

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2007  
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 24 members and one guest present. Staff included Burnham.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved with one correction in the correct change of school sports division.

**GUESTS**

Peter Stegner, Staff Assistant to Senator Crapo introduced himself to the membership. Kim Nelson introduced Elaine Murphy, Public Affairs Officer on the Clearwater, and Karen Simmons with Adult Mental Health introduced herself to the membership.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Yesterday's City Election results were announced by President Robison. Ryan Smathers was elected to the Mayor position; Roy Clay, Doug Donner and Marguerite McLaughlin were all elected to four year terms on the City Council. Congratulations.

Kim Nelson announced that the Chamber Membership is invited to a retirement celebration for Lin Chamberlin on November 30 at 5:00 p.m. The event is a potluck and chocolate extravaganza. If anyone has photos or would like to send along mementos, notes or cards for a scrapbook please get them to Nelson.

Vice President Smathers reported that Toby Atkinson is in need of lights for decorating the City Park. He has taken this task on anonymously for many years and always purchases the lights on his own. If anyone has new or slightly used mini lights that they would like to donate, they may be dropped off at the Chamber office or Lewis Clark Credit Union.

Stephanie Deyo with the Clearwater Valley Hospital Foundation announced their Harvest Moon Cruise fundraiser will take place on Nov. 10. Tickets are available at Potlatch No. 1 Federal Credit Union, US Bank and Hallmark.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The next Board of Director's Meeting is Monday November 19 at noon at the Ponderosa.

Last month 4 relocation packets were mailed out.

We will be decorating Heritage Plaza for Christmas sometime this month prior to the Christmas Festival. Please watch your email for dates and times. Everyone is invited to participate. Also, please remember to decorate your businesses prior to November 30<sup>th</sup>. And if your business would like to put a float together for the parade, you can pick up an application at the Chamber office.

The Chamber will be closed tomorrow and next Wednesday because Burnham will be in meetings.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Affairs-** Committee met last week and went over policy statements, legislative conference calls with Legislators to begin in January and the North South Trail.

**Promotional-** Mountain Motor Sports will host a Business After Hours on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November at 6:00 p.m. *Update: Mountain Motor Sports has had to postpone the Business After Hours until January.*

The Christmas Festival is coming up and will take place on November 30 and December 1 this year. The Little Elf Shop is in need of donations and especially need donation items for men and boys. Elf Shop donations may be dropped off at the Real Estaters instead of the Chamber office because we no longer have room at the Chamber.

**Special Events-** No Report

**Welcome and Membership-** No Report

**Economic Development** –CCED is on a tour today with Jim Ellick the new Idaho Director of Commerce.

**GEM-** No Report

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robison announced that the Board of Directors elections are coming up on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. President Robison has appointed a nomination committee made up of Vice President Smthers, Monica Jones, and Eric Statler. There are two positions open and so far we have three members interested in the Board seats; Stephanie Deyo with the Clearwater Valley Hospital Foundation, Tanna Zywinia with the Helgeson and Valley Rentals and Karen Simmons with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. If anyone else is interested in running, please contact one of the nomination committee members.

### **PROGRAM**

**Programs-** November 21, Boy Scouts presentation  
December 5, in depth committee reports and annual meeting  
December 19, Christmas Program

Vice-President Ryan Smathers introduced our program speaker, Tom Reilly, Supervisor of the Clearwater National Forest who updated the membership about the last fire season.

Reilly stated that there are always going to be fires on the Clearwater National Forest. They have a 98% success rate in suppressing the fires that they wish to suppress and they do not suppress every fire. Their recourses are not unlimited. Fires are a part of the ecosystem in which we live. Virtually every acre on the Clearwater National Forest has at one time had fire and this is part of the reason that we have such great wildlife herds

According to Reilly, the Forest Service has recognized that they need to reintroduce fires into the ecosystem and allow fires to burn but in a responsible way. In 2007, they had fewer fires, but more acreage burned. It was a 10 week season as opposed to a more typical 6 week season due to the dry conditions.

Reilly spoke about fire suppression. Mostly it is done by smoke jumpers and walk in crews. They rely on aerial observers to find the fires. The Clearwater National Forest sends resources all over the country and in turn get resources from others per agreements made prior to fire season. They also make agreements locally.

Reilly answered the question “How do you make decisions as to which fires to suppress?” by relaying that they use maps which feature roads. In the backcountry where fires would naturally occur, they will let them burn to a point, but do go through a daily evaluation process. They also have tools to predict how far a fire will spread in a certain amount of time and can then use point suppression to protect only a certain area.

The budget for fire season is based on a previous 10 year spent budget and last year an estimated \$200 million was saved. The Forest Service cannot spend an unlimited amount of money on fires. Reilly listed the factors considered in deciding which fires to suppress as cost, values at risk, neighboring states having more at risk and safety.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, President Robison adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

---

Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

---

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director