**Prickly Pear Sportsmen’s Association**

**Association Meeting Minutes**

**East Helena VFW**

**September 10, 2019**

Board Members:

Chairman of the Board: Jason Swant Director: Larry Cole

Assoc. President: Neil Horne Director: Cory Olson

Assoc. President-Elect: Rick Yearry Director: Scott Swingley

Assoc. Treasurer: Annette Rinehart Director: Kerry Bartlett

Assoc. Secretary: Sherri Lionberger Directors: George Schiller

Website Mgr: Vacant Director Keaton Santos –EXC

Range Mtnce Officer: Jordon Alexander – EXC

Meeting start: 7:01 pm Meeting end: 7:40 pm

There were 3 members of the Association present in addition to the Board, for a total of 13 members present.

**Minutes from April meeting** were read:

 Motion to accept: George Schiller, Larry Cole 2nd,  motion passed.

**Treasurer’s report**: beginning balance was August 6.

 Beginning balance: $54,540.13

 Deposits: $6117.60

Expenses: $6034.22

Skid steer loan: $28,119.25

Ending balance: $26,504.26

 Motion to accept: Kerry Bartlett, George Schiller 2nd, motion passed.

**Officers’ reports:**

Neil ran into a young man up at the range who had just moved here from Texas and Neil showed him around. He was very excited about the range, but the next month he accidently ran through the gate with his car. We had all responders there from the game warden, to the sheriff and the FS. A friend of Jordan’s said he would fix it for a membership the next year and he did. Since it was only 2 years old, the board elected to get a new one built with the insurance from the accident. The man was quite apologetic and didn’t really know what happened.

Neil – the millings are all down except for the chemical seal that needs to be put on to make a tighter bond. The people making the chemical are done making it this year, because it has to be done when it is at least 70 degrees out. There is enough chemical available in Whitehall, but they’ve cleaned their trucks and don’t want to haul it this fall. Helena Sand and Gravel said our millings should last through the winter fine without it on this year, but the board needs to make that decision next week. It’s pretty nice for the golf cart area and we’ve had lots of good comments from folks. The board also has to make a decision on getting heat in the storage area for the skid steer. We can put 2” of foam in the room for $1300 and the man said it would take care of the condensation, plus there is a heating system available for $700 that isn’t supposed to cause condensation.

**Director Reports:**

Larry is still working closely with the FS. District Ranger Heather Degeest is leaving for Idaho and we will have an acting for a short term. Larry talked to Mandy Alvino regarding our special use permit and she is working on processing our permit renewal now. He also talked to Mandy yesterday about having their surveyors do additional survey on our new improvements. Mandy said it will be done this next month and they can update our exhibit. The surveyor will need to walk out the berm between the 50 and 100 yard ranges, so they will coordinate that with Larry to ensure safety.

Also Larry presented the draft letter to the congressmen requesting help on getting a land exchange. The letter will go out tomorrow.

Kerry - the FS has wanted us to have our property easy accessible all the way around and signed. Kerry and his son, as well as Larry Cole sawed all the way around the property and cleared it. Larry reflagged everything and the signs are in good shape. They left anything that could be stepped over, but cut all others.

Rick – special events: we had our open house a bit differently this year and targeted youth and women. There was a reasonable turnout but less than normal. Our Christmas party will be December 10 this year, but menu hasn’t been set yet. Open house will probably be August 27 – 30, and usually in conjunction with Capital Sports hunting camp and they will bring up vendors/weapons.

Jason – grants: FWP administers a program called range enhancement program through Pittman/Roberts income. We have not been eligible the last 10 years because we had to demonstrate our range would be available for the next 10 years and our permit was expiring too soon. But now we can since our permit will be renewed for 20 years. FWP funds 15-20 projects each year with varied funding amounts, and roughly $100,000 went to the range in Billings. One of the things we would like is power at the range. The other thought is having water available. We are in the exploratory stage and applications would be due in February of 2020. Another requirement is the facility be available for hunter education opportunities. Jason doesn’t think that would necessarily happen, but it could be available and we would need to cooperate if we accepted grant money. Question – can the money go toward purchase of land for an exchange? Jason isn’t sure of that, but had not seen that in the information he reviewed. There is a requirement for matching funds…since we pay an employee to be at the range that would count as in-kind work. We’ve paid ourselves back the money for the skid steer, and it is important to build an account to possibly purchase our land. Appreciation was expressed for how we are managing the finances. Bill also expressed sincere thanks for the $1000 donation in Jim Mannings name to PLWA.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Christmas party is coming up per Jason. We did some things different last year and it worked well (printed tickets and sold them). That helped us set the number of people we need to prepare food for as well as to not be over capacity for our facility. We sold 125 tickets last year and will do same this year. Tickets will go on sale November 1 to December 1. Not sure what the price will be as we are working with the auxiliary here to determine menu and price. We had ham last year and it seemed to be enjoyed. Prime rib was too expensive. December 10 is the planned date. We will also do the raffle as we did last year. Bill asked about the availability to get the tickets – they are available by email, and we will be at the November gun show and will have them there. It will come out in an email to association members. It is too much to ask Capital Sports to sell them, but it was suggested that we could have people there for a couple hours to sell the tickets, and then Capital doesn’t have to handle the money.

Motion to adjourn Bill Covey, Larry 2nd meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted by

Sherri Lionberger - secretary