NFH. Cabin owner dues are paid by Huntington Lake Association (HLA) on behalf of the cabin owners. The first in-person conference was held this Spring since Covid-19. There are over 14,000 members nationally. There is a new app "Inaturalist" available and also an interactive online map. In 2024 the Cabin Act requires local funding to be sent to USFS. NFH is working with USFS to determine how funds will be used. Approximately 80% of the funds from permits will go to local efforts. The hope is that a dedicated USFS employee can be hired with those funds. Permits renew in 2028 and the proposed language is more restrictive – it allows USFS to terminate the permit if cabin owners are late paying their permit fees.

Don Ducliff, SCE Vegetation Management – his job is to make sure trees can't hit power lines. They have a lot of work to do over the next 98 weeks. Black mess on a pole is a form of fire retardant. A yellow ribbon with a white tag means the tree is a hazardous tree. When SCE cuts down a tree, they are required to remove the tree. They are still in the process of doing clean-up from the Creek Fire. There are currently 20 crews in the area and within the next month there should be 60 crews in the area. Cabin

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owners must have written permission from USFS to have woods chips on their lot. Don Ducliff can be reached at 559-331-1968.

Larry Day, Chief of Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department (HLVFD), invited all to look at the 'new website' (hlvfd.org). Larry Day took over as Chief in October 2022 from Brother Chris who retired after many years of service to the department. HLVFD Board is working with USFS on building a location at the west end of the lake. The Department has a successful Cadet Program. All of the cadets who have gone through the program have been hired off to CalFire, North Central Fire, Kingsburg Fire and Sanger Fire Departments. Cadets provide support to the Department year-round.

Dean Gould, USFS Forest Supervisor, there are several fires in the local area – Washburn Fire consumed about 4,600 acres and ½ is on USFS land; The Oak Fire consumed over 14,000 acres and ½ is on USFS land. It started on State land and 4,000 personnel were assigned to the Oak Fire. Fire personnel are in suppression repair on both fires.

Forest Plan Revision has been going on for seven years and is in the final step – objection period. The document has been published and the public can now comment. Dean Gould will send a link to Doug Bibb to share with cabin owners. The plan will be implemented in January or February 2023.

Timber – have to abide by the Endangered Species Act. Based on the new forest plan 20 million board feet can be removed per year. USFS did not receive any bids on several sales due to mill capacity.

Oliva Rosas, USFS Soil Management, mapping of the burn areas has been done of the whole Creek Fire footprint. The map shows the burn severity of the soil. Some areas have been flagged for avoidance for archeological reasons. China Pek is taking pine needles. Cabin owners are interested in having a place at Huntington Lake to dump pine needles and wood debris. The Huntington Recovery Project went out to bid in May and received no response. There is a flooded timber market. USFS has re-packaged the proposal and has it out on the market again. If they do not receive any bids this time the USFS will re-group again.

There are over fifty trees in Huckleberry. The bark beetle was an epidemic prior to the Creek Fire and is still around. The Yosemite Toad Habitat area have been narrowed. There is now a longer operating time. If there are no bids this time. It will go out again next year as a service contract and USFS will pay the contractors to get the jobs done.

There are downed trees from wind in Huckleberry. If the trees are within the unit boundary for the contract, they will be removed.

Owners asked if there could be a disposal site outside of the contract area for lot owners to use. The USFS is working on this.

Kim Sorini-Wilson, USFS District Ranger, five people are handling Tiffany Begaye's workload. Tiffany is no longer with USFS. Bears are active – a handout was available (Homeowner's & Renters Guide to Living in Bear Country).

Elaine Lock, USFS District Special Uses Officer (commercial), Chine Peak Landing has its own permit boundary and cannot restrict public access to the beach or shore areas. Lakeshore Resort has sold, and clean-up is in process. There is a new owner of Cedar Crest, and it will take a couple of years before a permit is issued. They must first get cleared through USFS and the County. There are hazard trees in the campgrounds. There are eighteen campgrounds and day use sites, four are not open due to hazard tree

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issues. USFS is working on getting some supplemental funding to get the clean-up done. The plan is to have all campgrounds and day use sites open next year.

If a cabin owner wants a wood chip permit, they can send Kim Sorini-Wilson an email (kim.sorini@usda.gov) or call her at 559-365-1497.

Cabin permits will be renewed in 2028. Thirty cabin owners of lost cabins due to the Creek Fire have requested permission to rebuild. Adding dock slips requires USFS permission. Damage to tract roads done by the Creek Fire and/or SCE should be repaired by USFS or SCE. The last contract for suppression repair for this summer has been submitted for Huckleberry, Upper Line and Lower Line.

Doug Bibb thanked China Peak for hosting this year's annual meeting.

Steve Sherry thanked all for their contribution to the thirty-five years he owned Lakeshore Resort.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Karen Kamimoto, Secretary