

Beaverhead Trails Organization
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2015

Those present: Dan Downey, Rick Hartz, Ed Mooney, Dan Pence, Pete Wakeman, Craig Simonsen, Alan Weltzien, Pat McNeil, Larry Skiles, Joyce Connors.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Dan reported on an April 7th meeting wherein he, Ben Moore and Joyce Connors met with Kendra Bull and Nathan Wilson to debrief on many issues before they moved to Oregon. Some of the issues discussed were the Pigtail Project, the Fun Day and 5K run, the Patagonia Grant (which Ben will take over), and where we are at on other grants (Cinnabar, the Capacity Building Grant, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust Grant). Also discussed was the fundraising event at the Brewery on May 15th (likely to be changed to the 22nd), National Trails Day on June 6th, the possibility of Ben replacing Kendra on the Board, and the possibility of increasing the number of board members. Kendra and Nathan plan to continue to be available by email.

Dan proposed that Ben Moore replace Kendra as Vice-President of the organization, which was approved. He also proposed that we increase the board to five members, by adding Larry Skiles and Ed Mooney to the board. This, too, was voted on and approved.

Anderson Fencing is making the bench and the register for the Dillon Overlook Trail, to be covered by the 2014 United Way Grant. Larry will follow up on this.

The Pigtail Project is nearly finished. Parke Scott did some work on the trail and J. S. Turner said the city will be compacting the gravel on the trail soon, which will then be officially opened, with a press release sent to the media. Kendra and Nathan will finish sending the bills in for reimbursement.

Four members will go to Helena for the presentation before the Citizens Advisory Board for the F&W Conservation Trust on May 11th. Dan, Pat, Rick and Joyce will attend.

Various grants were discussed:

The Cinnabar Grant has been sent in asking for \$4,000 per year for 2 years for operational expenses.

The United Way Grant for \$2000 for 2015 has been approved. It will be used for signage and benches on the Pigtail Trail.

Ben will work on a Patagonia Grant for revegetation.

The Capacity Building Grant was discussed and it was decided to ask for the money for hardware and software for membership and donations. Craig mentioned that he had worked on a similar project and could perhaps tailor it to fit BTC. Ed said his daughter-in-law worked with non-profits on similar issues and Joyce will contact her for advice.

Ben will be posting profiles of trail users on the web site, which has had 750 visits and 2250 pages accessed.

Tim Speyer recently donated an additional \$124,000 for the DTO land purchase. This money was wired to the Stockman Asset account. We discussed naming a loop trail after Tim as this project would never have gotten underway without his donations. Dan and Joyce recently sent thank you notes to Tim, along with a confirmation of his donation.

Ed, Alan, Pat & Dan will coordinate the Earth Day event, which will be a tabling event to promote our group and project.

Craig, Dan & Alan will coordinate the Fun Day event on May 2nd. Discussion of advertising, routes, & prizes took place. Rick will participate in a morning radio program (What's on Your Mind?) on April 30th. We have already obtained insurance for the event. This event is intended for community involvement, rather than as a fundraising event.

The Brewery Fundraising Event was discussed. We plan to have a raffle, a silent auction and a band. We will likely change the date from May 15th to May 22nd. Alan, Craig, Dan, Larry and Joyce will be on the committee.

Ed and Larry did a presentation on the GPS and mapping work they've done on the potential trail system circling around Dillon, with spokes to the center of town. They had some great maps they've worked on. We discussed the segmenting of the overall plan, identifying priorities, seizing on opportunities that may arise, and developing a multiyear plan. A resolution was presented and we voted to work on a strategic plan for the future trail system.

This led to a further discussion about easements, trespassing, and what we can and can't do up on the land, as outlined in the buy-sell agreement. Pete will contact Otto Miller regarding the 5k Fun Run and get his permission for the route for the run.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th, either at the Law Enforcement Annex or at the Barrett Hospital Foundation Building.