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**Thursday, July 20, 2006
Full Membership Meeting
USDA-NRCS
Amherst, MA**

Minutes

Present: Jeff Anliker, Karen Regish, USDA-NRCS; Joe MacDanel, Chris Menard, Westover ARB; Ron Grzelak, Patrick DeFalco, SSA-Holyoke; Sandra Adams, USDA-FSA; Marcel Kerdavid, Barnes ANGB, 104 FW; Linda Repasky, USFWS; Renee Squiers, MEPS, Springfield. Michael Quijano, NPS.

The meeting opened at 8:30 with introductions.

Michael Quijano, the new Superintendent of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site gave a brief biography of his 23 years of service in the National Parks Service. Michael originally from El Paso Texas spoke on bringing new energies to restore the City of Springfield back to its history and stature.

Christopher Menard, the Director of Services at Westover Air Reserve Base spoke on the Signature Services at the facility that are available to all government employees. He handed out a brochure listing several of the bases amenities which includes 7 hotel buildings hosting 500 rooms, a conference center, fitness center, bowling alley, outdoor recreation and four season store for renting items such as campers, bikes, tools, garden equipment etc. These are all available to any government employees showing their government ID at the gate.

Jeff suggested that the January Full membership meeting be held at Westover so that FEAWM members could tour the available facilities. The new fitness center is slated to open in late December.

Minutes-The minutes from the last full membership meeting held on May 18, 2006 were accepted and approved as written.

Treasurers Report-Jeff reported that the balance as of July 20, 2006 is \$7,373.93. He also passed out the income/expense sheet for Jan. 1 through July 20, 2006 with the overall total at \$1,089.75. The report was approved as written.

Committee Updates-

Awards- Judges will be reviewing the award nominations on July 20th following the Full Membership Meeting. The Judges will consist of Board Members and non-federal judges. Jeff was pleased to see a 15% increase in nominations this year.

Sponsorship donations will remain the same as previous years; \$1,000, which includes a full page advertisement in the FEAWM brochure, exhibit space, and 2 comp. meals; \$500 which includes a ½ page ad and 2 comp. meals and \$250 which includes a ¼ page ad and 1 comp meal.

David Tuttle is trying to locate a keynote speaker for the awards program. David will be sending out a letter to the nominees shortly. The cost this year for attending will rise from \$25.00 to \$30. The committee is hoping for 150 in attendance.

Activities: Patrick reported on the FEAWM picnic that was held on June 10th. He stated that about 75 people attended. He thanked the VA Medical Center Employee Activity Committee for donating some of the food for the picnic. This helped to keep the cost of the picnic reasonable.

Pay and Benefits-Ron reported that the committee is still working on locality pay for Berkshire County. They have written a proposal to be submitted next week to the Federal Salary Council with a proposed rules change. Ron urged that Federal agencies send stories of problems in recruiting employees because of locality pay issues. Please contact Ron or Patrick if agencies have hardship stories related to this.

October 2, 2006 Patrick will be traveling to DC to testify on behalf of our locality pay proposal for Berkshire County.

Other-OPM is looking at consolidating the 28 FEBs throughout the country into 7. The FEAWM wrote a letter to OPM stating that we support the FEB as it is currently organized.

Col. Kerdauid reported that the Barnes ANGB Air Show this year was a great show even though they experienced bad weather. Despite the weather, every plane flew. Attendance was about 80,000. They expected 250,000 if the weather had been better.

The next full membership meeting will be held on September 28, 2006 at 9:30 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Holyoke with the awards ceremony to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Recorder: Karen Regish