

**VERDE VALLEY LAND PRESERVATION INSTITUTE
MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2009
COTTONWOOD LIBRARY**

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Rothrock. Present in addition to Bob Rothrock were: Darold Smith, Cottonwood City Council, (replacing Tim Elinski of Cottonwood); Marybeth Carlile, Village of Oak Creek; Jane Moore, Jerome; Dick Dahl, Sedona; Harry Sweet, Page Springs/Cornville; Cliff Hamilton, Sedona City Council; Fred Shute, Beaver Creek; Walter Miller, Camp Verde, Treasurer; Tim Elinski, Cottonwood City Council; Dick Ellis, Sedona, and Pat Williams, Clarkdale Town Council and Secretary.

The minutes were reviewed; Marybeth Carlile made a motion to accept the minutes; this was seconded by Dick Ellis and the minutes were approved. Walter Miller presented the Treasurer's Report (and handouts) which indicated we have \$18,151.44 cash-on-hand. Regarding the Profit and Loss statement, we spent \$3,400 more than we took in. Dick Ellis moved to accept the report; this was seconded by Bob Rothrock and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **BluPrint for research data mapping:** There was a lengthy discussion on the BluPrint project. Dick Ellis and Dick Dahl were both very impressed with this project and felt it had many applications for use. It was decided that VVLPI would try to host a meeting with all the stakeholders, such as Fish and Game, national and state forest organizations; State Land Trust people; the Yavapai-Apache Nation group; The Nature Conservancy; representatives from all the local unincorporated areas and municipalities to demonstrate its capabilities. Bob Rothrock will call Chad Daines, the County Development Director to see if a presentation could be made at a regional planners meeting.
- B. **Monument Consulting Contract:**
Bob Rothrock stated he had spoken with Dawn Lorenzo. She is agreeable to working 10 hours on the Yavapai Community Foundation Grant for an additional \$6,000, the grant money to be used on the BluPrint project.
- C. **Dyck Ranch:** Fred Shute reported that he had a meeting with John Dyke regarding a parcel of approximately 314 acres that Fred is trying to acquire for open space preservation. To date approximately \$3 million dollars have been committed to purchase this property, but John Dyck believes it is worth between \$5 to \$6 million. Fred is meeting with Mike Ford of the Conservation Fund next week. This area is a major, high value cultural and historical site and there is a great collection of artifacts. Fred is also in talks with the Museum of Northern Arizona regarding the site and its collection of artifacts and also with Dan Campbell of The Nature Conservancy regarding an easement. Fred suggested that our members visit The Conservation Fund web site, www.conservationfund.org who-we-are for further info on this group.
- D. **VV Wine Consortium Meeting:** Marybeth Carlile and Dick Dahl attended a meeting of this group held in the Sedona Library on May 20th. They were both very impressed with how far this group has come in one year of operation. Marybeth and Dick informed them about an upcoming all day workshop to be held on "Ranching in the Future" which is an opportunity to educate everyone

about various opportunities and easement possibilities. They were very interested in this, particularly the owner of the Alcantara winery, as a way of preserving the land that way. Dick Dahl will contact them when a date and location is firmed up.

- E. **Ranching in the Future Workshop:** Dick Dahl is spearheading this project with CALT. The Focus of the workshop will be on conservation easements. The tentative date for this workshop is September 26th from 9:00am to 4:00pm with lunch. CALT will have an attorney and a tax man available at the meeting. CALT has been very successful in obtaining easements through these meetings. Bob Rothrock stated that if we begin to acquire future easements, we would need to hire a staff person to take care of the maintenance/tracking of said easements. We hope to reach all the Verde Valley ranchers with information on this meeting. The location will be set after Dick Dahl speaks with Brenda Hauser about using her facility and the owner of the Alcantara Winery who is also interested in hosting this workshop.

Regarding our Fox Ranch easement, Marybeth Carlile also mentioned that both she and Rick Karber, the new owner of the ranch, will be calling Steve Smarick of the NRCDC to ask him to move forward on approval of the new easement proposal of Mr. Karber.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Information gathering on open space values in State Lane proposed annexation by Cottonwood:** A discussion was held regarding our group making a presentation to the Cottonwood Council presenting all the information we have on that area of state land and also using the BluePrint slides with overlays indicating the wild life habitat and migration corridors, riparian areas, vegetation, etc. It was felt that a 100foot wide wildlife corridor currently proposed in the Coe and VanLoo plan is not enough. Cliff Hamilton stated that Mike Bauer of Sedona spoke at the last Sedona Council Meeting regarding Planning vs. Designing. He thought it would be important and informative if we invited him to our next meeting to make a presentation. He will call Mike and try and set it up. It was decided that a small sub-committee should be formed to pull all our information together. This committee will consist of Harry Sweet, Marybeth Carlile, Bob Rothrock, Dick Dahl and Dick Ellis and will meet on June 26th at 10:00am in the Cottonwood Library to plan our presentation. Harry Sweet hiked this area and presented a Google Map of the area. Dick Ellis suggested we take a tour of the area.
- B. **Solar Farm:** This item was added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Fred Shute said that Ron Epperson of Intellectual Energy will be making a presentation on a proposal by a local Beaver Creek landowner to develop 47 acres into a solar energy farm with 1670 solar collectors. This meeting will be at the Friends of the Well meeting on June 11 at 6:00pm at the Beaver Creek Adult Center. This project would take 40 people to build the site and five people to staff it when it is up and running. They are applying for stimulus money for this project. He invited any of our members to attend the meeting for further information.

STATUS REPORTS

- A. City and Town Council presentations. No report
- B. Yavapai County Regional Plan. This item will be on our next agenda but it appears likely that buffers between communities will be discussed in the upcoming months.
- C. Verde Valley Regional Trail Plan. No report
- D. Other liaison reports. None
- E. Fund Raising. No report
- F. Next Meeting. Our next meeting will be held July 13th at 3:00pm in the Keep Sedona Beautiful building on Brewer Road in Sedona.

There being no other business, Dick Ellis moved that the meeting be adjourned; this was seconded by Walt Miller and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Patricia F. Williams
Secretary

Approved:
Bob Rothrock, President _____