

Doug Bibb, President, opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. The meeting was held in the Grove Area at China Peak. Forty-three cabins and three camps/commercials attended.

There are fourteen tracts at Huntington Lake. Seventy-four cabins were lost during the Creek Fire.

Doug Bibb welcomed all who attended and led the flag salute.

There was a moment of silence for those members who passed away during the last year.

Upper Line Creek - Helen Brubaker

Lower Line Creek – Wayne Peoples, Bryce Jensen, and Carol Padilla

Idylwilde – Ed Scarboro, Eric Boucher, Judy Ekrhart

Huckleberry – Marion Jensen, Marilyn Benker

Dowville – Ed Burney, Jim King, Don Chambers, and Laurel Baird

Minutes – August 6, 2022: Mike Thielen moved; Lou Hall seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Election of Board Members: Nominees are Don Potts – West Central, Bob Felts – East, and Doug Bibb – East Central. Ned Fox moved; Larry Franks seconded the motion to elect the slate. The motion passed.

Budget and Financial Statements: Kelly Blocker reported the income remained the same, expenses are more. The plan is to keep the dues (\$300) the same for at least one more year. There are less cabins now because of the Creek Fire. All current permit holders are being billed the 2023 assessment. Garbage costs go up about \$10,000 every year and is the biggest expense in the budget. Lou Hall moved; Todd Darling seconded the motion to accept the budget and financial statements. The motion passed.

Comments from Cabin Owners: Garbage – can the garbage be picked up once a week in July to help reduce costs? No, because July is a heavy month for campers as well as cabin owners. Snow removal – Is the snow park still going to be at Lakeshore? Yes.

National Forest Homeowners: Linda Ballentine is currently Treasurer of NFH and is terming out. If anyone is interested in serving on the board, please contact Linda. In 2025 the USFS will retain 80-85% of permit fees paid for the local area. USFS plans to hire a designated Recreational Residence person. 10-15% will go to National and the remainder will go to Region 5.

Permits are scheduled to be renewed in 2028. Cabins are being inspected to make sure the footprint matches the language on the permit. They are currently doing inspections in El Dorado. NFH is trying to work with USFS on the Handbook and policies.

FireWise Program: Chelsey Hutchens and Tanner Michaelson presented information about the FireWise Program. FireWise Program is a free voluntary program started by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It encourages local solutions for safety by involving homeowners in taking individual responsibility for the risk of wildfire. It works to educate neighbors and communities on the importance of defensible space, home hardening and forest stewardship. The California Fair Plan offers a 15% discount on home insurance for communities in the FireWise Program.

To start a FireWise community, you need at least eight full-time residents. Full-time is defined as living on your property for 6 months. You must work with your committee to develop a three-year plan and you must document at least one hour of work per year on your property to stay a part of the community. Hours worked are measured on the NFPA website.

To maintain FireWise status, you must attend one presentation every year with a local agency educating your community on the importance of defensible space, home hardening, first aid, evacuation plans, risk of wildfire or other educational options.

A Fire Risk Assessment is done on the outside of the property. The committee will need to establish a boundary map. FireWise is currently working on developing a relationship with USFS. They already have a relationship with the California Insurance Commissioner's office.

Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department: The department is recruiting, and they are still planning to build a firehouse at the west end of the lake. Dispatch struggles to find cabins. The fire department is asking each tract to provide a list of cabin owners with their lot number and physical address and contact phone number. The fire department is geo mapping all cabins and hydrants around the lake in order to get a gps location. This information will be loaded into a master database which will be used by EMS.

The fire department is raffling off a quilt. You can purchase raffle tickets throughout the summer. The drawing will be held September 3, 2023.

Propane tanks – remember to turn off the valve when you leave the property.

Call 911 – always call 911, do not call one of the volunteers first as this slows down the response time.

Southern California Edison: Brian Thoburn - Public Relations, Don Dukleth – vegetation management (the tree guy) and Jake Kimber – water operations manager spoke at the meeting.

Don Dukleth said the goal is to make sure trees don't hit the power lines. Some trees are marked with white markers and a number, others are marked with a yellow band and white tag. Any tree within twelve feet of power lines will be removed. Any tree that looks like it could fall and hit the power lines will be removed. There is also a chipping program going on. Cabin owners need written permission from USFS to have chips on their lot. Once you have written permission from USFS, contact SCE to get chips.

They continue to work on Creek fire clean-up. They started at Huckleberry and are moving west.

They will do another sweep in the fall. Trees identified in the fall will be removed next year.

The lake trails still need fallen trees removed. Currently they are not able to get equipment into the area to remove trees. They are trying to come up with creative ways to get them out without destroying the environment or habitats.

Jake Kimber said last winter's snowpack was 255% of normal. The lake will be full until the 3rd week of September. They are actively working on the Big Creek license and expect it to be completed in 2024. There will be no winter work on any of the dams. They will be working on Dam #1 in the fall.

There was an equipment failure at the Eastwood power station. They expect to have it back online at the end of February 2024.

Fresno County: Nathan Magsig, supervisor, presented Doug Bibb with a certificate recognizing the 100th anniversary of Huntington Lake Association. He introduced staff – David Tangipa, a field representative, and Brett Rush, Nathan Magsig’s chief of staff.

The County has purchased an additional snow blower for the Huntington Lake area.

Insurance – Nathan Magsig is asking the insurance commissioner to give property owners more credits.

The County is applying for grants for ingress and egress.

Blue Canyon Project - this is an effort to try and keep any fire from running up into Shaver Lake.

Nathan Magsig is asking Washington to look into the high costs of insurance.

Huntington Lake Road – who owns it and when do services transfer from one entity to the other? The County has title to the road but doesn’t own the land. The County maintains the road and provides snow plowing. He is looking at other counties to see how agreements are structured. The County is committed to being a facilitator with California Parks and Recreation, and the USFS. California Park and Recreation contracted with Caltrans, and they are now able to contract with outside sources. The County is responsible for the culverts.

Unsecured property tax - this revenue goes to schools. The concern is that the County is assessing for land and improvements and cabin owners do not own the land. Cabin owners feel costs are getting unreasonable. They feel like they are being taxed twice. Nathan Magsig will reach out to Jim Patterson to see if there is a fix. Nathan Magsig said the rates are set by the State.

US Forest Service: Dean Gould reported the recent concerns have been large wildfires over the past eight years, tree mortality and the epic storm of 2023. There was \$22 million dollars of damage to County roads from disasters and \$80 million of damage to USFS from storm damage.

They now have hiring authority and are adding staff monthly. They are expediting treatment on the forest with processes, people, and funding ability to have partners. The fiscal year starts October 1. There are appropriated funds (authorized by Congress) and unappropriated funds. With unappropriated funds they typically are given short notice to apply for funds. These funds are multi-million dollar amounts that will allow USFS to bring on project managers, business managers. This will allow access, the ability to assess and determine how to address issues. They are working with road contractors right now and \$35 million was awarded on the Sierra.

New Forest Plan – Judy Tapia will talk about that more.

Forest Closure Orders – the list of closed areas is getting shorter. A press release comes out the day before the Forest Closure Order and identifies the net difference of the Forst Closure Order from the previous Order.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a great program available. It will fund money for the Huckleberry water system, \$250,000 for the Dowville West Road, and they are trying to get source funding identified for \$50,000 for the Dowville East Road.

Lakeshore – They are looking at getting authorization for a thirty-year lease. Dean Gould understands it has been awarded.

Permit renewals in 2028 – Dean Gould is 99.9% sure permits will be renewed. He completely supports the renewals and will accommodate permittees as much as he can.

Judy Tapia, Planning Officer, Business Manager – The New Forest Plan was signed in May. An electronic version is available on the website. The new plan helps USFS manage in a more flexible way for recreation and disasters. There was no additional acreage added to the wilderness.

Olivia Rowe, **District Lands Permit Administrator** – The Lakeshore Contract was awarded last September, and they worked until the snow stopped them. They will begin again on the other side of Upper Line. Mushroom Service Contract has been awarded and it includes from Cold Storage Meadow to Mushroom Rock and four campgrounds.

Spring 2024 reforestation project – USFS wants to work with HLA. They will be planting pine species.

Line Creek Trail – Plans are in the works to determine how to move forward.

Bear Cove picnic area is closed. There are archeological and aquatics challenges at the site. They hope to have it open in 2024.

Camp Silver Fir hillside – the hillside is being monitored by the water board and the hydrologists are not concerned about erosion at this time.

Elaine Locke, Special Uses Officer – Staffing: Tiffany Begaye's position is still open (District Recreation Residence Permit Administrator), Kathy Landess' position is still open (Resource Manager), Michelle Christian was appointed Recreation Technician. There is a Recreation Report on the website.

Commercial Businesses Update: Lakeshore's permit is ready to be signed next week; Cedar Crest – the process is ongoing; Camp Kern, Kennolyn and Silver Fir – hoping for progress in 2024.

Annual Tract President's Meeting – they hope to resume in 2024. Billings are now being done nationally and they are emailed. Please get your email to Elaine Locke.

Recreation Retention Fee – there is a meeting with nine regions nationally next week.

Cabin rebuilds – 80 cabins were destroyed, 33 have notified USFS they plan to rebuild, 31 are not rebuilding and about 16 are undecided. If a cabin owner is not able to rebuild on their lot, they can apply to get an "in lieu of" lot. An "in lieu of" is one from a cabin owner who is not going to rebuild, and the lot has been designated as a safe lot to build on.

Boat dock permits expired. Applications can be submitted in September.

County roads are for street legal vehicles only.

All signage must be pre-approved by USFS.

Permitted Use vs Exclusive Use – there should be no interference with authorized use or any health or safety issue.

Plan for general clean-up of the forest – It is a process. There are dead trees and downed trees. They are focusing on areas that affect the public.

Daniel Soria, Law Enforcement Officer – There is a “no shooting” zone around Huntington Lake and China Peak; however, the south side of Huntington Lake is not in the “no shooting zone”. There is a map on the Fresno County website that shows the “no shooting” zones.

Cabin owners wanted to know if there was something that restricted the time of day and type of weapon. Are bows allowed? If you have concerns call the Sheriff’s Office non-emergency number.

Currently the contract deputy is a volunteer. They will have a permanent deputy next year in the Huntington Lake area.

Adjournment: Lou Hall moved; Eric Nelson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Karen Kamimoto, Secretary