
MINUTES: ANPR BOD Meeting



Link to Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83537927586>

Please note: Board members are expected to enter new business and BOD member reports at least seven days prior to the BOD meeting so that other members can consider information, issues and proposed actions prior to the meeting.

Date of Meeting: November 28, 2023; 8:30pm EST

Time Meeting Called to Order: 8:34 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Rick Mossman

Urgent Business:

- Resolve Secretarial Duties: Assign Christina Burton as temporary secretary until Demmy is well again. Presented by Rick Mossman. Mike Pflaum seconded motion. Vote results: motion passes.

Attendance:

BOD Member	Present or Absent
● Rick Mossman, President	● Present
● Demmy Vigil, Secretary	● Ex Absent
● Meg Weesner, Treasurer	● Present
● Jonathan Shafer, Strategic Planning	● Present
● Mike Pflaum, Government Affairs	● Present
● Tom Banks, Education and Training	● Present

● Emily Johnson, Professional Issues	● Present
● Shannon Wilson, Membership Services	● Present
● Troy Hunt, Seasonal Perspectives	● Ex Absent
● Elsa Hansen, Internal Communications	● Present
● Wendy Lauritzen, Fundraising Activities	● Absent
● Bill Wade, Executive Director (non-voting)	● Present
● Melissa DeVaughn, Business Manager (non-voting)	● Present
● Others Present: Christina Burton	

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iVOsLgHhulTzJ51h_ebQ5miSciB5ihMRnTPntR4Y744/edit

- Motion to Approve by: Bill Wade
- Second by: Mike Pflaum
- Discussion: To pass the prior minutes of the meeting. Meg – requested to get updated information about the prior board meeting. Board member and membership meeting during Rendezvous minutes.
- Vote: Passed

Approval of minutes from RR membership meeting:

Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1I59yozryFnc_glylt9co0J4bc7B1fbUv

- Motion to Approve by: Bill Wade
- Second by: Mike Pflaum
- Discussion: Similar to last minutes of the meeting, but for the membership meeting. Meg – requested to get updated information about the prior board meeting (see above). However, also requested update of membership meeting information.
- Vote: Passed

Business carried forward from previous meeting(s):

- Appointment of ANPR Public Information Officer: Warren Bielenberg agreed to be a mentor. Mentioned by Meg. Jonathan recommended allowing Warren to make recommendations of possible candidates as well as pushing recruitment through the website. Jonathan will provide information of advertisement letter/template to Melissa and Elsa to push on social media as well as Bill into the newsletter. Suggestion – make middle of January deadline. See if Warren would be able to fit this timeline (Jonathan responsible to send email).
- [Rick and Jonathan] Revision/updating the Strategic Plan and process: Rick and Jonathan discussed this. Start process in January and Jonathan will update newly elected person in early January. Both will follow up to cement date for this.
- World Ranger Congress bid for 2027 and ANPR's 50th Anniversary:
 - CSPRA has indicated they are interested in partnering with us for the 2027 World Ranger Congress. They would like to have more discussion. Jeff Ohlfs and Mike Lynch are their representatives.

- Got a note from CSPRA – are interested in exploring this. Mike talked to John Garder from NPCA – was intrigued, but could be conduit for information. Gave another person’s name as well. Mike also talked to Sheryl Shrier council member (treasurer) of Coalition. Next meeting is in January, then next one would be in April/May. May look to partner with them for the bid. Mike also talked to uniform lady (?) to also be partners in the bid. Mike has not contacted National Park Foundation yet. Main point of discussion is making sure they want to do this. Rick will talk to CSPRA to see to what extent they want to do this. Meg suggested that there needs to be the same commitment within ANPR members. Bill (and Tom) suggests this needs to get finalized by the December board meeting. Main concern is getting commitment from membership of ANPR. Rick will get with Jeff and Mike, write up something after discussion to the members.
- Updates to ANPR website, google drive and member newsletter: Bill presented this based on Melissa’s needs for the website plus Bill’s experience with newsletter. All should provide input to better organize the materials of ANPR. Bill will work on that while moving further. Melissa would like to make sure there is updated information on the site.

New Business:

- [Wade] Approval of this template for BOD meeting agenda/minutes: Pretty good, but adjust the attendance table to put it on one page.
- [Rick] Input from membership meeting at Ranger Rendezvous:
 - Any actions that need to be taken?
 - Main one - talking about World Ranger Congress
 - Bill suggests table this to next board meeting so that new board can act on it. Rick needs to prepare this list for the new board.
 - Melissa has contact information for pro bono marketing work. To be covered in Membership Growth Task Group report.
- Status of new BOD election:
 - BOD Member for Internal Communications:
 - Greta Ketchner - 61
 - Jan Lemons - 13
 - BOD Member for Strategic Planning:
 - [Lauren DeGennaro](#)- 39
 - Jan Kirwan - 35
 - BOD Member for Education and Training:
 - Rae Emerson - 71
 - Treasurer:
 - Rick Harwell - 71
 - **Approval of election results:**
 - Motion to Approve by: Meg Weesner
 - Second by: Emily Johnson
 - Discussion: 89 votes last year, 74 this year (despite the 71 for Rae Emerson and Rick Harwell). Trust in Melissa’s oversight of election. Melissa will get each winner’s phone number so that Rick can call. Will invite those new members to December board meeting. Melissa and Bill will get them setup with Google drive

and ANPR addresses. Tom suggests emailing winners with the current board member so that onboarding can start between existing board member and newly elected ones. Meg suggests informing those that did not win. Melissa suggests maybe have Jan Kirwan be involved in a committee or the PIO.

- Vote: Approved
- Does the BOD want to submit a letter about climbing bolt access in NPS wilderness areas. Brought forward by Rick Mossman. Concern - what position does ANPR take and how much time to dedicate to this. Tom recommended to perhaps do a survey to gauge interest. Emily concerned not the mission of the ANPR. Meg brings up concern that may need to look and refine mission if emphasis on employee versus park protection needs to be revisited - also mentions unclear differences with trail maintenance that already occurs versus climbing bolt. Bill suggests Rick needs to figure out the deadline for comments as well as designate a position to take to the next board meeting. Rick will acquire that information. Jonathan posted that the deadline is January 16th, 2024 (seen here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/newsroom/releases/usda-forest-service-and-national-park-service-see-public-input>). Melissa suggests getting the position solidified immediately after next board meeting to put out a press release.
- Proposal to appoint temporary Secretary. Addressed earlier.
- Call for an executive Session at the end of this meeting. For current board members only - brought forward by Rick Mossman.

Reports (Progress on [Annual Work Plan](#) and other activities):

- President:
 - Letter signed with NPCA and the Coalition concerning Proposed rule upholding Civil Service Protections and Merit Principles.
 - See above concerning 2027 WRC.
- Secretary:
 - Demmy currently out; Christina Burton temporarily working as secretary until she returns.
- Treasurer:
 - Please see the financial documents sent by the Executive Officer (Bill) on Nov 17. Collectively, the Board is responsible for ensuring the financial success of ANPR, so we should all be familiar with these documents. Any questions?
 - NPCA donation did provide slight profit for the Ranger Rendezvous.
- Strategic Planning:
 - Shared materials to advertise PIO trainee position.
- Professional Issues:
 - Housing Committee update below.
 - Feedback provided to the Membership Task Group

- Government Affairs:
 - At the request of an interested party, working with him to develop information and provide an update on the "Making TSP G Fund Whole" issue. Some complexities. I hope to have a more thorough update prior to mid December. If any other board members are familiar with this issue, please let me know or copy me with pertinent information. Thanks.
 - Planning to participate with Housing Committee on a call on November 27
 - Wrote up notes of the membership meeting breakout group on the membership growth issue at RR46. Subsequently provided additional input to our task group leader on the issue.
 - Provided some notes to Executive Director Wade and President Mossman with highly preliminary thoughts about next year's Rendezvous in Rapid City, as I am familiar with the area, along with my offer to assist with local area contacts and logistics in some small way.
 - Drafted a brief article regarding early notice for / promotion of Ranger Rendezvous 47 for next November in Rapid City. I suggest that all board members do whatever you can to encourage attendance (as I know you already do!) as a small part of our membership growth efforts.
 - John Garder of NPCA has provided me with a good contact at NPCA for ongoing communications on issues of mutual interest. I will reach out to her before mid December.
 - I talked with John Garder of NPCA about the possibility of ANPR hosting the WRC in 2027. He said that, on a very preliminary basis, NPCA may be interested in being a partner with ANPR in some way. I will follow up on this as the Board and President wish.
 - Agreed to continue participation on the Yount Award group under the leadership of John Townsend. No meeting currently scheduled.
- Membership Services:
 - Submitted full roster of employees/retirees to Prolink for access to prodeals. If you still struggle to gain access email me, I'll take care of it.
- Seasonal Perspectives:
 - I am unable to attend this meeting due to a conflict.
 - Met with [Emily Johnson](#) and [Mike Pflaum](#) to begin building a committee regarding housing concerns. This is foundational and a work in progress.
- Internal Communications:
 - Posted about Giving Tuesday, highlighting Disaster Relief Fund and Supernaugh Scholarship.
 - Gave ideas on website to Melissa.
- Education and Training:
 - I have been updating the list of Mentors to pass along to the new Education and Training board member, and compiling a spreadsheet of folks who have been mentored the last 3 years.
- Fundraising Activities:

Commented [1]: Jonathan suggested this may be relevant to this: <https://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2023/05/tsp-g-fund-debt-ceiling-market-turmoil/385889/>

- Executive Director and RR Manager:
 - Summary information about RR46. Budget vs. Actual was distributed to ANPR BOD.
 - For the time being, I am going to focus my search for sites for RR48 (2025) on state parks in TN, KY and WV. All these states have state parks with lodges, conference centers and other amenities. If anyone wants me to look at any other specific location, please let me know by email.

- Business Manager and *Ranger* Editor:
 - Worked with Tom Kerns to get missing newsletters on the website
 - Compiled election candidate bios and built election platform for current voting system
 - Completed monthly reconciliation, including transfers of Life Memberships, billing, etc.
 - Mailed several extra copies of the magazine to members requesting them
 - Met with App. State professor to discuss ways to engage college students and perhaps recruit for RR 47.
 - Posted several news items regarding the State of the Ranger survey, elections, etc. – and encourage other board members to **PLEASE** send me newsletter-ready items to post when needed.
 - Would like a commitment from the board to create at least one official Press Release per month to post on the Press Release section of the website. These are official statements from ANPR leadership regarding their take on a particular position, support of an issue, call to action, etc., to show that we are actively working in support of NPS issues.
 - In Ranger role, began collecting assigned stories by the November 15 deadline for the next cycle of magazine building.

- Committees and Task Groups:
 - International Committee and IRF Liaison (Meg Weesner):
 - I am assembling an international committee to recruit and award scholarships for the 10th World Ranger Congress, to be held from 7 Oct to 11 Oct 2024 on the Mediterranean coast of France. Volunteers for this activity and other international activities and programs are welcome.
 - I will be developing a plan for recruiting and selecting scholarship recipients for WRC. The balance in the Rick Smith account is just under \$13,000; how much should we devote to scholarships and what should be the reward amount?
 - Balance in Rick Smith (see above) - to put in agenda for next BOD meeting. Bill mentioned gave \$1000 to a few people (from what he remembers).
 - Ranger Museum Task Group (Shannon Wilson):
 - We might consider proposing to the membership (would require a majority vote of the entire membership) using some of the investment fund for this project.
 - Housing Committee (Emily Johnson):
 - Troy, Mike and Emily will meet for the first time on 11/27.

- Update: We met to discuss how to stand up the committee. We will review what is existing on the ANPR Google Drive, upload our own notes from recent housing presentations, and draft language for Newsletter release to recruit other committee members. We will meet regularly the hour prior to the monthly board meeting.
- Yount Award Committee (JT Townsend):
 - A Yount bust has been ordered to have on hand for the next Lifetime Achievement award, whenever that might be.
 - Rick currently having trouble getting in contact with JT, but will continue since deadline coming up.
- Membership Growth Task Group (Bill Wade):
 - The Task Group has reviewed the input from the three breakout sessions conducted at the Rendezvous and proposed some actions. Wade will develop an action plan to be presented to the BOD prior to the next meeting so that the BOD can discuss and decide next steps.
 - Members are JT Townsend, Mike Pflaum, Butch Farabee, Marin Karraker

Additional Info: Ranger magazine theme is “Parks through the eyes of...”

Announcements:

- We should invite the “new BOD members” to attend the December meeting (12/19).

Adjournment and next meeting:

- Time Meeting Adjourned: 9:50 pm EST
- Next Meeting (Date and Time): 12/19, 8:00 pm EST