

Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association
11-5-2024 Minutes

Tim Love called the meeting to order at 11:30 am at the Museum of Mountain Flying in Missoula, Montana.

Members present are Fred Cooper, Larry Cron, Michael and Sue Cummings, Barry Hicks, Rich Lasko, Tim Love, Bo Nelson, Mike Oliver, Bill Ruediger, Dave Stack, Don Stevenson, and Jack Walton.

Michael Cumming gave the Treasurer's report. The current checking balance is \$7737.69. Year to date: revenues are \$2,410.00 and expenses are \$2,057.98.

Dave Stack gave an update on the National Museum of Forest Service History. Construction has started and is ongoing. They have found a colored slide of the Nine Mile Haying Operation in 1940's.

2025 National FS Reunion update: Sue Cummings sponsorship committee mentioned receiving a \$5000 sponsorship. Tim Love mentioned the reunion is looking at about 600 retirees and employees attending the reunion.

The Fall newsletter has been published and distributed. A big thanks to Vicky Maclean for her work on the newsletter!

Tim Stauffer, RO Liaison with the retiree association introduced Mark Vosburgh, National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) Strategic Communication Specialist as our guest speaker. NTDP was formerly the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) which is how it would be recognized by many. Mark graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He spent several years in the Missoula area until he got on with the Forest Service at NTDP in 2014.

MTDC was originally created to repurpose military equipment for fire and aviation management. Now, approximately seventy percent of NTDP research work support Fire and Aviation Management and the other programs support National Forest Systems programs. Some of the projects include working with Manufactures on Spark Arrestors testing and updates to the guides, testing of materials for Fire Shelters, developing a list of qualified chemicals for firefighting, testing ropes and material used in helicopter repelling, and reviewing and testing different methods of providing alternative power (i.e. solar) for Incident Command Post.

Thirty percent of MTDC research work supports the National Forest System programs, such as drone uses for different programs, testing and development of specification for the Forest Service Uniform, etc.

The Director of NTDP, Keith Lannom, is on detail as acting Associate Deputy Chief. He is also on a committee looking at reorganization of National Technical Development, Enterprise Team, and other individual groups. More to come on this reorganization in future meetings.

Forest Service is under a hiring freeze.

December 3rd will be our next meeting, and it will be a business meeting. February guest speaker will be from R1 Fire and Aviation Management.

Smoke jumper Reunion is June 21-22, 2025. They are raising funds for flying Miss Montana during the reunion.

Respectively Submitted by Jack Walton