Monthly Meeting Minutes

Beaverhead Trails Coalition

Law Enforcement Annex

August 15th, 2019

BOD members present: Dan Downey, Ed Mooney, Joyce Connors, Pat Carrick, Dan Pence

BTC Director present: Celine Beaucamp-Stout

BTC members and guests present: Pete Wakeman, Michael Mhoon, Chris Edington (Trout illimited), Zach Owen (Beaverhead Watershed), Lori Roberts (Dillon Library)

1. **Approve July 18th minutes**

Motion to approve by Micheal Mhoon. Dan P seconds. No abstentions or opposition. Approved.

1. **Cornell Park**

Beaverhead Watershed Committee and Trout Illimited would like to improve the diversion dam and bank stabilization at Cornell Park. The dam can be modified for fish and floats passage by respecting irrigation.

They approached the landowner to proceed (Jon and Willis Erb), who want to donate the park to a local entity.

Kiwanis and MT Youth Challenge historically managed the park.

None of the groups listed above are landowners, so they approached BTC to see if we would be interested in taking the title.

The Kiwanis and MT Youth Challenge groups expressed their interest in continuing taking care of the park, and Beaverhead Watershed and Trout Illimited will research funding and take care of the work.

The Erbs need to have it appraised for tax purposes. Ray Groose offered to survey it pro-bono (it will take four weeks).

 Beaverhead Watershed paid for a quick assessment (file forwarded to BTC board members and ED before the meeting) to pinpoint the areas that need attention. They also approached Matt Yaeger (FWP), who thinks it is a good project for the fisheries program.

Holding the title comes with added costs and liabilities, especially since the park is heavily used and is waterfront. Although participants agreed that this project fits in BTC's mission statement, and would be an excellent addition to the High Trails nearby. There is no deadline for the change of ownership. The funds can still be looked into (Future Fisheries Incentives Program), and work can start before the title is passed over. Beaverhead Watershed is considering a public survey to determine improvements desired by the community.

1. **Zombie Chase**

Lori Roberts, Dillon Library Director

Beaverhead Trails Coalition is collaborating with Dillon Library to organize a Zombie Chase Fundraiser 5K on October 26th, 2019.

The run route starts at the YMCA parking lot (with their authorization) and goes along Bannack St, Montana St, Reeder St, 10 mile road (turn around at Cornell park), Pigtail Connector Trail, Blacktail Meadows Kid's Fish Pond Trail, Swenson Way, and finish line back at the YMCA ($20 for kids under 12 years old, $35 for others). There will also be a 1-mile fun run around the YMCA for people that don't want to run too far ($10). The city and the police department would close some of the streets.

The event will start at 4 pm so that the run happens during dusk.

Celine will set up the registration website on Runsignup.com BTC's account. The fees will arrive in BTC's bank account, and we will refund the Library for half.

An MOU will be developed itemizing expectations re: volunteer efforts and financial split.

Ed motion for BTC participate in Zombie Chase using our Runsignup account – seconded by Michael - Al in favor

1. **Treasurer Report**

Bank balance end-July = about $70,000.

**Sponsor An Acre Fundraiser:** 33 acres sponsored since March 2015

 16 since beginning of 2019 (incl. Kid’s Acre from Facebook)

* *Membership count as per August 15th:*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **total membership:**  | **63** | **total members:** | **80\*** |
|  | Patrons:  | 28 |  |  |
|  | Businesses: | 6 |  |  |
|  | Family: | 17 |  |  |
|  | Single: | 12 |  |  |

***\*Note: a family membership counts for 2 members***

1. **Pronghorn Pursuit Trail Run Fundraiser Review**

We received 80 registrations. Seven refunds ($10 processing fee retained) so that left 73 registrants. Some people didn't show up and 68 participants ran the race: 28 in the 15k, 45 in the 5k. It was a lot of hard work to prepare. Good participation from BCHS reps despite slow start (advertising, set-up, etc were mostly BTC) but final preparations were collaborative. Income = $2473 – local payments of about $150? Will pay about $1000 out of this to Celine's salary. Remainder after bills will be divided 50/50 w/BCHS. Sounds like we will end up w/around $300. Half of participants came from outside Dillon (Belgrade, Bozeman, Butte, Clancy, Great Falls, Helena, Lima, Livingstone, Manhattan, Missoula, Red Lodge, Roberts, Sheridan, West Yellowstone, Whitefish, California, Idaho, Washington).

1. **Grant Update**

**Patagonia:** $10,000 on behalf of Tonny Jessen for Land Acquisition or operational for high trails

**Raven Perch Foundation** (Tim Speyer): Received $25,000 for land acquisition

**Steele Reese:** $15,000 for land acquisition or operational for high trails – the contract was sent back so we should receive the check shortly

**Sponsor An Acre Fundraiser:** $1,100 – new acre sponsorships

**MTFWCT:** Received a pledge for $20,000 - will be transferred directly to title co upon closing

**United Way:** We received 2 check for $500 so far for Noble AV. 2 more checks to come

**Union Pacific:** We applied again (report sent)

Are a number of new grant opportunities Kathleen has suggested that will require consideration.

1. **High Trails**

We currently have $80,000 for High Trails ($70,000 for the acquisition and $10,000 for operations incl. clean up).

Dan D talked to Deb Lane (MTFWCT): grant is finalized upon submission of the contamination survey. Max Hansen will help with the title. September 11th is our tentative closing day.

Buy-sell agreement: We couldn’t close by the initial date (August 15th) so we got an extension until September – but Otto Miller wants us to forfeit the earnest money ($4,000). He agreed to let us use $2,000 of our earnest money.

We will organize a celebration party in September.

1. **Noble avenue Update**

North end is substantially complete minor fixes and signs, especially by the highway, recognizing the trail and the sponsors (UP, LOR, UW, Rotary, City of Dillon, BTC). Good acceptance. UP has received status report and has now been updated on new accomplishments and new grant proposal has been submitted. Dan will call Lee Alt, engineer for DOT to start looking at the highway crossing (traffic study).

South end – Ed is working on bid package – substantial payments to engineering firm for these planning phases. Construction is planned for next spring. We do have to spend some of RTP money before this upcoming construction phase. Dan will contact Lee Alt to initiate traffic studies, moving toward creating the trail highway crossing.

We will tentatively have a Ribbon cutting ceremony this fall with the city officials.

1. **Walking Schoolbus**

We had a volunteer meeting and the season is well set to start.

Pam Laursen will start working with Jaimie & Shannon and slowly take over.

1. **Next meeting**

Tentatively Thursday September 19th – 5:30pm at Sheriff’s annex. Room is reserved. Adjourn