

Spearfish Canyon Owners Association
Annual All Members Meeting
Saturday, July 21, 2012 – 7:00 PM

The annual meeting of the Spearfish Canyon Owners Association was held on July 21st at 7:00 PM at the Fire Hall in Spearfish Canyon. Prior to the meeting members enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Dave Bruckner. John Billington gave the invocation

Chairman Gene Shaw called the meeting to order. The registrars determined a quorum was present for conducting business. SCOA by-laws state that 10% of the paid up members shall make up a quorum.

Before attending to business, Gene asked all members to introduce themselves, state where their cabin is located, and how long they have had their cabin.

Gene introduced the guests, all members of the Save Spearfish Canyon Coalition (SSCC). They were: Dave Hecht, Bill Colburn, Bruce Outka, and Terry Weisenberg

Dave provided an update on the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) project

- Finished cutting & chunking 4/1/12, over 42,000 trees were cut & chunked at \$14.25 each. Trees were cut into 2 foot lengths & brush scattered
- Costs for the coming year expected to be \$10. Chunk lengths will be increased to 6ft
- Encouraged all cabin owners to spray ponderosa pines on their lots. Sprayers are available from county. The cost to do-it-yourself is about \$7 per tree. Cost for a commercial sprayer is \$15 to \$25 per tree
- Will start cutting and chunking 9/1 this year. Will be able to cut many more due to the earlier start
- Dave also talked about the studies underway using pheromones to attract the beetles, and direct them away using scents to disguise the tree as some other species.

Bill Colburn added that Spearfish Canyon is savable.

- Reminded us that although the forest is managed by the USFS, it is owned by the public.
- Asked members to use their influence with legislators to increase funding.
- Stated the MPB project is not 1 year fight – We're in it to win it.

Fred summarized the minutes from the 2011 annual meeting, after which one of the members asked about the west Spearfish Creek comments. Harold Matti gave a brief overview of his efforts to get the stream cleared of down trees and vegetation. Tom Adam moved the minutes be approved as read, Judy Rossi. seconded, the motion carried.

Jim Benson gave the treasurers report. Noted SCOA donated \$5,000 to the MPB project, and 42 members also made donations. A copy of the report is attached. Jim encouraged all members to contribute as much as they can to the MPB project.

Jim Nelson noted the AG committee has recommended funds be allocated to fight the MPB. The bill is presently in the House of Representatives and must be passed there before going to the finance committee for funding.

Spearfish Canyon Owners Association
Annual All Members Meeting
Saturday, July 21, 2012 – 7:00 PM

Gene announced the new candidates for the Board of Directors were Gene Shaw, running for a second term, Roberta Noel, & Dave Palmer, replacing Ray Rossie & Fred Welker. Tom Adam moved rules be suspended the candidates be unanimously elected. John Billington seconded, the motion carried.

Ray Rossi gave the Firewise report. As of 2012, Spearfish Canyon Is officially a FireWise Community, Firewise day for 2012 will be August 25th. Rolls & Coffee will be provided at the fire hall at 9:00. The primary project will be to replace the damaged 911 signs. The other activity will be for volunteers to do cleanup work for cabin owners who are unable to do it for themselves. Harold Matti will be scheduling firewise inspections for those needing it. Inspections should be redone every 5 years. The chipper, owned by the SC Fire Department was creating an unacceptable liability for the fire department so it has been sold to Don Harvey. Members can contact Don when in need of chipping. Don will be charging for this work.

Gary Bennett, Fire Chief of the Spearfish Canyon Fire Department, talked about their activity over the past year. He reported they lost their Assistant Chief and Paul Thompson is the new Assistant Chief. The dept is working to become ISO compliant and cabin owners could see some reduction in their fire insurance rates once achieved. Gary requested owners with security systems have the first call go to them, the owner, before contacting law enforcement, Most of their callouts were for auto & truck accidents. He said the number of semi-trucks traveling through the canyon has increased dramatically. There doesn't seem to be any single reason. Some drivers say their GPS is doing it, others say they are routed that way. Gary said the Fire Hall will be paid off this year. The department needs a new Structure Truck. They start at about \$250,000. He also said a number of the 911 signs need to be replaced. He is making a list and will get the replacement signs made up so they can be installed on firewise day. A member asked how cabin owners will be notified if/when an evacuation is ordered. Gary stated the sheriff has the responsibility and won't know until the situation arises.

Harry Matti gave the ARC report. Said 6 projects are in process or completed, there are no grievances at this time. And Fees go into the general fund. He reminded all cabin owners that most septic systems are old and should be inspected to ensure they are operating as intended. He also stated septic systems are sized based on bedrooms and the capacity needs to be increased when additional sleeping capability is added.

Steve Paula updated members on 2 USFS projects. Bridal Veil Falls work will begin in September. A viewing deck will be added to keep viewers off the highway and to discourage people from hiking down to the creek and crossing it to the base of the falls. The other project is at the Long Valley Picnic Grounds. Work will not begin this year. The USFS has scaled the project back at the request of SCOA. The project is to add platforms for handicap access to the stream bank for fishing, and to add parking adjacent to the restroom to better facilitate pumping the pit.

Jim Nelson provided an update on the placer mining below the dam at Iron Creek Lake. He said a permit is required because equipment will be used to extract material to be processed. The USFS has granted the permit. The application is currently with the minerals board for review.

Spearfish Canyon Owners Association
Annual All Members Meeting
Saturday, July 21, 2012 – 7:00 PM

Gene gave Ray Rossi and Fred Welker awards for their service as board members. Ray has served on the BOD for 6 years, Fred for 3 years. Carol Reusaw received an award for her work on the newsletter for the last 7 years.

Gene opened discussion on the proposed Deadwood Standard Mine by stating the Board of Directors has officially taken the position of opposing the Lawrence County Commissioners issuing a Conditional Use Permit (CUP)

- Risk to water quality in Spearfish Canyon
- Proposed methods are not proven and risk to Spearfish Canyon is too great to allow unproven methods to be tried.
- No hydrology expertise to provide assurance there will be no impact to water quality in Spearfish Creek and the underlying aquifers.
- Bob Gies told the members of his strong feelings that the canyon needs to be preserved and the risk of another mine so close is just not acceptable
- Harry Matti reinforced Bob's comments.
- Jim Nelson said the Lawrence County Planning & Zoning Committee added conditions when approving the request and sending it to the commissioners for review. He added he expects the commissioners to approve the CUP. He also stated this mine lacks the elements that have become problems at other mines. In his letters to the Lawrence County Planning and Zoning committee he requested additional requirements be added for monitoring wells to monitor springs feeding the creek, the creek itself, and gauges above and below on the stream to provide additional data.
- Gene said a new model is needed to integrate the processes proposed in a large enough scale to clearly understand the workings.
- Michael Goodroad stated he is opposed to the mine and encouraged all SCOA members to personally contact the commissioners to let them know of their opposition to the CUP. He also talked about the noise from the backup beepers and trucks as another of his concerns.
- Jim Lemar talked about the noise from WHARF, both day and night, at the store. He also related an incident he witnessed at Bridal Veil Falls when Richmond Hills released toxins into the stream that turned the water RED. He said he learned the State of South Dakota had at one time a hands off policy in dealing with problems caused by the Gold Mines. Additionally he talked about the cancer Bonnie, his wife, died from and how he learned three other women living in the area at the same time were diagnosed with the same form of cancer during the same period.

The members in attendance thanked the BOD for taking a stand against the mine. They agreed to individually countersign the board's letter so copies could be taken to the commissioners meeting 7/23

Steve McCarthy moved the meeting adjourn. Linda Christenson seconded. The motion passed

Spearfish Canyon Owners Association
Annual All Members Meeting
Saturday, July 21, 2012 – 7:00 PM

Gene requested members help put up the chairs and tables so the fire engines could be returned to the fire hall.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred M. Walker", is displayed on a black rectangular background.

Secretary