

CWEPA Minutes  
September 9, 2015

Board Members Present: Bob Carochi, Matt Thorpe (via phone), Dan Cacho, Jason Surface, Kris Middledorf, Justin Krall, Casey Westbrook

Membership Present: Chris Mettenbrink, Elissa Knox

Call to Order: 1:05

Approval of Minutes:

Middledorf move to approve, Krall second approved

Treasurer Report: (Kris Middledorf)

UBS: \$145,748.88

US Bank Act: \$24,816.54

US Bank Scholarship Act: \$26,795.47

Credit Union of Colorado:

Savings: \$503.97

Checking: \$5,064.90

Money Mgt: \$3,425.74

12 Month CD: \$4,934.00

Withdrawals:

\$100 Fallen Officer Fund (Fallen CSP Trooper)

\$551.84 Travel Expenses, Lunch with Director, Framing Coghill Award

Retirement disbursements

New / Retiring Members:

New Members: John Groves (approved via email), Adam Gerstenberger, Ben Meier, Justin Morris, Tyler Stoltzfus, Matt Sturdevant, Kurtis Tesch, Joe Walter, Logan Wilkins

Retirement Benefits Approved for: Mike Crosby and Vicki Vargas-Madrid (approved prior to meeting via email), Randy Hancock approved

New/Old Business:

1. Bruno Coverage/Kris Middledorf

-Last negotiation of legal coverage was in 2002 with BCL

-2012 Lowe spoke with Board regarding costs associated with Criminal and Civil defense extending beyond current coverage amounts. No need for changes in Administrative coverage was identified.

-June 2015 Board decided to look at potential to increase criminal and civil liability coverage.

-Meeting with BCL lead to Mr. Lowe suggestion that CWEPA look at Police Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) legal defense (LDF) <https://www.poracldf.org/>

- PORAC provides 4 plan options

- Board interest in maintaining current Admin coverage through BCL this would involve a hybrid form of coverage (i.e. PORAC plan 2 and a BCL contract to continue Administrative coverage)

- BCL is the sole provider for PORAC in Colorado so members would see no change in services

- BCL is phasing out their direct contracts in favor of working through PORAC

- The Board will research and review PORAC and follow up with Middledorf by November 1 with questions

2. Reading of Nomination for Award of Merit for John Groves, and the CWEPA Citizen Award of Appreciation for USFS Phil Nyland – for their efforts to revive a citizen in cardiac arrest in a back country setting. (See attached nomination)

- These Awards were approved. Presentation of these awards will be at the December meeting.

3. The Board also received an unofficial nomination for Nathan Martinez to receive the medal of Valor. The Board will attempt to formalize this nomination to ensure the opportunity for approval prior to the 1 year deadline for such nominations.

4. Raffle license update- Carochi – Raffle license would cost \$100. There is potential to work with OGT in this endeavor. Due to the past difficulties in selling tickets the Board would intend for this raffle to occur after in-service and the Denver International Sport Show to maximize the potential for ticket sales

5. Lunch Meeting with Director update-Thorpe/Carochi- The Director was thanked for the support showed during recent critical incidents. Other topics of conversation were:

- The Wangnild fundraiser
- Maintaining open communication between CWEPA and the Director
- Salary Compression discussion- he is and has been researching this issue.
- Concerns about officers ability to communicate with dispatch in the field. This has lead to the investment in radios as a priority of his
- The Director expressed his concerns about the loss of leadership via retirements and attrition. He is trying to be proactive in leadership development and planning for the long term.
- The Director was Invited to CWEPA meeting in Denver;

6. Wangnild Fund Update-Mettenbrink- The firm of Wadell And Reid connected with Dan Wangnild. In September three deposits (one for each of John's kids) into separate 529 accounts were made in the amount of \$6,880.00 each. Dan will oversee these accounts and their future disbursements. By establishing 529 accounts they are open to future deposits should anyone have that interest.

7. Website updating – Westbrook will be working on a list of priorities for updates and changes and hopes to make progress by December

8. LEP updating from Merger – LEP's being reviewed by BCL, specifically critical incident

9. Red Owl contact – Carochi – RED OWLS contact is Russ Bromby, national contact for NAWEOA retirees is Jeff White-Jeff's email is [1gamewarden1@gmail.com](mailto:1gamewarden1@gmail.com) Those nearing retirement are encouraged to note these contacts

10. Revised By laws will be sent to the membership for review and voting (via email) prior to the December Meeting.

11. Status of reviewing the UBS accounts and associated management fees remains in the works. Nothing to report at this time.

Member Concerns:

1. Fleet Safety / Repair – Elissa Knox
  - The basic issue is if fleet is proving proper maintenance, parts, and vehicles to officers.
  - The previous fleet committee document (developed under Dir. Cables during the Merger) never got to the issue of repairs. A survey may compliment that committee document which may then be suitable for review by Director Brochied
  - Research regarding the policies / procedures for fleet maintenance and maintenance notification is needed to identify if there is a means for CWEPA to provide input.
    - Research should begin through Shawn Hermasillo. Surface stated he would initiate this.
      - o Provide him copy of the fleet committee document (mentioned above)
      - o Request Shawn to come to the December CWEPA meeting
2. Request for \$1,500 to support the upcoming Wildlife Investigator's Covert Academy (WICA)
  - Board felt it needed more information to justify the expense to the membership so request was denied pending more information

Regional Reports/ Roundtable:

**NEXT meeting**

**December 9, 2015**

Motion to Adjourn: 3:33PM

Cacho, 2<sup>nd</sup> Surface

***CWEPA provides members with death benefits, retirement benefits, legal representation with optional expanded coverage for "critical incidents", employee recognition awards, , and student scholarships. Your CWEPA Membership also affords you the opportunity to have a stronger fraternal relationship with fellow employees and have an expanded voice within the Agency through employee solidarity.***

### Award nominations:

I would like to nominate Phil Nyland for the Citizen Award of Appreciation or if possible just Award of Appreciation since he technically is not a citizen or civilian acting in his capacity as a USFS employee

#### Nomination

August 6, 2015 Officers John Groves, Darren Chacon, Dan Cacho and USFS employee Phil Nyland packed into the Maroon Bells Wilderness to camp at or near Crater Lake for the night in hopes of being able to do some adverse conditioning of some problems bears. Hopefully being successful in the use of tasers for adverse conditioning of bears (sow and cub) raiding camps and acting aggressive in the area. While they were all there in the Crater lake area assessing the situation and investigating a camp that was visited by bears that day, DWM John Groves and USFS Biologist Phil Nyland were flagged down and responding to yells for help by some hikers that advised a party had passed out on the trail. John and Phil ran down the trail where they found a man laying unconscious and not breathing with the man's 14 year old son standing by. John and Phil immediately starting performing CPR on the fallen victim, they continued CPR for over an hour until Mountain Rescue Aspen and a paramedic arrived on scene. Their efforts were not successful and the victim was later pronounced dead from a heart attack. Medical personnel later stated to me that had this happened in the hospital parking lot the results would have been the same, but gave very high praise for Wildlife Officer Groves and USFS employee Nyland. I know the family of Mr. Harris passed on a sincere thanks for the first responder actions in the attempt to save his life. John and Phil did everything they could to save a life and I appreciate their dedicated efforts. Therefore I think both John and Phil are deserving of the above mentioned awards.

This was a stressful situation but both individuals after their heroic efforts went back to camp and stayed up most of the night attempting to haze bears!

Perry Will