

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Board of Directors

Meeting Date: June 3, 2013

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Elise Robocker, Ray Sanders, Pete Woll

Members of the Board not in attendance:

All board members were present.

Also in attendance:

Jed Fisher, Superintendent; Gordon Jewett, Assistant Superintendent; and Michele Haarr, Clerk

Others Present:

Greg Ames – MT Department of Agriculture

Dave Burch – MT Dept of Agriculture

Cindy Ercoline – Kila Advisory

Clifford Kipp – Montana Conservation Corps/Foys to Blacktail Trails/Herron/Foys Advisory

Alan Ruby – Gateway to Glacier

Mary Ruby – Gateway to Glacier

Elaine Wilson – Lakeside Advisory

Ron de Young – MT Department of Agriculture

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation, was held in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana, on June 3, 2013. The meeting convened at 8:30AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 6, 2013 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Clyde Fisher made a motion to approve the May 6, 2013 board minutes.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Montana Department of Agriculture Weed Program Updates – Dave Burch & Greg Ames

Ron de Young, Dave Burch and Greg Ames reviewed budget constraints of the Department of Agriculture due to the recent legislative session and SB 144. Priority efforts of the Department include statewide weed control and grant administration. Aquatic weed enforcement has been entirely directed to Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

There is discussion regarding delisting Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curlyleaf Pondweed and Flowering Rush. These weeds are currently on Fish, Wildlife & Parks prohibited list.

Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that the current Board of Commissioners has made it clear that Flathead County's participation with aquatic weed is education & support. The County lacks funding and staff to contribute financially.

The Department of Agriculture is asking for Flathead County to 1) become aware of the financial constraints as a result of SB 144, 2) attend future legislative hearings in support of the Department of Agriculture and 3) support the fee increase in the noxious weed seed free forage program.

Superintendent Fisher asked for assistance in making weed enforcement laws more efficient and effective. An effort is being made to establish enforcement regulations specific to Flathead County. Ron de Young will talk with Department of Agriculture Chief Attorney Cort Jensen to obtain a letter for the County Attorney's office with recommendations and support for this effort.

Tiger Grant Application – Environmental Assessment Consultation

The City of Kalispell sent a letter requesting comments on any impact associated with an environmental review for a Tiger Grant application to redevelop the existing Knife River gravel pit and concrete batch plant. Board members Jim Buechle & Elise Robocker will meet with Mark Lalum of Cenex, which is anticipated to be the first tenant. There were no negative impacts reported as a result of that meeting.

Bigfork Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Bigfork Advisory Committee.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

There was no one present from Foys/Herron Advisory Committee.

Foys to Blacktail Trails

Clifford Kipp reported that the recent National Trails Day event at the Foys Center and Herron Park was a great success. Many groups participated and a lot of work was accomplished. Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that any work on the creek requires a permit and rocks placed in the State right-of-way need to be relocated. Mr. Kipp reported that the Community Forest Grant payment is being processed and anticipated by July 31st.

Kila Advisory Report

Cindy Ercoline reported that a fence is being moved by US Fish & Wildlife and it will be modified from barbed to smooth wire. County staff was at the site to review mowing & brush hogging needs. A 10 slot bike rack has been purchased and the group is trying to obtain picnic tables and benches that will compliment those of Rails to Trails. Weed spraying was requested.

Lakeside Advisory Report

Elaine Nelson thanked the staff for the clean-up work. The tennis camp will be held mid-July and at the rate of \$5.00 per child. There is a continuing concern about tennis court maintenance and the need for water near the courts.

Middle Forks Advisory Committee

There was no one present from the Middle Forks Advisory Committee.

Other Business

Gateway to Glacier Trail/Jim Dupont Memorial Trail – Alan & Mary Ruby presented a fundraising flyer and reported on past and future fundraising events. A grant was awarded by Dennis Washington Foundation in the amount of 10k. The state is working with the group to locate property for the Jim Dupont memorial. The Rubys thanked the board for their support. There is 100k left to raise.

Horace Sanders Memorial Park – Superintendent Fisher reported that this is still on the agenda and the State Highway Department is looking at Hwy 2 East.

Volunteer Park Potential Expansion – A listing agent for property adjacent to Volunteer Park has contacted the County. Bruce Ennis is interested in working with us to expand the park. PILT dollars may be available.

Church Slough – The floodplain permit is being held up until a 124 permit is in place, although there is an existing 124 permit. The slough may not open this season.

Flathead Conservation District – Board member Pete Woll reported that \$7500 has been awarded to the County for purchase of 2 new rental sprayers.

Weed Spray Contracts – Staff is working between weather to complete DOT jobs – with an additional 10k for bypass work. BPA may increase the amount for contract work. DNRC wants additional work done.

Chemical Bid Release – There is 80k in the chemical budget with Timberland USA receiving the majority of the contract and CHS receiving a portion.

Construction/Relocation Update – Analysis of Parks & Recreation and Weed Department needs have not been addressed since the departments merged. Two new shops, approximately 40' x 50', will be built adjacent to the current shop location at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell. The shop at Cemetery Road and Kalispell Feed & Grain will relocate to the new shops. Building maintenance will be moved to the current Park shop on Cemetery Road as the Adams building was not the best location for shop use.

Gymnasium Update – There is a meeting scheduled this week with Davar & Todd Gardner who has offered to donate 10 acres of land for a gymnasium.

Bigfork Whitewater Festival 2013 – The Permit Application for Sliter's Park was cancelled.

Adjourn

Clyde Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:17AM.

Elise Robocker seconded the motion.

There being no discussion and all in favor ~ the motion was carried.

The time and place of the next regular meeting is Monday, July 1, 2013 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

Letter from City of Kalispell dated 5-23-13 re Tiger Grant Application – Environmental Assessment Consultation

Gateway to Glacier Fundraising Newsletter