
The Rev. Canon Joel Dingman provided an opening prayer.

Bishop welcomed the group and stated the only agenda item for this meeting was reflection and reports from the three regions who had been to HR Camp. The remaining three regions will be visiting next Spring/Summer.

Man on the Mountain Ministry:
Joel Dingman gave a report on the Man on the Mountain Ministry group. Joel stated that this group is a ministry that needs a home and the Diocese has a home that needs a ministry. A question was raised to possible problems with any theological barriers if we partnered with this group. The potential barriers were discussed during a meeting with Joel. Joel is confident that it will not be a problem; that the Man on the Mountain Ministry agrees that Christ is the risen Lord.

Region 3 Report:
Tom Johnson gave the report on region 3. See attached Report

Region 4 Report:
Peggy Hotchkiss gave the report on region 4. There was a common theme in this region’s visit, “honor the past but embrace the future.” See attached report.

Region 1 Report:
Shirley Wildman gave a preliminary report on region 1. Shirley noticed a strong feeling of connection and peace while they were there.

After only 3 reports it appears that there are multiple ministries that could be explored for using the property that at this time it is not necessary to look into secular programs.

Once all the reports and feedback has been communicated with the Diocese and Council a committee should be established to help give the council direction on how to proceed. The question was raised to how will the future of this property effect the Diocese financially. Joel expressed that if we moved forward with a partnership with The Man on the Mountain Ministry that they would currently absorb all costs to get HR camp up and running and in sustainable repair, from getting the well operational to a new overhang on “Homestead.”
Council requested a written report from Joel on this ministry that they could take back to their congregations to review and invite parishioners to their programs to begin establishing a connection. At this time the Diocese will move ahead cautiously with pursuing a partnership with The Man on the Mountain once an advisory board has been put into place with Joel as the chair on this board.

The Bishop asked Tom, Peggy, Shirley & Joel to make a small report/presentation at the annual Convention on the progress, process and future of the camp.

The Very Rev. Stephen Askew provided a closing prayer.

Meeting closed at 10:51

Respectfully submitted by Genie Easton
There were ten individuals from the Big Horn Basin Region 1 that traveled to Hank Raymond Camp (Wyoming Wilderness Camp). The majority of group had either been a camper or a parent of someone who had attended HR Camp.

Once we all had arrived we had lunch and the conversation turn to the many memories from their time at camp; crafts, swimming in the swimming hole, times in the cabins and their roommates, to a ECW camp lead by the Rev, Marilyn Engstrom. Climbing the mountain and looking at God’s awesome view.

After lunch we went looking around in the buildings, there were many memories as we toured the buildings. It was great to see many of things still hanging on the walls and in totes.

Climbing the mountain to the outdoor Chapel was great when we got to the top and the view of Laramie Peak on this beautiful sunny day. We knew we were in God’s presence. We spent time writing our memories and sharing them. We then spent time envisioning a future.

Then the Rev. Mary Caucutt, presided over The Wyoming Eucharistic, in the great outdoors in God’s Creation, it was absolutely magnificent.

Then we traveled back to Casper, where we had dinner with the Iona Group. After dinner we broke up and shared experiences that we had that day at the HR Camp (The Wyoming Wilderness Camp). And those in the Iona Group shared their experiences at camp. Many of them had never been to HR Camp, so many of them enjoyed the memories of those who had been to HR Camp. Many shared other camp experiences. It was a great time of interaction with the Iona Group.

**IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE**

First and foremost some of the buildings would need to have some tender loving care done to them. The thought being maybe different Regions could take that on as a project.

Use the camp a retreat for troubled youth, or a family retreat for families to reconnect.
Outdoor Adventure Camp, Science Camp, 4-H groups.

A Suicide Prevention Retreat for training and helping individuals to find peace and solitude.

Possibly a place for Native American Youth to reconnect with their Elders.

Many of our ideas were with same as the other two Regions that had been to HR Camp.

The one thing for sure is they DO Not want the Diocese to sell this property.

Respectfully Submitted

Shirley Wildman
Region 1 Representative
Thoughts from Region 3 – The Platte River Deanery shared about H.R. Wilderness Camp

We had 20 people from Region 3 from Torrington, Lusk, Wheatland, Hartville, Glendo and Douglas. We toured the grounds and reviewed our land maps. This was followed by everyone sharing and writing down old memories from years past at HR Camp. We then set all of those aside (we didn’t burn them due to fire danger) and set our hearts on “Behold, I make all things NEW”. We brainstormed outside the box ideas on how God would like to see this facility used.

We shared a meal and the Wyoming Eucharist service and communion. Being in this beautiful space for a few hours ignited in all of us a longing to see this place be resurrected and available to touch many, many more lives in the future.

- “Prayerfully it can still be used in some way or ways to let folks enjoy the beauty God has placed here. It brings all closer to God. There are children in our USA who need the opportunity to see a place like this and to know God thru His beauty, love and kindness to all. I think possibly could be used for different kinds of “retreats” with the top of my list being our veterans and their families, painting art retreat, making quilts.

- “I’ve always thought Hank Raymond intended for his generous donation to the Church to be used to promote Christianity among the young people of Wyoming! To see the camp in a state of disrepair is troubling. Please God help us with this project.”

The following is a list of ideas:

- H.R. Camper’s Reunion to start with
- Diocesan training/TAC
- Cathedral Home
- PTSD Camp retreat/Injured Vets
- Rent it out to hunters for a hunting camp (money maker)
- Forest Service/Fire training Camp
- Mountain Man Ministries for troubled boys
- 4H camps
- Spirit on the Mountain
- Sports teams from schools to develop team work
- Invite families from local areas who cannot afford to send kids to camp
- Rent for Family reunions, weddings and receptions
- B & B for groups
- Veterans Service and Officers
- Rehab Center
- Rotary Usage
- Retreat center
- Retreat for people with horses and riding
- Approach other churches – Cowboy church and any others who have youth groups
Some thoughts about “Getting It Done and Doing it Right”

- Work in conjunction with Youth Challenge from Guernsey for clean up and maintenance
- Use Christ Church in Douglas as a command center and store supplies have Region 3 be the upfront support and running of the camp due to close proximity
- Camp vehicle to transport campers to and from the camp from Douglas drop off point
- Make it Handicap accessible (restroom in mess hall, ramp for office for sleeping, or cabin for sleeping.
- Run it like a business
- Budget for a “maintenance crew” to help with proactive fire prevention, building maintenance and repairs.
- Hire a year-round director to market available times for groups to use the camp.
- Revive old 501C3 for this camp.
- Keep it H.R. Wilderness camp, do not change the name.
- Have a live-in caretaker
- Keep the camp under the care of the diocese – do not let others run it.
- Market to other churches, etc. all over the U.S. and let them use it.

Notes by Jennie Ketner

Submitted by Tom Johnson – Region 3 Representative

One of the things that happened was the Chalice that belongs to HR Camp has been broken. Jennie contacted a Master Potter who attended HR Camp almost 40 years ago to see if it can be repaired and she said that it was not possible. This Potter was asked if she could make a “New” chalice (that matches the paten) in representation of letting the “old” go and looking forward thinking, again, “Behold, I make all things NEW”
Ten Episcopalians from Region IV traveled to Wyoming Wilderness Camp on August 12th. About one-third of the group had not visited the camp before our gathering. The others were camp alumnae and alumni or the parents/grandparents of former campers.

OVERVIEW

During the time of memory sharing, some themes emerged. The most important theme was that camp was a place where young people were loved unconditionally, no matter who they were, how they dressed, how well they behaved or performed on tasks, or any other criteria that we so often use to evaluate or “judge” people. There was no feeling of competition—everyone was equal and a beloved child of God. And there was no pressure to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, as sometimes happens at other camps or youth gatherings.

As people shared memories, talk gradually shifted from memories to possibilities. One former camper said there was no need to grieve the past—her memories were etched in her heart and were with her daily as part of who she is. People seemed to release memories like balloons and to joyfully embrace visions for the future. From this arose another theme: honor the past; embrace the future.

The conversation tended to revolve around themes of healing and hospitality. Participants felt that the space should be preserved as a sacred space where all would be welcomed, accepted, listened to, and loved.

IDEAS

- Preserve the property as a place for troubled, searching souls, spirits, lives, families, and groups. Possible groups: St. Joseph’s, Boot Camp, Cathedral Home, girls’ and boys’ correctional facilities.
- Suicide prevention support, training; suicide intervention groups.
- Veterans’ groups, such as the “Wounded Warriors” who visit Saratoga to fish and ride horses each summer.
- Possibly open the property to schools or 4-H groups for science camp or to conservation and other groups for learning and exploration.
- Hostel for travelers or cross-country bicycle riders.
- Retreat/hospitality/healing/wilderness center for groups and individuals. Space for vestry, diocesan, youth group, etc. retreats or gatherings.
- Don’t forget the youth, underserved, poor, neglected, probably not nominally Episcopalians (the unchurched), as well as Native Americans (especially youth), youth from other denominations, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA, Scouts, etc.
- Other possibilities (built around the awesome natural setting): Outdoor Adventure Camp (a mini-Outward Bound); cycling camp (hardcore mountain biking), horse camp (needs infrastructure), hard rock climbing camp.
- Develop the “new” 160 acres as a retreat center with yurts or small cabins, a simple chapel, maybe a dining hall, and a building for group gatherings, classes, retreat sessions.
NUTS and BOLTS

- Most group members seemed to feel that a resident caretaker would be essential, no matter what direction we choose to go with the property. It was suggested that donations or use fees could help sustain the property.
- Everyone felt that several days of elbow grease would be needed to get the buildings cleaned and repaired. There is a large hole in the ceiling of the dining hall, thanks to critters. Metal roofs on buildings that currently have shake shingles might be a good idea.
- People suggested that a task force research possibilities for centers that are used as we have suggested. The Shambala Center near Red Feather Lakes is a similar center, but does not have the wilderness ambiance.
- People seemed to feel that part of the appeal of the property is its wilderness feeling—that we don’t want to make the property too “up scale.”

SUMMARY

Our group felt that HR Camp should continue as a place where all are welcomed, accepted, and loved and that its ministry should be one of healing and empowering people to grow—physically, cognitively, emotionally, or spiritually. As one participant wrote, “Focus on: healing, listening, growing, regenerating.” The wilderness aura of the property should be preserved as much as possible. Someone needs to be onsite to ensure that the buildings and property are cared for, as well as to coordinate the use of the property by various groups, families, and individuals.

Submitted by Margaret (Peggy) Hotchkiss, Ed.D.
Region IV Diocesan Council Representative

PHOTOS by Leslie Zimmerscheid are on page 3.