

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation
MINUTES
Board of Directors
Meeting Date: March 5, 2012

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:

Tom Esch – Foys to Blacktail Trails
Skip Gilmore – Bigfork Advisory Committee
Tamara Tanberg – Lakeside Advisory committee
John Ulrich – Lakeside Advisory Committee

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 March 5, 2012. The meeting convened at 8:30AM, Chairman Sanders presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Jim Buechle made a motion to approve the February 7, 2012 minutes.

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion ~ and all in favor, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Skip Gilmore reported the following:

1. Flathead Lake Holt Drive Access – This access is shown as an easement- **see Attachment A**. Dave Hadden will talk with Dave Prunty of Flathead County Road Department and BJ Grieve of Flathead County Planning & Zoning Department to discuss maintaining this access.
2. Kayak Rack – Jeffrey Fund of Bigfork was contacted to build a kayak rack and has submitted schematics of the proposal – **see Attachments B-1 & B-2**. Donations will be requested to complete the

project. Pete Woll commented that the proposed schematic would require maintenance due to the use of old material. He recommended thick aluminum bolted down on a pad.

3. Lake Hills Trail – A schematic was submitted illustrating the location of a proposed perimeter trail at Lake Hills Park – **see Attachment C**. The Advisory Committee would like to have loose material placed to construct a rough trail, which is approximately 1200' or ¼ mile. The estimate is \$500 - \$600 for an equipment operator to define a trail with volunteers to spread top material once the trail is established.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that Bob Keenan has 15K to donate for Sliter Park bathrooms. There will be a meeting with Paul Mutascio to discuss the project. Mr. Gilmore was invited to attend this meeting; however, he will be out of town.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

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

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Tom Esch reported the monthly news:

- 1) Foy's to Blacktail is applying for a Federal "Community Forest Grant" with an application due date of April 15th, in the amount of 400K. There is only 3.2M available nationwide and it will be very competitive. FTBT will need to match the grant if they get it and are considering using the contribution of Flathead County.
- 2) The Flathead Community Foundation for setting up the endowment for perpetual maintenance of the FTBT trails. There is a commitment of 5K from a member and the 2K allocated last month by this Board.
- 3) Peter Steele is researching the use of proceeds from timber sales in the park.
- 4) Insurance has been secured for the Herron Hustle, Paddlethon and mini-Marathon in the amount of 1M per the County's requirement.

Lakeside Advisory Report

Tamara Tanberg asked about the status of the cash-in-lieu request for a new slide at Ben Williams Park. There are issues with the fall zone and the material of the current slide. The fall zone became a concern when the tennis courts were installed, which crowded the area where the slide is located. The metal conducts heat which can burn a child. Ms. Tanberg was advised to solicit donations from the Lakeside community.

Ms. Tanberg reported that Lakeside Advisory Committee has made an effort to attend public meetings at Lakeside Community Club and the Chamber of Commerce to participate and educate the community regarding their activities. Chairman Ray Sanders encouraged and endorsed the community interaction.

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that Ron Caldbeck of Wild Waves, a water craft and boat rental business, is set up to launch watercraft at the marina and anticipates a smooth running operation. Use of the public dock should be rare.

Middle Forks Advisory Committee

There was no one present from Middle Forks Advisory Committee.

Other Business

- Robin Street Pond Trail Work – Superintendent Jed Fisher reviewed the work and generous contributions that Robin Street has made in donating the Robin Street pond to Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Mr. Fisher requested the Board’s approval to proceed with submitting a Round-Up for Safety award from Flathead Electric to help with the cost of installing a handicapped accessible approach. The board endorsed Fisher’s efforts.
- Church Slough Lawsuit Update – Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that several depositions have taken place. The scheduled court date is June 18, 2012, and it is anticipated that the trial will take a week and be quite intense, with many witnesses being called to the stand. Mr. Fisher expressed his appreciation and respect for the attorneys representing Flathead County – Marcel Quinn and Angela Jacobs of Hammer, Hewitt, Jacobs & Quinn, PLLC, both whom he described as “incredible”.
- Hungry Horse Island Park – Megan Lamana Memorial – The Board discussed a request from Ronnie Lakes for construction of a memorial to his step-daughter at one of the Hungry Horse Island parks. Examples of Mr. Lakes work, and a schematic for the Megan Lamana Memorial were distributed – **see Attachment D**. While the Board was sympathetic to Mr. & Mrs. Lakes’ loss, the ensuing discussion was consistent with the concerns expressed at the February 6, 2012 Board meeting. Because the schematic showed an image for a single purpose and not for the public at large, it was generally agreed that approval of this substantial memorial would set an inappropriate precedent for all County parks. There was discussion regarding a pavilion type structure with a small memorial plaque, a bench or a picnic table. Because the location would be directly off of the highway, Superintendent Jed Fisher stated his concern about a gazebo structure which could be damaged by a vehicle, or vandalized by burning, which has occurred at other County parks. Mr. Fisher will relay the Board’s decision to Mr. Lakes.

Elise Robocker made a motion to authorize a concrete bench or a concrete picnic table, with a small memorial plaque, no larger than 4” x 12”.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

- Grant Requests – Tansy Ragwort and Aquatic Invasive Species. Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that Assistant Superintendent Gordon Jewett and Education & Compliance Officer Steve Robinson were in Helena last week to testify at Department of Agriculture reviews for grant applications. Mr. Fisher stated that the Weed District stands a good chance of being awarded most of the requests, with a possible cut-back on the total amount.

Fisher stated that a total of 4 grant applications have been submitted for AIS: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, for work completed at Beaver Lake – \$5,100; Department of Agriculture for AIS survey work in the spring – 41K; and two applications to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for essentially the same work as the 41K Department of Agriculture application, however due to smaller limits, the total amount of 41K was split into two applications.

Fisher expressed his concern about the Flathead County Weed District employees spraying directly into the water for aquatic weeds. Similar to the work performed at Beaver Lake, Flathead County plans to survey bodies of water, and hand pull any AIS that are found, perform removal by hand only with bottom barriers being placed as needed.

Fisher recommended that Sarah Holden of Mountain Valley Plant Management be contracted to perform a single small-scale remediation for Yellowflag Iris. Sarah was a former employee of the Department of Agriculture and has extensive knowledge about noxious weeds. Her company performed work for the City of

Missoula in their effort to control Yellowflag Iris. The general public and landowners were given educational information and Missoula County did not receive any complaints.

Chairman Sanders stated that AIS is a new effort for this Weed District, and because we are the governing agency there is a need to become informed and educated regarding aquatic weed control. We need to get a handle on this situation and this will take the support of many local groups.

Pete Woll made a motion to proceed with contracting Mountain Valley Plant Management to perform remediation work for Yellowflag Iris, in an amount not to exceed \$4,900.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

Fisher reported that he had spoken with Jerry d'Aquin who was critical of the Weed District saying that we do nothing to control the Curly Leaf Pondweed in Bigfork Harbor. The estimated cost for remediation is substantial – up to \$2,400 per acre, and the need for education and partnership was reiterated. It was generally agreed that Flathead County Weed District is the enforcement agency; however there are questions about who is responsible to control noxious weeds in question. There was discussion about whether the County is financially responsible for control. Depending on the body of water, access is typically under the jurisdiction of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the land under the water is typically under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. If the water/land is located on a reservation, tribal authorities have jurisdiction.

- Church Slough No Wake Zone – Superintendent Jed Fisher requested the Board's approval to circulate a petition to support a no wake zone at Church Slough. Mr. Fisher commented that this would be consistent with the no wake zone at Fennon Slough, which Pete Woll stated has improved the water quality. This topic will be placed on the next Board meeting agenda.
- Chemical Purchase – Superintendent Jed Fisher advised the Board that a 15K chemical purchase for Milestone was made in order to save 8%.
- Board Training – Superintendent Jed Fisher advised the Board that if anyone is interested in attending, there will be a final session of Board training this month hosted by County Attorney Tara Fugina.

There was no other business.

Adjourn

Clyde Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47AM.

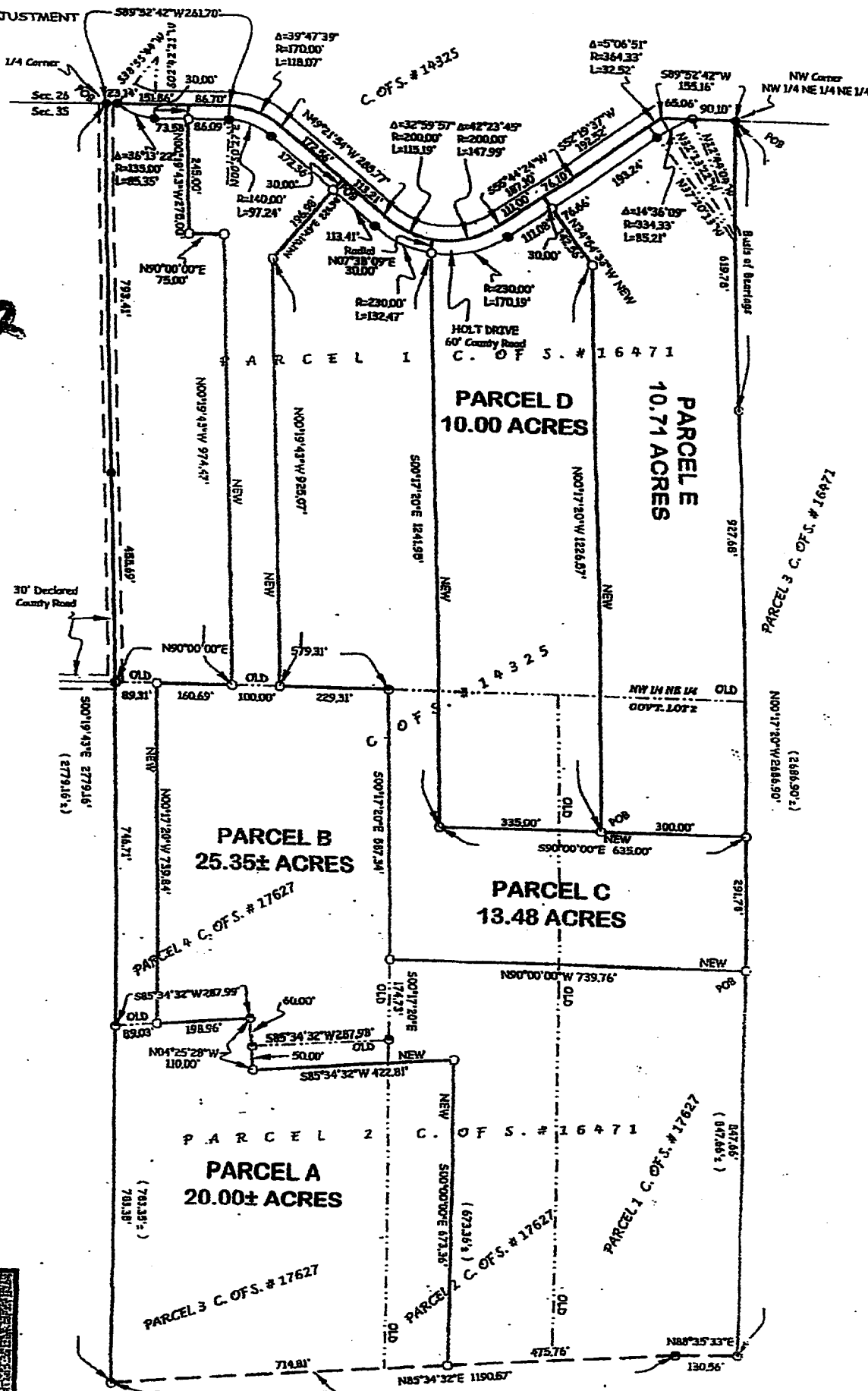
Jim Buechle seconded the motion

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

The time and place of the next regular meeting is Monday, April 2, 2012 at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

OWNER: LESLEY ELIZABETH STOKKE
PURPOSE: BOUNDARYLINE ADJUSTMENT
DATE: FEB. 13, 2007

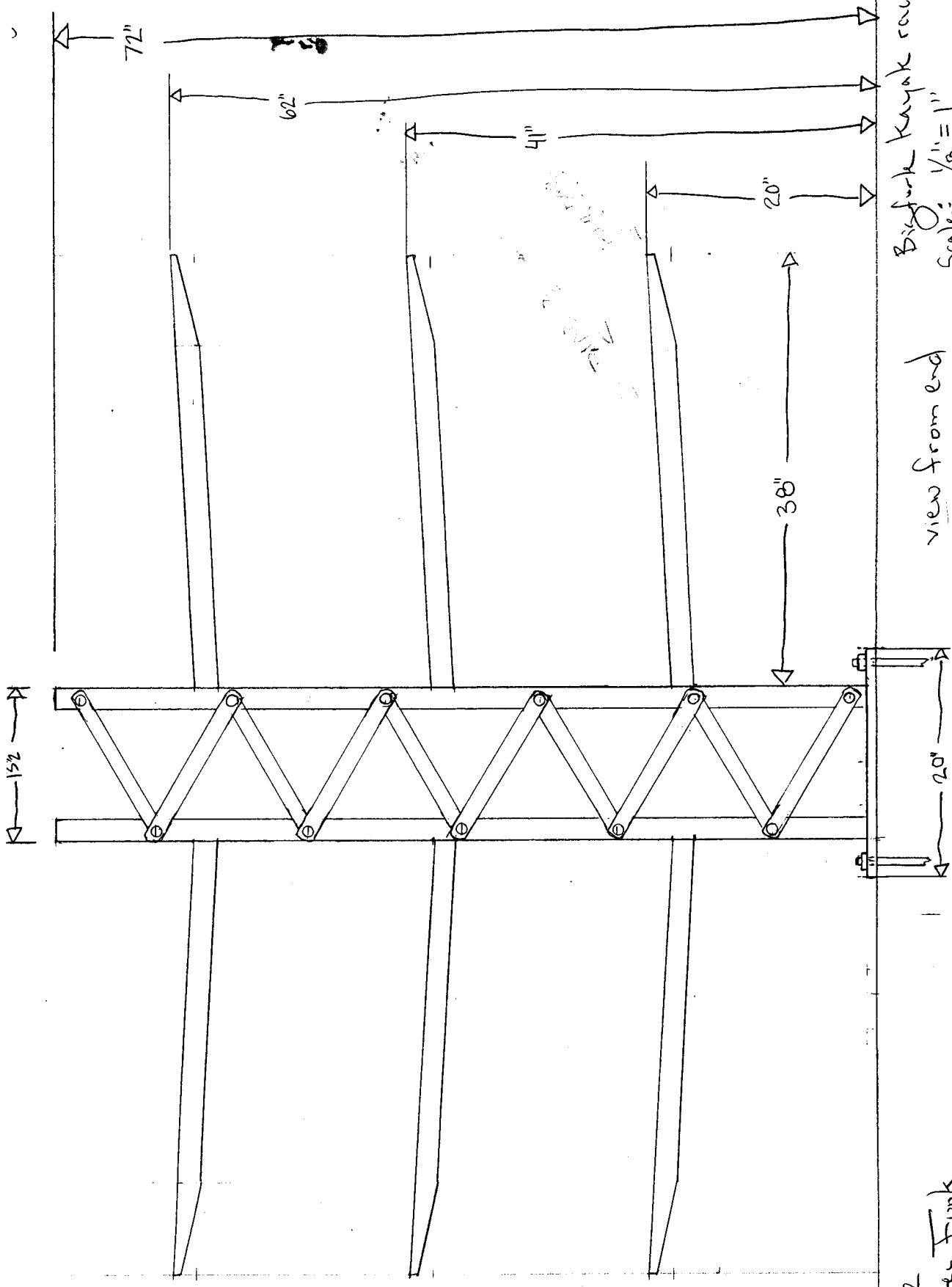
**C.O.S.
NO. 18102**



Approximate Low Water Mark

PLATIBAD LAKE

03-05-12 FCWP&R Board Meeting
Attachment B-1



Bigfork kayak rack proposal
Scale: 1/8" = 1'

view from end

2/21/12
Jeffrey Funk

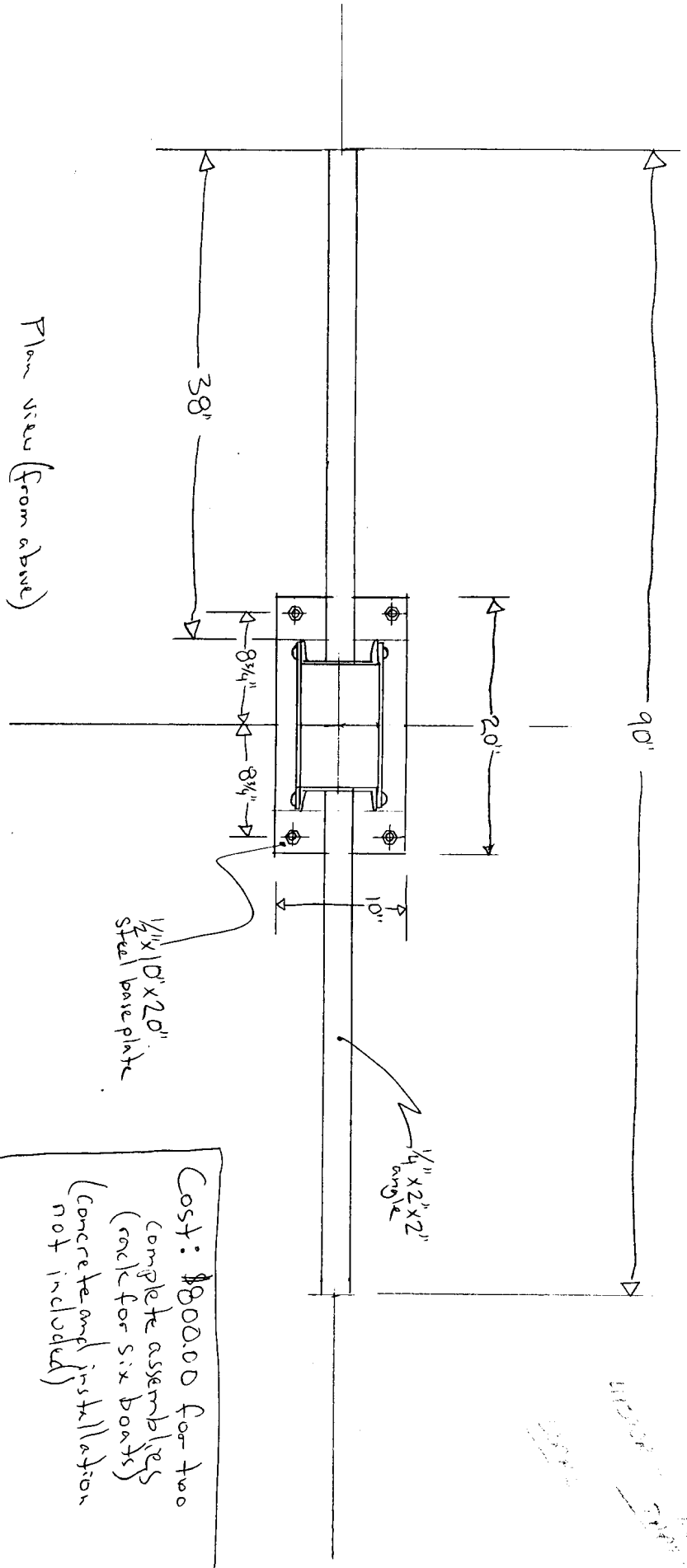
Specifications:

Columns → 6" x 13 1/2" laced channel
(salvaged from Kenney Rapids bridge)

Finish → oil based enamel paint
color TBA

Mounting → 1/2" x 10" x 20" plate
four 5/8" anchor bolts

Boat Supports → 1/4" x 2" x 2" angle w/
rubber or wood surface



Plan view (from above)

1/2" x 10" x 20"
Steel base plate

1/4" x 2" x 2"
angle

Cost: \$800.00 for two
complete assemblies
(rack for six boats)
(concrete and installation
not included)

2/21/12
Jeffrey Funk

Bisfork kayak rack program
Scale: 1/8" = 1"

**Flathead County Weed/Parks & Recreation
March 5, 2012 Board Meeting**

Lake Hills Park

Oversize File – Please view at office – 309 FFA Drive, Kalispell; 406.758.5800.

