

## **NSSHA SPRING BOARD MEETING**

**April 25, 2025**

**Via Zoom**

**Call to Order:** Tony Franks called the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

**Roll Call:** Those attending were Tony Franks, Paul Hugo, Michale Blote, Nancy Allen, Meredith Randall, Lisa Long, Dawn Johnson, Mary Clarke Ver Hoef, Jim Botsford, and Julie Newlin.

Tony welcomed our new board members: Lisa Long, Area 4; Julie Newlin, Area 9; and Mike Blote, Treasurer. Areas 1 and 2 are currently vacant. Tony noted that Mike Blote and the new reps, Dawn and Lisa, still need to be formally elected at the annual meeting in June.

**Review of Minutes:** Nancy gave a quick review of the last meeting from August 15, 2024. It was a special session board meeting to fill the remaining term for treasurer for the retiring Tony Planchon.

### **President's Report:**

**Permits:** Our permits that expired at the end of 2024 have been issued. Cabin permits in the LTBMU expire at the end of 2028. The cabins that are non-compliant did not get a 20-year term permit. They may have gotten a 1-year permit until they come into compliance.

**Hazard trees:** The hazard tree removal project is complete. Funding ran short so not all tracts were completed. ENF has approved the Caldor Restoration Project (replanting), however there may not be funding. Any hazard trees will have to be removed before they can replant.

**FS news:** The El Dorado has a new forest supervisor – David Fournier. Tony has invited him to our annual meeting in June.

**Open board positions:** We have the editor position open along with reps for Area 2 and Area 3.

**The newsletter:** Tony, Mike and Paul will get the newsletter out electronically and in hard copy form. We can save money by using the non-profit organization postage rate. Much work has been done on the mailing list. Paul Hugo was able to merge the county's list of cabin owners with NFH's mailing list. This is a list of physical addresses not an email list.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Mike Blote reported that he has converted all banking to online banking and now has a debit card for our account.

He created an email account for NSSHA.

Mike prepped for the newsletter mailing by getting address labels and return address labels from the vendor that Tony Planchon used. He put all the labels onto 1000 envelopes.

He applied for a CRID number - a Customer Relation ID - from the P.O. so that we can get postage at the non-profit rate.

He has contacted a vendor who could do the printing, stuffing envelopes, address labels and the mailing for a reasonable fee. The turnaround would be less than a week.

He converted the cabin owner's database to Excel.

We will be able to pay dues online by going to the NSSHA website using Stripe, a third-party payment method.

As of May 31, 2024 our balance was \$42,326.89. Since then, he has collected \$3,544.12 in dues plus a retainer refund of \$4,047.67 totaling \$7591.79. We've had expenses of \$1087.50 for signage (a reimbursement to Tony Planchon), \$337.46 for mailing labels, \$372.50 for web registration and hosting, \$25.00 for the Secretary of State form S100, postage and misc. expenses of \$279.37, and office supplies of \$32.07 for a total, of \$2133.90. Our current balance is \$47,784.78 as of April 25, 2025

We voted to approve the treasurer's report. Paul made the motion, Nancy seconded it. The vote was unanimous. We also voted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Meredith made the motion, Julie seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

#### **CCORP Report:**

Paul Hugo told us that the burned cabin owners (those who want to rebuild) are waiting for a FS Memorandum of Understanding with the county to use International Residential Codes – IRC - rather than county building codes. Presently there is a hold on signing anything from the FS. A couple of cabins are ready to rebuild and are waiting for that decision.

#### **NFH Report:**

Meredith Randall, president of NFH, updated us on the status of the CPRA (Cabin Program Restoration Act). It is legislation that NFH drafted and has presented to Congress. Rep Lamalfa, CA District 1, will be the lead in the House.

We only have 13,500 cabins now throughout the country. Presently the FS will not allow an auction of abandoned or walk away cabins.

The CPRA has been an almost 3-year effort. NFH has a new tool called a Fast Action online tool. It provides a templated letter that you can personalize to support the CPRA legislation.

The NFH conference in Pasadena is one week away, May 3 and 4. There will be discussions on permits and the permit reissuance process, and how to check permits for assigned tiers and how to fill out O&M plans. There will be a post disaster impact roundtable. Fourteen are registered for the conference from the El Dorado.

#### **Ongoing Business:**

Signage program. Tony Planchon has some more signs for us this summer. Discussion on the signage program. Is it really necessary? Who is going to oversee it now that Tony P has retired? We may pause it until we know who is going to run the FS. Question: what is the FS' interest in having tract signs? Do they use them to navigate? Tony suggested that a new tract sign from NSSHA may be a visible way to provide something to our membership.

The Oakes scholarship: Who oversees that? Tony would like to have the Boy Scouts continue to open our meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance, etc, but would like them to help with parking or perhaps help with cleanup for our \$500.00 donation.

Who oversees the paperwork to ensure our 501C4 status? Mike replied that he had already done that.

### **New Business:**

Editor vs Communications Director in this online world. Tony feels like the role of editor should encompass the role of communication director. It would require a change to our bylaws.

Status of dues collection: the process will be Stripe. We will introduce it in the newsletter and at the annual meeting.

Walk the tracts day: Tony suggested walking through tracts and putting up flyers to promote NSSHA. More discussion is needed.

Sciots clubhouse vs other possibilities for our June meeting. It appears that the Sciots clubhouse will be available for our June meeting.

Possibility of grant funding to launch cabin tract improvement projects, such as infrastructure improvements, fuels reduction programs. Tony suggested that as a registered 501C4, we can apply for and receive grant funding to launch projects. A non-profit, like NSSHA, can receive grant funding and could hire a contractor to do the work.

Discussion: Julie said that in Sciots, they collect money from the cabin owners within the tract for a project and then hire a contractor to do the work.

Tony asked Lisa Long to speak on this subject (grant funding) since she has knowledge of this process. He used the idea of a chipper program. Lisa said that there are lots of funding sources. She said that the best way to find money might be through El Dorado County. There could be an issue with the tracts being on federal land but there might be ways around that. The best way would be to get involved in El Dorado County because they do have chipper programs. It's difficult to get federal funds because of environmental regulations. You would have to deal with NEPA and CEQA. Maybe calling it a recovery project would help.

Nancy suggested that if a tract wants to have a workday, that NSSHA offers to refund the tract the cost of a chipper.

Tony envisions a chipper day in our tracts sponsored or supported by NSSHA. Tony would like cabin owners to know and expect that a chipper will be available for them to use maybe once a year or every other year. He would like it to be paid with grant money if possible.

Tony asked for a vote to move forward to look at establishing a chipper program in the ENF for the cabin tracts. We all voted yes, no one was opposed.

**Announcements:**

Next board meeting – Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5pm to plan the annual meeting on June 28, 2025 at Sciots tract clubhouse. 10am to 12pm.

Tony made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45pm. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nancy Allen, Secretary

Rev 4/27/25, 6/8/25