Regular Meeting

Beaverhead Trails Coalition

July 28, 2016

Those Present: Dan Downey, Larry Skiles, Ed Mooney, Joyce Connors, Kathleen Wagner

**Previous Minutes**: Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**Employee Hiring**: We recently hired Kathleen Wagner as our new Executive Director and this was her first Trails meeting. Dan and Joyce will meet with Kathleen on Tuesday, August 10th, at 5:30 at the Brewery to go over some of the hiring details, pay plan and schedule.

**Dillon Town Overlook**: We talked about contacting Corinne Welborn about a closing date on the Phase II land purchase. Dan will contact Corinne about a closing date, probably around the last week of September. We need to send a thank you to the MTFWC Trust (not sure if someone volunteered to do this, so we need to check). We talked briefly about having some sort of Fun Day to coincide with the purchase of Phase II, rather than have a Fun Run in August. We also need to contact the retired Forest Service engineers group (via Bill Kolar) to see about having them help with the trails in Phase II. We have some Kendeda Fund money to use for trails up on the hill that would work for this.

We talked about updating the map at the trailhead and on our website to reflect our purchase of Phase I and II, and to show some of the existing trails and planned trails. We also talked about paper maps, apps, and the most useful way to provide a map to hikers. We’ll also need to do some marking of the trails up on the hill. Don Copple, at the DNRC, was mentioned as a possible mapmaker. The person who did the map before was Marshall Clark, who was a friend of Nathan’s. Either would probably work for making a new map.

We talked about having a Trails Committee meeting to work on some of this, as there hasn’t been a meeting for a while. Current committee members are Ed, Larry, Pete, Ben and Alan. We decided to have an extra meeting, just for the trails stuff, on Tuesday, August 16th, at 5:30 at the Brewery.

**Data Committee**: The Data Committee, currently Craig Simonsen, Joyce Connors and now Kathleen Wagner, needs to meet sometime in the near future. Ben Moore should also probably be on the committee as it should address all digital needs and Ben is in charge of the web site. We will figure out a time for a meeting at our next regular meeting.

**Web Site**: We talked about the web site, forums, links to maps, links with others (Ex: Chamber of Commerce), and our need to make some progress in these areas.

**Pigtail Bridge**: We discussed the Pigtail Bridge painting, particularly about painting while water is in the ditch, which is likely year round. Dan will talk to Tom Paffhausen about treating the bridge. Dan and Larry talked to the Solada’s regarding their email about the unmaintained grass, etc., at the south end of the bridge. We don’t own any of the land there, thus we aren’t responsible for the maintenance, but we can do our part regarding the noxious weeds in the area.

**Erb Land Transfer**: Max Hansen is still working on the land transfer from the Erbs. Should be done soon.

**“M”**: We’ve completed our easement with UMW regarding access to the “M.” They should be doing work on it soon since the football players(potential rock haulers) will be back on campus in early August. UMW is to work with the BLM to have their “work days” coincide. The BLM is planning to put a bench and possibly some signage on top of the second hill, which is BLM property. We may need to reestablish contact with both entities regarding their plans and work with them on the coordination.

**Long Term Plans**: Larry talked about the need for short term plans and long term plans. There are some things we need to get done by the end of the year and we need some longer term plans, too. We should be doing a five year plan and ten year plan and re-evaluating them every year. The trails and maps that Larry and Ed have been working on would be part of this plan. It was also mentioned that education and building capacity should be part of that plan. Fundraising for Phase III and in general would also need to be part of the plan. It would be both a Strategic Plan and Development Plan.

**Next Meeting**: Our next meeting was set for Thursday, August 18th, at 5:30 at the Law Enforcement building. We’ll talk more about long term plans and trail plans then.