

Flathead County Weed/Parks/Recreation

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: June 13, 2016

Members of the Board in attendance:

Jim Buechle, Clyde Fisher, Pete Woll, Elise Robocker, Mary Ruby

Members of the Board not in attendance:

All members of the Board were present.

Also in attendance:

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

Others Present:

Edd Blackler – Bigfork Advisory

Ron Caldbeck – Wild Waves

Vance Carolin – Many Lakes Homeowners Association Vice-President

Andrew Escalante – Citizen

Pamela Holmquist – Flathead County Commissioner

Charline Payne – Foy's to Blacktail Trails

Kat Pine – Flathead County Staff

Allen Sagen – Citizen

Randy Sundberg – Many Lakes President

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Directors for Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation was held in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana on June 13, 2016. The meeting convened at 8:33AM, Chairman Fisher presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 12, 2016 special meeting of the Flathead County Weed, Parks & Recreation Board of Directors were distributed to the members of the Board.

Jim Buechle moved to approve the May 12, 2016 Board minutes.

Mary Ruby seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment

Meryl Sagen requested a permit for commercial use of Little Bitterroot launch. Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that the County Attorney has advised against this practice, due to concerns such as liability, handicapped access, parking, how to select and limit businesses, and determination of County fees. Superintendent Fisher advised Mr. Sagen to discuss the matter with the County Commission. Sagen stated that other fishing charter services currently use County facilities without a permit – and mention the park in their brochures. In addition, the State issues permits for commercial use. The Department will investigate the process and criteria used by the State.

County Weed Management Plan Review – Commissioner Gary Krueger

Superintendent Jed Fisher said it's time for the Department to take a look at revising the County Weed Management Plan. Commissioner Krueger expressed concerns regarding herbicides used and stated that Flathead County's management plan does not take into consideration the urban changes to the valley, nor does it differentiate between native and non-native species. The Department's goal is to get rid of noxious and junk weeds and to establish native grasses in their place. Integrated control methods, including biological control, mowing, and a no-spray program have been practiced.

It is time to review & investigate what is done dynamic valley, which changes 20% of its population every 5 years. Part of the process may to invite the public to share their opinions. The possibility of contracting out a review/rewrite of the plan was generally agreeable. The goal is to provide the Board with a current, carefully studied and diverse plan for review and consideration. Depending on the cost, a budget amendment may be needed and the Department will explore the least expensive way to accomplish it. The management plans need to address the concerns of as many people as possible, including organic farmers and bee-keepers. Without disclosure laws, which need to be managed at the State legislative level, the County could be dragged into a negative situation.

Fisher reviewed a recent email from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation regarding an RFQ issued by Missoula County, in association with the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council, to select a natural resource consultant to aid in the development of the Montana All-Taxa Invasive Species Strategic Framework.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a roadmap and timeline with prioritized short-term and long-term actions aimed to improve coordination, increase capacity, and decrease duplication of efforts for invasive species programs across Montana. The selected consultant will work with both the County and the Council to gather and organize the information necessary for the strategic plan. Fisher suggested the possibility of working with this consultant as an aid in reviewing/refining the County Weed Management Plan.

Bigfork Advisory Report

Edd Blackler reported that he had nothing to report.

- PacifiCorp Lease Document for Signature – this lease extension was previously approved by this Board and the document has been received for signature.

Foys to Blacktail Trails Report

Charline Payne reported that work accomplished on National Trails Day included removal of 1,600 pounds of houndstongue along with other invasives, .2 miles of retread on the Boundary Trail, which widened the existing trail, and 1 mile of brushing out the Notch Trail to improve sight-lines. Approximately 35 people worked for 3 hours. Foy's To Blacktail Trails fundraiser 'Herron Half' had 185 participate at the event.

Foys/Herron Advisory Report

Charline Payne reported that Flathead Combined Training Association had their first show and enjoyed good participation. The creek looks good where it was sprayed. Thistle is coming up.

- Pump Track Discussion – Andrew Escalante

Mr. Escalante asked the Board to consider construction and installation of a bicycle pump track at Herron Park, possibly to east of the stables. Superintendent Jed Fisher stated that while this particular use is beyond the typical scope of activities at Herron, the vision for the park is multi-use. Bikers pump rather than pedal around a 30 x 30 yard track. Mr. Escalante will prepare a formal proposal including cost, which he hopes to have funded without County participation. A suggestion was made to first resolve the creek/culvert concern or possibly have the pump track associated with the gymnasium.

Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Kila/Smith Lake Advisory Committee. All work on the pavilion needs to be engineered.

Lakeside Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Lakeside Advisory Committee. Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the vendor who removed the dead and dying trees at Ben Williams Park will also be removing the remaining stumps in specified areas as the budget allows.

Middle Forks Parks Advisory Report

There was no one present from the Middle Forks Parks Advisory Committee. Pat McClelland sent an email stating that Belton Stage Park is in good condition and complimented the Department's upkeep of it. She also resigned her position on the Advisory Committee, leaving no one to represent this segment of the Parks. We will advertise for replacements.

Gateway to Glacier Trails Report

Mary Ruby stated that it appears the best location for the kiosk is at the far east side of the Hungry Horse Park, which is the least busy and most visible. The trail construction contract was awarded and ground-breaking is scheduled.

County Gymnasium Report

A meeting with Commissioner Holmquist has been requested to discuss the status of the gymnasium effort. Recent feedback at the Commission level has been to redirect funds toward a County jail. In addition, preliminary feedback from Franck Kalenga is that the current estimate of 3.5 million is insufficient. The Board will be notified of this meeting date and time.

Parks Department Report

▪ Whitefish Lake Access

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the road to the Whitefish Lake Access Park has been closed and it is now walk-in only. Bollards have been installed and a porta potty will be placed. An effort was made by the City of Whitefish to annex this park, and while the road was annexed, the County's ownership rights of the park prevailed.

▪ Commercial Use of Lakeside Dock

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the County Attorney has advised the Department to decline any permits for commercial use of County Parks. Concerns such as liability, handicapped access, parking, how to select and limit businesses, and County fees were reiterated from earlier discussion in Public Comment.

▪ Wild Waves Permit – Ron Caldbeck

Superintendent Jed Fisher reported that the permit request is denied. Further discussion may be had at the Commission Level.

▪ Dock Master Permit – Randy Walton

There was no one present representing Dock Master. A letter will be sent to Mr. Walton advising him of the current policy.

▪ Many Lakes Parks Discussion On Surplus and Sale

A tour of the Many Lakes Parks took place on May 12, 2016, with the intent to form an opinion about which parks to keep and which to surplus and sell. Superintendent Jed Fisher queried the Board as to their opinions.

Mary Ruby moved to surplus and sell all parks in Many Lakes.

Pete Woll seconded the motion.

Discussion: Possibly homeowners in the area would have an interest in developing a few of the parks, or adjacent landowners may be interested in the purchase of lots next to their property. The cost to survey

could run from \$600 to \$3,000 per park. In addition, a Certified State Appraiser and the County Attorney's office also need to be involved. A budget amendment would be required to cover the cost. It was suggested to team up with the Road Department's survey to accomplish this and also economies of scale might be enjoyed if all the parks were surveyed at one time. What would the Department do if no one was interested in purchase of the parks? The possibility of developing first and then selling was quickly discarded due to significant development costs. Logging for some income is also not a viable option.

Vance Carolin, Vice President of the Many Lakes Homeowners Association stated that it would be prudent to consider whether the lots are buildable. He also suggested beginning with the park adjacent to Terry Cito's property, as there is some discrepancy involving boundary lines.

Superintendent Jed Fisher commented that the Parks Master Plan indicates that a number one priority is to keep water access sites.

There being no further discussion, a vote was called.

Ayes: Elise Robocker, Mary Ruby, Pete Woll, Jim Buechle.

Noes: Clyde Fisher

The ayes have it and the motion was carried.

Weed Department Report

- Discussion On Call for Chemical Bids 4/20/16

The 4/20/16 Call for Chem Bids included 100 pounds of Perspective for the total amount of \$8,208.

- Rescind Recommendation for Chemical Bid Award 5/12/16

The Board previously approved the 5/12/16 Recommendation for Chemical Bids Award which included the purchase of Perspective. Subsequently, the staff determined that the use of Perspective should be minimized due to feedback at a recent training session. Although that discussion was a result of misapplication, attendees expressed concern and said they were not comfortable applying it. As a result of feedback, the chemical composition of this herbicide was previously modified. It currently has good activity on leafy spurge and not as much residual as Tordon, however, it was determined that until more is learned the Department recommends omitting this herbicide from the 2016 order.

Elise Robocker moved to approve revision of the 5/12/16 Recommendation for Chemical Bid Award to omit purchase of Perspective.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

- Recommendation for Revised Chemical Bid Award for Crop Production Services – Timberland Division 5/31/16

Elise Robocker moved to approve the Revised Chemical Bid Award for Crop Production Services – Timberland Division 5/31/16.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

- Contract, 2016 Chemical Prices Crop Production Services – Timberland Division

Elise Robocker moved to approve the 2016 Chemical Contract for Crop Production Services – Timberland Division 5/31/16.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

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

- Department of Transportation Contract

The Weed Department will continue to perform Department of Transportation Contract work

- Flathead Conservation District Work

Superintendent Jed Fisher recommended cessation of all Flathead Conservation work due to the absence of full disclosure and potential liability for the County. In addition, it is not cost effective for the Department and involves staff to inspect the property and make a written report; another trip to determine the best approach for treatment; and a final trip to perform the work. It was suggested that the jobs go to the private sector. When the County Weed Management Plan is revisited indemnification and disclosure laws need to be addressed.

Mary Ruby moved to discontinue work performed under the Memorandum of Agreement between Flathead Conservation District and the Flathead County Weed Control District for fiscal year 2016.

Jim Buechle seconded the motion.

Pete Woll abstained from the vote due to his affiliation with Flathead Conservation District.

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

Other Business

- Team Building

Superintendent Jed Fisher recommended team building sessions for staff, which may ultimately include sessions with the Board as well.

It was agreed to place a public announcement in the local paper regarding integrated weed management performed by the Department.

Adjourn

Mary Ruby moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:47AM.

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, July 11, 2016** at 8:30 AM in the conference room at 311 FFA Drive, Kalispell, Montana.

Documents Submitted to the Board:

There were no documents submitted to the Board.