

MT. HOOD FOREST HOMEOWNERS
Annual Meeting
Welches Middle School
June 25, 2016

Board Members Present: David Gearing, Treasurer Michael Halligan, Doug Hartley, Ken Hoiland, President Paula Hoiland, Jeff Mayhew, Vice President Scott MacCaskill, Secretary Carolyn Raz

Board Members Absent: Bruce Bauer, Joel Grayson and Amelia Wilcox

12:45 pm - President Paula Hoiland called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were approximately 140 cabin owners present as well as several USFS personnel.

Paula then took a poll to ascertain whose cabin had belonged to one family the longest. Former Board member, Norm Goetz, took the prize for 86 years!

Before introducing the current Board members, Paula showed on the screen the new logo for MHFHA. The artwork and design were donated to the Association by Paula and Ken Hoiland. The logo depicts a circle with Mt. Hood on top, and a cabin in the woods below. It was suggested that the Association have tee shirts and/or sweat shirts printed with the new, very attractive logo and sold to members. A special thank you to Paula and Ken.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michael Halligan provided an on-screen report, showing the major expenditures. With the passage of the Cabin Fee Act the end of 2014, the Association will no longer have the expense of large donations to the National Forest Homeowners for lobbying Congress to pass the CFA. However, money for road repair and maintenance will be needed.

Of the 549 cabins in the Mt. Hood tract, 322 are paid members as of June 23, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

MHFHA Accomplishments: To illustrate the importance of MHFHA membership, Paula gave an overview of the Association accomplishments over the past few years, which included:

1. Major financial assistance to the National Forest Homeowners to work for the passage of the Cabin Fee Act which stabilizes the permit fee structure.
2. Implemented a new easy-to-navigate website that allows for payment of dues on line- this new website will be launched for member use in the next few months.
3. Obtained the first special-use permit granted to any Forest Service tract to do road maintenance and repair. (Our permits clearly state that the FS is NOT responsible for road maintenance.) There are 12 1/2 miles of cabin roads. Paula explained how the Association got an assessment of all our roads with the help of Water Master David Jacob to ascertain the amount of funds needed for the repairs.
4. Provided a report, complete with pictures, of the damage to the roads and cabins after the horrific wind storm on November 17, 2015. Vice President Scott MacCaskill was at his cabin during the storm. Afterwards, he surveyed the cabin roads and took pictures of many damaged cabins, which were

then placed on the website. Paula also informed many of those cabin owners, some of whom live out of state, of the damage to their respective cabins. Those cabin owners were most grateful for the notification.

5. Increased the distance of the annual highway clean-up to four miles on both sides of Hwy. 26.

6. Joined the National Forest Homeowners (NFH) as a member tract which reduced the NFH dues by \$5 if paid concurrently with MHFHA dues.

7. Continue to work closed with USFS Zigzag to help keep cabin owners informed of important news. The association also acts as an advocate for cabin owners who need help with the USFS.

Transfer Fee/Trusts: As of the first of the year, there is now a \$1,200 fee for transferring the title/permit to a new owner. The fee is applied for putting your permit into a Trust, change of name due to divorce or gifting to children etc. There are some exceptions when a change in the permit name will not trigger a transfer fee. Those can be found on MHFHA website.

Illegal Campers: There had been a large group of long-time campers between hwy 26 and Road 31. The Forest Service has evicted them often and the site has been cleaned of trash and debris, however they often return. Forest Service allows camping for only two weeks in one place. After two weeks, they must move. If they move to a second site, they can only remain for another two weeks. However, after that, they cannot camp in the National Forest for another year. Cabin owners have seen more campers by their lots and rivers. If they stay more than 2 weeks or are seen doing illegal activity such as shooting guns, please call either USFS law enforcement or Clackamas Sheriff office.

Bylaws: Last year, the Board hired expert parliamentarian, Judy Ervin, to update the Association bylaws. Judy and her husband, Bob, former executive director of NFH for over 20 years, have had a family Forest Service cabin on the Metolius River since 1941. Judy went over the changes section by section in the bylaws and asked for questions after each section, though none were asked. A ballot was issued upon sign-in to a member of each cabin represented at the meeting, to vote yea or nay for approval of the bylaw changes and updates. (Late news item: The votes were counted after the meeting and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Invasive Plants Workshop: Photos of some invasive plant species was shown on the screen. Everyone was encouraged to pull them out except it is more advantageous to remove them at certain times of the year. There will be a workshop later in the summer on how to identify the various species and the time of year they should be pulled.

Bridge/Road Assessments: Paula introduced Mary Ellen Fitzgerald, Acting R6 Lands Special Uses Manager who came in place of Bill Westbrook, Mt Hood District Ranger. She said that on July 8, 2016, engineers are going to assess the condition of all the bridges and prioritize needed repairs/maintenance. The Forest Service will then have to apply for funding to make those repairs. They will also try to determine if there are alternate routes that avoid bridge use to reduce costs.

Currently, the budget to maintain 3,000 miles of forest roads is a mere \$50,000! She explained that when contractors use the roads, such as dumping rock from the Hwy. 26 improvement, the Forest Service can negotiate with the contractor to repair road damage. She did report that the Zigzag bridge on Rd 20 was recently resurfaced. The structure of that bridge is solid and secure, but the decking was rotten.

Target Shooting: MaryEllen addressed the concern of cabin owners about illegal shooting and the resultant destruction of trees, signs and litter. There are some areas where shooting is NOT allowed such as firing across a road, trail or body of water, or near cabins. MaryEllen advised the Clackamas County Sheriff's office be called if there is shooting near cabins. Hunting is legal in the national forest as is target shooting.

One of the areas where there is a lot of target shooting with resultant trash and expended shells, is near the quarry along the power line above Road 34 off Hwy. 26. Currently, there's a sign there for NO shooting while Hwy. 26 is undergoing expansion. When the construction is complete, the area will be reopened to target shooting. There are NO designated target shooting areas in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Since the access road to the shooting area is owned by PGE, the question was posed if PGE could install a gate at the road entrance. The FS doesn't have jurisdiction on this issue.

Historic Cabin Designation: Allie Wenzel, the Mt Hood Forest Service Historian in the Heritage Department stated that the Bull Run reservoir is the most important part of the Mt. Hood National Forest, though recreation abounds. Originally, there were 570 cabins in the Mt. Hood tract. Through the years, some cabins have been consumed by flood or fire, or torn down for lack of permit payment.

Allie explained what constitutes an historic designation and addressed the process to make a change or repair. She displayed a copy of a Forest Service booklet (regulations, rules, guidelines, specifications and the reasons why) that the cabin owner should read before an architect is hired to draw plans for changes or additions, which may substantially shorten the time it takes to be processed through the FS compliance committees. The booklet is available from the Forest Service office in Sandy.

Allie repeated several times that the most important first step to take should a cabin owner want to consider an additional is to find out their status. Is there cabin in a historic tract? Does the cabin have individual historic significance?

Change/Modification Proposals: Fran Lanagan, Special Use Permit Administrator, reminded us that the open season for submitting proposals for changes is August 15-November 15 in order to get approval to do the project the following spring. This takes thinking ahead another if an emergency occurs such as a tree lands on your roof – they will look at that project as quickly as possible. The complexity of a proposal determines how long acceptance can take. She advised that if the FS has a question, the applicant should respond immediately, or the proposal will lose its place in line.

Self Inspections: In response to a question of how often each cabin owner is to do a self inspection, Fran said every three years. The inspection form is available on the FS and MHFHA website.

Fish Biologist Report on Stream Restoration - Greg Warner: The FS is making good use of the multitude of trees that were uprooted during the winter storms. Greg explained that after the 1964 flood, the FS made every attempt to allow the run-off to flow unimpeded so the water would not back up and possibly cause flooding. However, the combined FS dredging and rapid water flow, dislodged both

downed trees and boulders, thus destroying fish habitat. Since 2011, the FS has worked to restore coho and steelhead habitat. Part of the restoration is strategically placing uprooted trees and/or huge boulders in the stream/river to direct or divert the water flow while protecting the pools and gravel necessary for fish habitat. The ongoing program has been very effective, just as last year saw a large increase in fish numbers. As a result, the Mt. Hood FS has won several national awards for stream restoration.

This year, the biologists will be working on Roads 10 and 12. Helicopters will be used to transport logs and large boulders for the stream restoration, so cabin owners will need to tolerate the noise. The hope is to have all projects done by 2019. Ninety-nine (99%) percent of stream restoration monies come from non-profits.

There will also be stream work on Camp Creek on Road 32, though it's a lower priority than other streams.

Greg said there has been a lot of poaching near the mouth of the Zig Zag River. A clue to poaching could be spotting a fisherman under a bridge trying to mask his activity. Greg stated it is best to NOT intervene yourself if you suspect poaching but instead immediately report it to the State Police who have jurisdiction over such matters.

Water Master Report: David Jacob announced that the Lady Creek Water District is in need of another board member. He asked if anyone is interested, to let him know.

David related the complications involved from the December 7, 2015, storm which caused major damage when a tree fell across a suspension bridge that carried a water pipe across the Zigzag river. This only affect 25 cabins on Rd 35A. A temporary repair was made using a 1 inch pipe which would not satisfactorily meet the needs for all cabins on the line. Notices were necessary to all cabins owners effected and they would need to boil all water meanwhile for cleaning and cooking. The complexity of the repair was huge in itself, but different parts of it would involve different agencies, each with their own reviews. As it was, his original hope was to have the pipe replaced by April, but only now has he received authorizations and is commencing the repair.

Several raffle prizes were given to cabin owners throughout the meeting.

3:00 p.m. - Meeting adjourned.