Beaverhead Trails Coalition

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 12, 2015

Those present: Dan Downey, Pete Wakeman, Larry Skiles, Ben Moore, Ed Mooney, Dan Pence, Joyce Connors, Brendan Aiken, Michael Mhoon

**Old Business**

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust: Dan Downey, Pat McNeil, Rick Hartz & Joyce Connors went to Helena on May 11th to present our grant application. Two important things to remember for a repeat presentation next year: (1) possibly have a power point presentation of some sort of pictures, maps, etc. and (2) make sure to show how our project meets (to some degree) ALL the criteria for these grants. We clearly meet the “recreation” part of their mission, but we get more points for meeting every part, such as the fishing and hunting part. Dan talked to Deb Lane, who let him know that the Citizens’ Board recommended our project for $100,000 grant. There will be a public comment period that we should all comment on as individuals. We’ll let everyone know, as we know more about the public comment period. Grant money will be awarded in June.

Hiring for the Executive Organizer Position: The Board members met with Jim Roscoe on April 30 to interview him for the part time job with BTC. Dan Downey also later spoke with Jim and hired him. We revised the original outline for the position into more of a contract.

Brewery Fundraiser Night: Those on the committee for the fundraiser at the Brewery are Alan, Craig, Larry, Dan, Joyce and Ben. We will meet with Brett at the Brewery on Thursday, May 14th to discuss details for the event. We will likely use the room at the back of the Brewery for our Silent Auction. We hope to get 20-30 items for the Silent Auction and each of us will try to get two items for the event. Ben will create a poster/flyer for the event. Joyce will work on an ad for the paper.

5K Run/Fun Day: We discussed the small turnout for the 5K run, with only about 11 people signing up for the event. We decided May was a busy month and that perhaps August is a better month for the event.

Dillon Town Overlook Bench and Register: Anderson Fencing is making the Register for the trail. Larry checked on it today. They’re a little behind on things as a key piece of machinery has been broken for a while. Larry ordered a bench online.

National Trails Day: We hope to install the bench on the first knoll (on the county land by the power poles) on National Trails Day on June 6th. The bench may later be moved to the top of the second knoll, once we complete the transaction for Phase I of the land sale. Or possibly we will add a second bench on the second knoll. The bench comes apart and we hope to carry it to the top using Dan Pence’s horse, if possible. If not, we’ll just carry it up. We will meet at the trailhead at 10:00 on June 6th to install the bench.

Future West Grant Application: We will ask for funds for a computer and software so we can start creating a membership data base for the organization. Jen Boyer had sent a message regarding what she saw as the most important issues facing us right now and a meeting is being planned to discuss these issues.

**New Business**

Dan is ordering stationary and envelopes using the High Trails logo (“from the W and Beyond”).

Mandy Moss, from Southwest Montana Arts Council, has asked if we would like to be involved in the Wild & Scenic Film Festival next winter, along with SMAC and Terra Verde (UMW Environmental Club). We voted to support and pursue this project.

Ed Mooney talked about the hearings the Community Planning Board will have regarding the Growth Policy. The 1st meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2nd, likely from 4-7, either at the Depot Theater or City Hall. There will likely be a second meeting/open house scheduled. We should all try to attend one of these meetings as this is where you can affect decisions on growth plans. You can look at the contractor’s web site for further information: [www.sandersonstewart.com/projects/dillon](http://www.sandersonstewart.com/projects/dillon)

Rick Hartz mentioned that there would be a Southwest Montana Regional Planning Workshop on May 19th, if anyone is interested in attending.

Public Relations: We talked at length about the letter to the editor that appeared in the Dillonite Daily criticizing BTC and our work on the Pigtail Bridge. The author was upset that we hadn’t contacted all of the neighbors to let them know of the project. The negative view of our project caught us totally by surprise. We thought we had contacted everyone we needed to during the planning phase of the project: YMCA, City of Dillon, the ditch owner, etc. Larry talked to the other neighbors, to people using the parking lot, and to J.S. Turner from the city. The city plans to do some more work on the little piece of street at the south end of the trail. Pete and Jim will try to meet with the letter’s editor, though she’s currently out of town. Dan will talk to Jim about fixing the fence. Larry will talk to J.S. Turner about not doing anything at that end of the trail until the issue is resolved. We also talked to another neighbor regarding an error on a map of the Dillon Town Overlook project. Ben will fix the map on the website and at the trailhead. And Ben and Ed and Larry will meet to go over the map stuff.

Beaverhead Ambulance has asked about using the Dillon Town Overlook trail/hill as part of their yearly exercise. We will need to contact Otto Miller for permission to use more than normal trail.

We talked about the need for a long term management plan for the “W.” People are building fires up there, which is slightly worrisome, though Dan Pence, retired Fire Manager for the Beaverhead Forest said that fire danger on the hill is very low. We plan to talk to the Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Prickly Pear Land Trust about the issues that will come up. We don’t want to have a bunch of rules, but don’t want a lot of legal liability, either. This will likely be another topic when we meet with Jen Boyer in June regarding “where do we go from here?” topics.

Our next meeting is set for Thursday, June 18th, at a location to be announced.