

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 13, 2015

Room 326, City-County Building
5:36 to 6:32 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Craig McLane, Bestsy Miller, Jim Philips, Jane Kollmeyer, Ann Gilkey and staff Brad Langsather.

Minutes:

Miller moved to approve the December 9, 2014 minutes. Kollmeyer second the motion. Motion passed.

General Discussions:

Wirak asked if committee members had any grant support letters to give to Brad for inclusion in with his grant submission. Brad has about 8 support letters. It will be submitted by the end of the week. Langsather noted that some additional clarifications were updated in the grant particularly regarding the community forest.

Wirak asked for an update regarding the Beattie Street parking lot. Langsather handed out a map showing the South Beattie Street trail head. He noted he'd like to size the parking lot to be able to accommodate about 20 cars. He's working with BLM since there is a restrictive deed attachment, which includes some vague language relating to nothing unnatural should be on the property. HOLMAC will need to prepare a letter to submit to BLM regarding this issue.

Wildlife subcommittee:

Wirak asked if anyone was interested in getting the committee going. Philips and Miller noted they'd be interested in working on this committee. Kollmeyer noted that former committee member Lois Olsen may be interested in this as well.

Phillips discussed the possible use of a "guzzler". One element will be to seek funds from more than one source, which will help establish effort in the grant application as well. Another issue is exactly how much water is needed. One place to consider is on the Mount Helena Ridge area and to get it off a designated trail. A guzzler may cost about \$16,000 which would possibly include installation costs. Philips will have some materials to submit to the committee for the next meeting.

Trails:

Wirak discussed the South Hills Trail Plan, which is drafted and written by the PPLT. Philips feels it is a critical document and HOLMAC should be active in its design/edit. The trail plan's time frame is about 10 years. Wirak suggested that the members bring any comments regarding the plan to the next meeting.

General Discussion (continued):

Langsather discussed the wetland group (Wetland Conservation Committee “WCC”) that is working on obtaining some lands near the fairgrounds. It is known as the Charles Vanhook wetland area. City will gain ownership via deed from PPLT.

Langsather discussed a commitment with MCC for next summer. It will be a Helena based crew instead of a national crew.

Langsather discussed the forestry project on Mount Ascension on hold due to snow.

Langsather noted we might want to hold an event in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Open Lands Act.

Langsather noted that we may lose some FEMA funding from disaster monies which don’t have time extensions to get the work done. Due to snow some of the work can’t get done.

Weeds:

None

Volunteers-Ambassadors with the Police Department:

Philips noted that he has had no returned communication back from the Police Department. As such, this program may dissolve.

Funding:

No report

Public Comments:

None

Miller moved to adjourn the meeting and Gilkey second the motion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 10, 2015 at 5:30

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: