

Tim Love call the meeting to order at 11:30 am on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Museum of Mountain Flying.

Members present were Richard (Dick) Bacon, Tom Blunn, Fred Cooper, Barry Hicks, Rich Lasko, Pat Garbutt, Skip Kowalski, Vicky McLean, Mike Oliver, Bill Ruediger, Dave Stack, Chuck Sundstrom, Pat and Sharon Sweeney, Jack Walton, and Jim Wickel.

Current Forest Service policy did not allow a guest speaker for this month.

Michael and Sue Cummings are in Florida. There is no Treasurer's Report for March. At last months annual meeting dues were raised to \$30/year and those wishing to get the newsletter by mail will pay an extra \$5/year. Vicky passed around a clip board with the new dues forms. Several member filled out the form and Barry requested that I hold on to them till Michael and Sue Cummings return from Florida.

Several member shared storied about the impacts of probationary employee who were terminated recently. Some Forests and employees groups have started fund raising campaigns to assist those employees that were terminated. Some Forest are looking at options to assist those terminate with housing and other needs.

Pat mentions that several terminated employees from the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land have filed a Class Action Lawsuit.

Barry mention that the smoke jumpers reunion will be in Missoula and the reunion dates are June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are expecting about 500 people.

It was mentioned that there would be a Celebration of Life for Bob and Sally Mutch, on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Valley Funeral Home.

Fred mentioned the New Executive Orders signed on March 1<sup>st</sup> by President Donald Trump, directs the Bureau of Land Management and the U. S Forest Service to expand time production and streamlining the Endangered Species Act. The first E. O. calls for considering new categorical exclusions under NEPA and seeks to reestablish exclusions for timber salvage and thinning. The second E. O. promotes domestic timber production to replace imports and that timber, lumber, and related products are critical to U.S. national security. Also, it includes an investigation to assess whether foreign competition harms the domestic timber production.

NAFSR website has a list of position paper on different issues.

Tim mentioned that Tom Schultz is new Chief of the Forest Service. Tim knows Tom and mentioned how he knew him and gave some information on Tom's background.

Tim mentioned that a Safety Officer has been secured for the 2025 National Reunion Committee.

Tim is responsible for transportation and it has been a challenge to acquire buses for the Reunion excursions. Majestic will provide buses. During the 2025 Reunion registration process participants will need to identify the excursions they would like to take. Fred is coordinating the excursions for MTCD and Fire.

Tim gave an overview of the Reunion schedule.

At the February Annual Meeting new By-Laws were present and there is a 60 day period for comments. By-Laws are on the NRMRA website and please send comment to Tim. April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be a vote on approving the new By-Laws.

Dave gave an update on the Museum of Forest Service History construction and that there were extra cost for concrete during the cold weather. Two photographs were pasted around showing some of the construction at the Museum Site. The Museum received a grant for shelving which will increase space utilization by a one third. The on line Action kicks off on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Cedar siding for the Museum has been delivered and came from Canada. Dave made a pitch for becoming a member of the Museum. Museum membership includes a newsletter.

Vicky is getting the spring newsletter ready for publication, which will occur in April.

Rich Lasko and Tim Love are members of the Montana Prescribe Fire Council that supports legislation (House Bill 84) that concerns application of prescribed fire on private land. The Bill passed the House and is being transmitted to the senate. They will keep us informed of further developments.

Fred Cooper will be giving the Winter Talk for this Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Travelers Rest in Lolo, which begins at 11:00 am. His topic is the Smoke Jumper Experiment and will include exhibits and displays.

Next meeting will be April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectively Submitted  
Jack Walton