Regular Monthly Meeting

Beaverhead Trails Coalition

June 22, 2017

Present: Kathleen Wagner, Dan Downey, Ed Mooney, Bill Kolar, Matt Walter, Pete Wakeman, Rob Macioroski, Cy Gilbert, Craig Simonsen,

1. **Previous minutes approved** – minutes approve
2. **Matt Walter**–USFS, Dillon Recreation Specialist – introduced project on Lemhi Pass to restore the Wildflower Trail on July 24-28th. It is a 1.5 mile loop to Most Distant Fountain. The trail was originally constructed in 1930's, however through the years the actual trail has disappeared. There is an approximate ½ mile of tread needing built, and approximately ½ mile of trail needing marked with rock cairns, no tread-work. Smoke jumpers will be helping the USFS during the entire week on the trail;, they received a grant from REI to fund food for the week for all volunteers. Dan Downey will fill out a volunteer group work form with USFS so we have one form for all BTC volunteers. This form gives protection from any trail work related injuries that could occur. They need to know how many people, how many days, how many meals to plan for, so it is important to sign up by July 3rd. Work includes help tossing logs, cleaning downfall, tread work of manual labor, building cairns. Dan Downey will go to USFS to sign up as group leader. Kathleen will scan and send out to email list, need back by July 3, 2017.
3. **LOR Foundation** – The LOR Foundation has given the BTC a $100,000 grant to do a project that includes water, and improves life for the community of Dillon. This is a stem off the original pilot program BTC applied for in January with Trust for Public Lands. BTC accepted the grant, and will focus on a large plan of: develop a public park on Laknar Lane and Selway Dr., start the motion on getting a safe crossing on Highway 41 at Laknar Lane, and get pre-engineering work done for Noble Ave to Skihi St. trail. Dan Downey explained project budget. Dan Downey also spoke with a contact in Butte at the MDOT on receiving their approval of the project, as they are the landowners. We will need to contact MDOT also regarding the crossing of Highway 41. Dan Downey heard from LOR, who asked BTC not to publicize the grant yet. How the park will be maintained long term is a concern. Public plan and input education plan will be important. Ed Mooney will lead the Noble Ave project. Ed has a meeting set up with WWC for July 12th for preliminary work to be done on it. Dan Downey will keep in contact with MDOT with the park and highway crossing, Dan Downey will call a Safe Routes To School advisor on who to contact regarding where to start. Ed thinks that the area may already have the wiring for traffic lights in the ground, but something to check into with MDOT and keep in mind as the project progresses.
4. **Grants updates**: Festival of Trees did not choose BTC this year, instead they chose the Beaverhead Community Woodbank Ministry and Dillon Junior Hockey Association. People for Bikes grant: Kathleen and Ed have been working on this grant, requesting funding for bike racks and bike corrals components to put bike corrals and clusters in the downtown area. They have met with local businesses, the mayor and the Dillon Downtown Business group, and have received letters of support. Ed made a map to add to application showing where rack corrals and clusters would be placed, totaling 3 racks around downtown area. Ed made motion to apply $1000 of Patagonia fundraiser to the bike rack project. Dan seconded, and Craig third, however we need minimum of 4 votes to approve. Kathleen will write an email to the BOD to get approval, and finish submission of the grant.
5. **Beaverhead Watershed festival:** They will be having their Watershed Festival on July 22, from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Depot Park. It will include a pint night, food trucks, live music and interactive educational booths. The Watershed has asked the BTC to have a booth from 2pm to 5 pm at their festival. Kathleen will email BTC group to try and get enough volunteers to cover the booth.
6. **Jesse and Jenny Peterson** would like to sell 161 (or split into 80) acres to BTC to add to high trails. Their land is just north of the "B" on the High Trails area. BTC cannot purchase but met with Jesse to see if we can get easement. Jesse suggested if they can sell some other land, or get another buyer for half the parcel, they could possibly donate the other parcel. Pete would like to go with Peterson and Dan to look at land for possibilities. Dan D will contact Jesse to go look.
7. **Cliff Trail improvement**: Don Kopple led a crew to improve to train the fire workers. They worked on the trail, making an easier route up the cliff side, and not affecting the private landowners so hikers will stay on BTC land. The crew worked on wildfire line Pulaski skills, moving rock and creating an improved trail.
8. **Updating Trails:** Dan Downey suggested adding trail descriptions to the website. Suggestions include names of trails, or descriptions between junctions. Kathleen noted now would be a good time as plans to revamp and update website are in order. Pete will ask Cathy to digitize the junction symbols so we can add to the trail description.
9. **Replacement bench** - Dan Pence is working on the project, with Western Welding. They will make the bench frame, Max Hansen has the seat and back. The bench will be installed in a different place, at the junction of Quick Gulch, Traverse.
10. **Noxious weed sign update** – Dan Downey and Bill Kolar went with Michael Mooney and a BLM employee to set the posts for the sign. On June 14th the sign was installed and dedicated. Dan Downey suggested setting a date for July 15th to pull weeds and spray. Set for 2-3 hours of weed control. Time set for 7-10 a.m
11. **Next meeting July 18**