BEAVERHEAD TRAILS COALITION

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 15, 2015

Members Present: Dan Downey, Larry Skiles, Ed Mooney, Rick Hartz, Pete Wakeman, Ben Moore, Nathan Wilson, Alan Weltzien, Ben Booker, and Joyce Connors

**Old Business**

Minutes of the December meeting were approved with one minor correction on the name of a company.

Larry Skiles wrote thank you letters to the Speyer Family Trust and to Tim Speyer personally.

National Trails Day was a success with about 40 people taking part as participants and volunteers. We used a $500 grant from Walmart to buy kid-sized snowshoes for the event. There was also a discussion about the availability of the cabin for promotion of cross country skiing.

**Election of Officers**

The annual election of officers was held with the following results: President – Dan Downey, Vice-President – Kendra Bull, Sec/Treasurer – Joyce Connors.

**New Business**

Membership Drive: The Membership Committee prepared an information sheet with suggested membership amounts. We talked about posters, membership forms, and ordering letterhead and envelopes. Plan is to order 500 Membership Forms, along with 100 sheets of letterhead and envelopes. Rick Hartz will look into putting an ad in the paper. (Note: the new ad appeared in Febr 4th edition of the Dillon Tribune.) We also talked about finding the digital file with the logo used on the t-shirts and distributing it to people to use for various projects.

Employee Discussion: Further discussion took place regarding hiring someone to keep us organized and moving forward. Joyce Connors has looked into various aspects of the hiring process, including getting set up with the various state agencies. A hiring committee consisting of Dan, Pete, Joyce and Larry will meet to finalize a job description, hourly rate, etc. (Note: this meeting was held on Jan 21st, the job description was written up, and Dan has been in contact with Nathan regarding the “Executive Organizer” position.)

Communications with Jen Boyer and Jen Downing was discussed.

Pigtail Connector Trail: Kendra, Dan & Nathan will meet with Tom Miller to discuss costs so we can figure out a budget. Initial funding has been awarded from the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Recreational Trails 2014 Grant of $24,000 and other possible funding was discussed. We also talked about applying for a grant from Patagonia for the revegetation project using the plan outlined by the UMW Botany group.

Grant Applications: We discussed the Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust grant application. The grant subcommittee will continue to work with Jen Boyer on this as the deadline is April 9th. Other grants discussed were the Recreational Trails Program (March 6, $20,000), a Running Funds grant ($10,000), and the 2015 United Way grant ($2,000 for the Pigtail Bridge Project). We currently need grant money for ongoing operations.

Annual Operating Budget: Dan appointed a committee (Kendra, Larry & Joyce) to work on an annual operating budget.

Building Capacity for Community Based Conservation Seminar: Four people have signed up for this seminar that will be held Febr 4,5,& 6 at UM Western. Dan, Larry, Ed & Joyce will all attend.

Treasurer’s Report: Larry Skiles gave the treasurer’s report. The current bank balance is $11,180.49, though we owe Kendra approximately $500 from this balance for the snowshoes she purchased for the Winter Trails Day event. The Walmart funds to cover this expense have been deposited to the account, but we haven’t yet reimbursed Kendra for the accompanying expense. Also, we moved $5,000 to open the Stockman Asset account and subsequently electronically transferred the stock gift from the Speyer Family Foundation to this account. As directed, all stocks were immediately sold, leaving approximately $123,000 in this account.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at the Sheriff’s Annex.