SCCC Minutes 5.19.26 Draft
Meeting was held at the Basalt Library

Board Members: Ned Andrews, Sierra Flanagan, Judy Frey, Martha Ferguson, David Chase, Jen Rupert, Forrest Thomas, Johno McBride, Pete McBride, Jill Sabella

Guests: Molly and Steve Child, Jeffrey Woodruff, Melinda Hildebrand, Alex Kelloff, Sarah Adams

David moved to approve the Minutes, seconded by Jen. All in favor.
The Treasurer's report for January through April 30 showed a current total of $18,886.52 with $11,828.52 in the Unrestricted Fund, $4,000 in the Water Studies Fund, and $3,058 in the WildSky Fund. Outstanding expenses were $320 for legal fees, $291 for Nonprofits Insurance and $1600 for communications expense.

BEAVER PRESENTATION BY CAT CORONA
Cat Corona from the County's Healthy Rivers department gave a report on Living with Beavers: A Coexistence Program for the Roaring Fork Valley. . Among the contributions beavers make to our environment are that their dams act as fire brakes, recharge groundwater, improve soil moisture and increase wildlife abundance. They help sustain wetlands. There is a new Colorado Senate Bill 23-270 that protects low-tech stream restoration practices, like creating systems for landowners and beaver relocation must move beaver families intact. The Human Beaver Coexistence Fund (HBCF) educates co-existing and the Methow Beaver Project: Beaver Solution Hotline (5-7.289.2770) helps with solutions.
Johno address how on his family's ranch the beavers had created a water level flooding the hay growing fields and Cat said it was fine to tear down the dams and the beavers will adjust because it's a matter of co-existence.

FEVAAG LAND USE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
Ned introduced the discussion with a brief review of the proposed building on the west side of Snowmass Creek which was denied by P&Z, then the procedure was appealed but not the decision. The Caucus initially objected to access off Snowmass Creek road, the impact on the natural resources and habitat on the eastside since a lot of old trees would have to be removed and its not in conformance with the Caucus' Master Plan.

In 2021 CDOT determined the access to the proposed area could not be from the highway but had to be off Snowmass Creek Road. In 2024 the County determined development had to be on the east side of the creek and in 2025 the County denied building on the eastside. Alex Kelloff, owner/developer is currently looking at all possible eastside locations for the County's preview. Kelloff said the west side had been historically approved for building with access off the highway. (has this been seen?)
Kelloff said he doesn't want to build on the eastside because it doesn't meet scenic road and river setback requirements, is restricted by overhead power lines and water would have to be trucked in and put in storage tanks. He ultimately wants to build on the west side. However, he has to show the County all possible building configurations on the east side, and then the decision will go directly to the BOCC, bypassing the P&Z. If neither side is ultimately buildable, and the County doesn't do a variance on the road and creek setbacks, the possibility remains of the County doing a "takings", or a buyout.
Ned commented that the Caucus will soon get a referral from the County asking what the Caucus wants. And it seemed that ultimately the Caucus prefers a buyout. Ned will draft a letter on the Caucus' position and then respond the the BOCC letter.

TRASH
The Saturday morning trash pick up was a great success. Nineteen caucus residents showed up to clear the roads of trash. Thanks to Molly and Steve Child as always for organizing this annual community effort. Jen Rupert reported that a large amount of trash was picked up by her and her family at the Hay Park parking area

ANNUAL PICNIC ORGANIZING
Mindy Hildebrand, who lives in the Upper Capitol Creek Caucus area, but is owner of the Windstar preserve, has offered that site for this year's Caucus picnic for the possible dates of July 18 or 19th or August 14, 15th or 16th. Her manager of Windstar will be coordinating picnic details with the Caucus committee, which at this point includes Molly, Judy Frey, Jen and Johno. It is yet to be determined if this year's picnic will be for the SCCC area only.

WILDFIRE SAFETY
The next Caucus meeting in June 16th will be mostly about fire, asking all the community to attend. A communications question is how does this information interface with County information - Constant Contact, our website? Ned commented that the airport will have a fire tanker and also a helicopter tanker in Montrose, and that there are live cameras set up around the valley for residents to link in to for live fires. It was suggested that the list of cameras and other contacts be utilized on a mailer card for disseminating immediate contact. The Caucus put out such a card several years ago which could be used as an example.

Johno asked about where fire trucks will be able to get refill water. This was discussed last month and Jeffrey Woodruff said that ponds are imminent domain for such a use.

WILDSKY
Martha unveiled a large aluminum sign - 3' x 5' - announcing the Caucus area bring officially designated a Dark Sky location. It will be permanently hung on the wall of the Conoco Deli where the newspaper are located.

PITKIN COUNTY REFERRAL GOOGLE GROUP Sierra addressed that it is still difficult to access the Caucus' gmail account and website, and that it is imperative that this be figured out as we need to set up the Google group for the County.

Jill moved to adjourn and Forrest seconded. The meeting was adjourned.