

UPPER SNOWMASS CREEK CAUCUS

MEETING MINUTES JULY 12,2026

Attending: Lisanne Rogers, Bob Helm, Amy Carr, David Berkey, Jan Martin

Water Committee Chair: Art Martin

Having established a quorum, the meeting convened at 7:00 PM

David Berkey reported that on June 2, Art Martin, David Berkey and Jan Martin met with Kit Hanby at the Ziegler Reservoir to discuss the proposed enlargement of the existing reservoir capacity through shaving the sides of the reservoir to allow for more water to be algae free. According to Kit, sunlight destroys algae up to 12 feet deep. Water and Sanitation draws water from varying levels of the reservoir to provide for the residents of Snowmass Village. The deeper water has more turbidity. The various levels of water are mixed and purified. The current reservoir is more "V" shaped. By reducing the steepness of the sides of the reservoir more water would be algae free while allowing for more capacity in the same footprint, thus providing cleaner water. Water and Sanitation has asked the Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus for a letter of support for this project scheduled for the summer of 2027. This deepening will require the reservoir to be drained. If next year is a drought year, the project will be deferred until a suitable year. The project does not affect water rights in our valley because the reservoir's water is derived from a different source than our valley's. It was noted by Kit that the entire Village only uses 4 ½ CFS of water.

David Berkey moved that we offer a letter of support for the project. Bob Helm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisanne Rogers reported that on June 15, Dave Hale, Lisanne Rogers, and Jan Martin met with Pitkin County Commissioner Jeffrey Woodruff to discuss various matters of interest to the Caucus including Watson Divide, Snowmass Falls parking lot proposal, and the community's Firewise efforts. We related to the Commissioner our disappointment that the Caucus was not included in the discussion to move the current Snowmass Falls parking lot to the meadow and enlarge it. We registered our concern about more traffic, visitors, and the growing concern about fire in that particular area. We know it is patrolled by Roaring Fork Fire, but felt by adding more spaces, we are just making a difficult job harder. The Commissioner acknowledged our concern and suggested the County needs better communication with us, and suggested we attend the following week's P & Z meeting to express our concerns. Two Board members attended and asked that the vote on the matter be postponed for two weeks to enable us to present the plans to our residents and get their feedback. P & Z, while sympathetic, denied our request when Open Space and Trails stated that a delay would negatively impact their ability to complete the project this autumn. Regarding Watson Divide, the Commissioner stated that Road and Bridge agreed that the attempt to make a longer lasting surface on the road by using crushed concrete was unsuccessful, and that they would be regrading the road to make it better.

Amy Carr and David Berkey updated the Board on the ongoing Potential Operational Delineation (POD) project for the community that was presented to the residents as a whole two weeks ago. The Caucus commissioned a study of cross-boundary wildfire mitigation opportunities and identification of feasible areas for fuel breaks to reinforce control lines.

Because land within our Caucus is all privately owned, this requires cooperation among neighbors. The study has defined individual property lines depicting particular hotspots to be dealt with either individually or in cooperation with neighbors. In particular, since the both Shield O subdivisions are either an HOA or a road association, the Caucus has no purview over their roads or properties. All we can do is request people make an effort to make our area safer as it relates to fire. However, Board members who are residents within the Shield Os are tasked with presenting the information to their respective subdivisions to encourage their residents to begin to think beyond their property line and begin to identify and act on opportunities within their subdivisions. Properties along Snowmass Creek Road can be dealt with directly by Board members since they are not bound by subdivision regulations. Those tasked with organizing their subdivisions will develop a framework for action, and bring those frameworks back to the Board for enhancement. When complete, the Caucus will present the plans to various entities for possible funding.

Discussion ensued concerning the annual picnic, and it was decided that this year we would try to have it at the Fire Station. Additionally, we would have fire personnel present to further explain the POD project and its benefits for the entire Caucus area.