Regular Monthly Meeting

Beaverhead Trails Coalition

August 23rd, 2018

Present: Dan Downey, Craig Simonsen, Pat Carrick, Dan Pence, Pam Laursen, Bill Laursen, Sue Hansen, Pete Wakeman, Betty Mooney, Michael Mhoon, Alan Weltzien, Ken Scalzone, Nathan Freeman, Celine Beaucamp-Stout.

1. **Previous months minutes**

Motion to approve July 19th meeting’s minutes by Michael Mhoon, seconded by Pat Carrick

1. **Treasurer report**

The organization has 58 paid up members. Celine has been sending emails to members with expired membership to encourage them to renew.

1. **Grant updates**

**Clif Bar**- Still waiting to hear back, asked for $9,900 for Clif Bar to sponsor 18 acres. They do have another cycle due Oct 1. Could reapply if last application is denied.

**Union Pacific -**their process ends in late August, should receive a letter in September. Requested $25,000

**Lawrence Foundation -**Will start on that one next month. *Need to know whether to use Selway Park or High Trails for this one.* Their focus is helping the environment. They are open to operational funds, and application due Nov. 1. Average grant amount of $5,000

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife** - Government funded grant open to anyone. Working on a letter of inquiry this week to submit. If approved will go for grant application, as well as have final more information to decide if a good fit. They fund from $1 to $750,000. Looking for average amount. High Trails, can use for operational expenses. Program needs to direct resources to conserve habitat for wildlife, and increase biological diversity. Project work plans are developed strategically in coordination with partners and involvement from field staff from US Fish and Wildlife. Since the staff we would work with is already in Dillon, this could be an easy fit, as we already work to rid the areas of weeds and such.

**Cornell Douglas Foundation**- Finishing letter of inquiry. If approved will continue on to next step of application. Requesting $10,000 for High Trails project support, which could include operational expense. They fund conservation and sustainability projects.

1. **High trails Phase 3**

MTFWCT is finalizing the $50,000 grant to buy 3 parcels of phase 3 (in addition to last year’s $50k grant).

Closing is set for October 1st. In order to close, the following item need to be completed:

* The title insurance has to be sent to MTFWCT
* A contaminant survey has to be done by an environmental professional (Scott Ferris – set for setptember 8th).

The 3 parcels were negociated to be sold for $110,000

1. **Selway Park**

The party held for the stakeholders (MT DOT and FWP) on August 15th was very successful.

The park will continue to be watered until about mid September.

Weeds still need to be pulled – we need to organize a weed day – ask for MT Youth Challenge participants?

September 22nd will be a fall planting day – we need to buy native bushes.

1. **Noble Avenue**

LOR funded the engineering plan. The city will build the middle section with millings and BTC will complete the other 2 sections by summer 2020.

Bids for construction are asked from R.E. Miller and Kelly Row.

The daycare access is still being debated.

1. **Other business**
   * + - * Pigtail connector trail maintenance: we need to add gravel to the trail. Park Scott (FS) or Bill Kholar can help. The trail is being plowed in winter by volunteers, this contributes to the removal of the gravel.
         * 2019 Range Days – access to the High Trails for plants identification (June)
         * Rattlesnakes at the High Trails – make signs
         * Storage unit can be emptied once the bikes are taken by Walk Bike MT – Sue Hansen offered to take some item in storage
         * Walking Schoolbus will start on Monday September 10th
2. **Next meeting Thursday September 20th – 5:30pm – Sherriff’s annex conference room (reserved). Adjourn.**