

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association Board of Directors' Meeting – Part 1

April 25, 2022

Attendees: Jenny Powers, Kim Edwards, Carmela Lizzo, Terry Stecyk, Ruth Kaplan, Mike Miola, Lori Bridwell, Linda Vinson

Absent: None

Committees: None other than BOD members

Guests: Lee Edwards
Thomas Galvin, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Tim Soule, Rural Metro Fire Chief
Shawn Gilliland, Rural Metro Public Information Officer
Brett Russell, Rural Metro North County Fire Chief
Sunny Parker, Arizona Foothills 911

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Board thanked Mike for hosting the meeting at his ranch and for the tour the new foals and horses on the property. Guests were introduced and thanked for their participation.

Hauled Water Issue Update – Supervisor Galvin

Supervisor Galvin outlined the steps he has taken since assuming office in November 2021 such as meeting with the DWID supporters and opposition, meeting with EPCOR and Global Water, conferring with experts on the legal and technical issues involved in bringing water to the Rio Verde Foothills, etc. During the discussion Supervisor Galvin answered questions and seemed to be genuinely interested in the community and the concerns regarding the water. However, there was blame placed on the legal maneuvers of the DWID group to force the County to address the solution at a Board of Supervisors meeting stating that dealing with this legal issue is taking up unnecessary time and resources to address. Supervisor Galvin said this was a “distraction” but offered no indication that the legal steps would incentivize the County into discussing the issue on the record. Additionally, Supervisor Galvin stated a decision on the solution to be supported by the County would be forthcoming in three to six weeks. As of Part 2 of this RVHA Board meeting, no solution had been approved or even brought to the attention of the public.

Rural Metro Update and Introductions

The staff noted above representing Rural Metro and Sunny Parker from Arizona Foothills 911 provided an overview of the reason our area has an independent fire/emergency service and what common misperceptions are held by residents. Rural Metro is committed to supporting the community.

- Fire suppression is not supported by taxation There are no special districts. Rural Metro exists to fill the gap in areas with no fire suppression services.
- Subscriptions fund the services provided to the community, keeps people safe and protects property. It is important to raise awareness so that all homeowners subscribe to the service to enable continued support, sufficient equipment, and staff. Airplanes and earth-moving equipment are also available to fight large fires.

Evacuation is a concern in our community due to limited roadways to enter and leave. It is important for properties to clear defensible space around buildings. It is necessary to raise awareness of residents and provide education in the event of evacuation to not block roadways or obstruction the work of fire fighters and equipment.

Subscriptions provide not only fire suppression services but also response to medical emergencies, education on fire mitigation, CPR classes and other community engagement efforts. It costs \$1.8 million to staff a fire station with one engine.

One of the events to be scheduled to provide education will be a pancake breakfast at the RVF fire station and include RVHA membership opportunities, Arizona Foothills 911 educational materials and Ready-Set-Go Bags, as well as Rural Metro staff available to answer questions and provide subscription information. The event will be scheduled in early May.

Next Meeting

Due to the extended discussion and presentation with our guests, the balance of the April 25 agenda was deferred to follow-up meeting in May. The next meeting will be held at Silver Spurs Ranch including a tour of more new foals prior to the meeting. Meeting scheduled for May 9 with a tour at 5:30pm, meeting at 6:30pm. Terry will provide dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27p.m.

Submitted by: Jenny Powers