

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 8, 2015

Room 326, City-County Building
5:33 to 6:40 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Eric Sivers, Jim Philips, Jane Kollmeyer, Nate Kopp with PPLT, and staff Brad Langsather and Greta Diege. Kollmeyer exited the meeting at 6:18 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from the August 11, 2015 meeting were presented. Please note: the HOLMAC met in the field the in June and July and as such no formal meeting and minutes were prepared.

General Discussions:

- Philips discussed the Land and Water Conservation Act continuance (reauthorization).
- Wirak asked members to document trails and the specific locations that need repairs. This will then be evaluated to be included in next year's contract with PPLT.
- Philips noted that the Pinchot Trail (possibly in forest service land) is "v" and "u" shaped and is having some water drainage issue. He suggested that HOLMAC make a suggestion to the Forest Service for this issue.
- Langsather noted he needs a list by February 1, 2016 regarding trail maintenance and repairs.
- Sivers noted a social trail on the Acropolis trail that cuts out the switch backs.
- Morrison noted that there is a new social trail going straight up from the Northwest Passage.
- Philips noted that the Davis Gulch (shooting range parking lot) needs a doggie bag post.
- Langsather discussed the potential to formalize the trail that intersection with the westend Davis St shooting range parking lot.
- Langsather discussed a possible ADA trail with decomposed granite in the Tucker/Dry gulch area.
- Wirak noted that a possible HOLMAC field visit for the next meeting near the PPLT bike skills course and the Eagle Scout Trail. We'll meet at the Eagle Scout Trail parking.
- Kopp discussed that PPLT drafted a letter regarding the potential purchase of some property near the Beattie street parking area.
- Wirak suggested that HOLMAC be active with the BLM with any property that may have an interest to the HOLMAC. Langsather will discuss this with Robert Rasmussen of PPLT. Maybe utilize the Recreational Purposes Act that the city has used to purchase property.
- Langsather discussed the funding (tax receipts) for open lands, which is done on a per lot assessment. The city commission felt that since the assessment was doubled in 2009 they wanted to increase the "impervious" assessment and reduce the per lot assessment. The commission removed the increased in the per lot assessment, but the impervious was never increased. Essentially the private lot owner was carrying the load while the impervious (i.e. commercial lots) were not participating as much. So open lands lost \$75,000 in this year's

budget. Open Lands did have some reserves which was earmarked for land purchase such as parking lot additions.

- Kopp noted that Bike skills course still has one more volunteer day to complete this year.
- Kopp noted that the West end trail work is done.
- Langsather noted that everything below the 2006 trail is getting wrapped up for forestry work.
- Langsather turned in a grant for the forestry project for the North face of Mount Helena. Thinning through the fur stand.
- Langsather noted that they have wrapped up with MCC for the year. They have lots of firewood at the barn. It will be distributed to low income families.
- PPLT agreed to install some of the pet practices signed and again 300 feet up from the trail head. We have 25 signs purchased.
- Diege noted that there were 14 participants on the grant. Waiting for invoice from treatment on about 140 acres with herbicide.
- Diege discussed an agreement with an encroachment issue with a homeowner. The homeowner has been workable and will be putting up a fence and an encroachment agreement was agreed to.
- Diege discussed that they have collected 500 to 600 of bugs for knapweed and put those out. 17 new insect releases.
- Diege noted that she'd be willing to take any HOLMAC member in the field to learn what to look for in regards to insects that are working against the weeds.
- Diege noted that the insects have been a huge success with Dalmation Toad Flax noxious weed.
- Morrison moved to pass the August 2015 meeting minutes. Wirak seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting. Wirak second the motion. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 13, 2015 at 5:30 Eagle Scout Trail parking.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: