

WMSA Board Meeting, January 9, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 1828. Present were Board members Seth Nadel, Julius Aubin, Vernon Lewis, Brenda Silva, Sam Underwood, Linda Gilbertson, Vesta Melcher, Jeff Wall, and Brian Moffatt. Judy Sanchez represented the Target Tamers in place of Dee White (absent), and Dan Fondren was present as the new board member representing WMPS. Also present were John Major, Jim Tuvell, Alice Tuvell, Tony Silva, Mike Melcher, Tony Sanchez, John Tod, Sheila Moffatt, Don Childers, Deborah Childers, John Easterbrook, and Robert Johnson. In addition, Arizona Game and Fish Statewide Shooting Range Administrator Matthew Schwartzkopf attended the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Secretary's Report

A. Motion to accept- A motion was made by Sam Underwood and seconded by Linda Gilbertson to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2018 Board meeting as published. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

4. Treasurer's Report

A. Motion to pay the bills- Seth Nadel presented a bill for \$9.70 bill for RSO Vests. A motion to approve payment of these bills was made by Sam Underwood and seconded by Linda Gilbertson. Passed unanimously.

B. Motion to accept- A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read was made by Linda Gilbertson and seconded by Sam Underwood. Passed unanimously. WMSA currently has \$42,820.08 in the bank. A copy of the Treasurer's report is available in the Secretary's files.

C. Monthly shooter days- The 2nd Knoll Range generated 240 shooter days and 3 visitors for the month of December. The range was closed 3 of the scheduled shooting days (Dec.29-31) due to the weather and road conditions.

5. Membership Report- As of January 9, 2019 we have 385 memberships, of which 178 are family and 206 are individual. Adding the 236 dependent members, that gives us 620 current WMSA members, including 62 juniors.

6. Publicity Secretary Report-

A. Trip Advisor- 2nd Knoll Target Range now has a widget with Trip Advisor, with a link to the WMSA Website.

B. White Mountain Independent featured a story about AZ Game and Fish funding and mentioned that the 2nd Knoll Target Range provides a "safe area for

training and use of firearms and helps discourage creation of dump-like sites where people leave appliances and other garbage, shot up in a field or cinder pit.”

C. Future considerations- Work on the "Adopt-a-Highway" cleanup project continues. WMSA is seeking advertising in the White Mountain Magazine which will come out in the spring.

7. Range Update

A. RSO First Aid/AED/CPR training- This course is provided by Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District at half price to WMSA. All RSOs are required to have this training, and WMSA will cover the cost. The dates of the next class are TBA.

B. Range propane heaters-Limited trial run of the borrowed heater, Seth is looking into the feasibility of overhead infrared heaters.

C. Our AZ Game and Fish contacts (Matthew Schwartzkopf and G&F Regional Director Chris Bagnoli) worked quickly to establish an on-call service to plow the range road and parking areas. This was accomplished on 1/8/19 and provided we have cooperative weather, the range should be open this coming weekend. It is up to the assigned RSO to determine if the range will open. In the event the range is not going to open or closes during the shift, the lead RSO needs to call the club (WMSA) phone and report any closures.

8. New Business

A. State Range Administrator Matt Schwartzkopf discussed the following issues relating to his duties, WMSA's responsibilities and ranges:

He has been employed at AZG&F for 13 years, starting as a Range Safety Officer, then Range Manager at Ben Avery and for the past 2 years as the State Range Administrator of the 9 AZG&F shooting ranges. He is also an avid shooter and competes on the US Rifle Team. His purpose for attending our board meeting was to pass on and exchange information and get to know the members of the club, since he generally only communicates with Seth. Having said that, he still needs to maintain only one point of contact (Seth) per club so the information he receives is truly from the club leadership and not contradictory.

He thanked the members of WMSA for running the range since volunteers RSO hours are the only way the range can operate. AZG&F does not have the budget for paying RSO's at 2nd Knoll. He mentioned the uniqueness of 2nd Knoll as the only AZG&F Shooting Range on Forest Service property and the 20 year Special Use Permit issued to AZG&F by the Forest Service.

He has hired an engineering firm for final plans for the camp host (Caretaker) pad and the 300 yard range. Once the engineering is done, a procurement solicitation will occur and a construction contract will be awarded. He hopes to see the camp host pad in place by June.

He stressed the need to ask permission for use of things like propane heaters, signage or any changes at 2nd Knoll. The requests go to him and he then contacts the Forest Service for authorization. His experience with the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest has been very positive and their communication has been good. The Forest Service has many, many regulations and unauthorized changes or actions could jeopardized the Special Use Permit and shut down the range. He cited an example of one of the ranges putting up the wrong color canopies and they had to be replaced with an approved color.

He provided two handouts: "FY18 Statewide Shooting Range Volunteer Hours" and "Volunteer Hours". He discussed the Pittman-Robertson Act (The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937) which is a federal excise tax on guns, ammunition and archery equipment. The revenue is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and sent back to State Wildlife agencies for conservation, hunter education, and shooting programs. Each state must match at least 25% and this is accomplished through volunteer hours. In FY18 the AZ Statewide Shooting Ranges provided \$1,026,325 in volunteer hours.

He stressed the importance of filling out the reporting timesheets correctly so the hours are properly credited. If enough forms/hours are rejected, the USFWS could require that funds be returned to them. In addition, he uses a criteria of shooter days and volunteer hours to help him determine the funding allocation for the state ranges.

He said 2nd knoll is being watched closely in Washington DC due to the cooperative relationship between the Forest Service, AZG&F, and WMSA to manage and operate the range and they are moving toward developing more designated shooting areas in the National Forests. He has also been working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to help develop 4 designated shooting areas on their property in AZ.

B. Seth spoke about the range build out and mentioned that Phase One included the completion of the caretaker pad, 300 yard range and a classroom/clubhouse. He said once the cinders are removed, we can look at possibly adding competition bays on the East side. In addition, he will seek input as to other ideas for expansion.

9. Motion to Adjourn- A motion was made by Judy Sanchez, seconded by Sam Underwood, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 1936.