Regular Meeting

Beaverhead Trails Coalition

November 19, 2015

Those in attendance: Dan Downey, Ben Moore, Eric Wendlund, Dan Pence, Pete Wakeman, Rick Hartz, Craig Simonsen, Alan Weltzien, Ed Mooney, Joe Brandon, Bill Kolar, Fred Bridger, Joyce Connors, Jim Roscoe, Michael Mhoon

Minutes of October Meeting: A motion to approve the October minutes was approved.

Pigtail Sign: There was a long discussion about the sign for the south end of the Pigtail Bridge trail. Fred Bridger showed slides of signs, ideas, etc. for the Pigtail Sign. The sign would be the same as the image and will be routed, painted and verathaned. Posts for the sign were already installed by Larry, Ed, Jim and Ben. We have applied for the sign permit from the city. There was a discussion re how to word the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks part of the sign to correctly identify them. End result was MT FWP Rec. Trails. We decided to add a “You are here” element to the sign. Bill Kolar (retired Forest Service) mentioned that the Forest Service uses 1” lettering for hiking trail signs.

Pigtail Trail: Jim met with the local residents at the bridge end of the trail. Things mentioned in the conversations were an increase in trash, problem with dogs antagonizing other dogs, and some mowing. Billy Solada, one of the local residents, has been mowing the grass, something we may need to take over and build into the budget. Jim has already fixed the fence that we had received a complaint about previously.

Signs Committee: The group gave authorization to the signs committee for all signs. They’ll do all of the work on the signs and bring a finished product to the board for approval. That way we can avoid spending a lot of time at our general meetings working out the details.

Pigtail Work on Bridge and Bridge Abutments: Tom Miller will do some additional work on the bridge abutments. We also need to put some sealant on the bridge. The planks are fine, as they have some heavy duty sealer, but the railings need some additional sealant. Dan will contact Nathan to see if he has any information on this. Someone recommended Chevron Shingle Oil, available at Brown’s Oil Distributing.

Maintenance: We will need to build a maintenance element into our budget as we gain things to maintain. We now have the Pigtail Trail items, such as bridge sealant and mowing weeds. And we will have future maintenance items on the Town Overlook Trail as we proceed with that project, such as weeds, signage, trail work, etc. We do have $5,000 in the budget from the Kendeda Fund for this type of work on the High Trails Project.

Bicycle Recycling Project: It is becoming more difficult to find bikes for this project. We have a lot of 24” bikes, but there is more of a demand for 26” bikes. We discussed working with Cole Cottom at UMW regarding obtaining more bikes. We discussed people getting the bikes and then selling them as they have been seen for sale at Jim’s Smoke Shop. We plan to ask people to give them back when they’re done with them, such as college students. We talked of others being stolen and decided to include a lock with every bike. Joe will check into purchasing locks in bulk to be given out with the bikes. We briefly talked about also giving out bike helmets, but because of the need for exact fit with helmets, we thought this was something we didn’t want to undertake at this time.

 We set up a committee for the Bike Recycling program consisting of Rick, Joe, Eric and Joyce. We also discussed the grant writing need for the program and will include it in our contract with Alice Buckley (Future West). We need to create a bullet point outline for the program and have more information to promote the program. And we will add something to the web site to promote the program. Eric will ask the Jaycees for $500 to cover the storage fees for the year.

Duties of the Board of Directors: We talked about what the duties of the board should be: Work Plan, Budget, direction of paid staff, and approval of grant applications/requests.

Jim’s Plans: Jim is taking a job with the Lemhi Regional Land Trust, so he will not be available as much for our work. He will continue to work with Alice on grant opportunities and work with Craig and Joyce on the data base at 10 hours per week. We will reevaluate the job description and will look for someone to help Jim for now. When we rehire, we will do it more formally with ads, job interviews, committees, etc., so we have something more long term.

The “M”: Alan, Ben and Dan met with the college committee and Roxanne regarding the M and the easements to allow UMW to complete work on the M and for future maintenance. Max Hansen drew up an easement contract, which Alan and Ben will look at, but the first draft is not quite what we have in mind. Our intention is to have an easement without limits on the number of days, so that’s something that will need to be changed from the first draft. UMW is looking into various ways to fix the M, taking the costs into account. They will be doing fundraising for the work. Also included in the project will be revegetation and how to go about all of it without damaging the trail.

Trails Work: We invited Bill Kolar, retired Forest Service Engineering Technician, to give us some advice on trails, such as how to lay out trails, proper grading, etc. We have some trail work needs, but not a great deal. We will work with Bill in the future as we work on the trails on the High Trails Project.

South Boundary of Phase I: Dan talked to Brooke Leonardson regarding the trail going up the ridge from the river on the cliff side. The Leonardson’s plan to put up a fence along the correct boundary as they will have some expensive equipment up there. We will have to adjust our trail somewhat, but this will happen naturally, as the trail will likely adjust to "along the fence.” Pete and Joyce walked this part with a GPS and it seems like we won’t need to adjust the trail too much at the top of the front hill, but there is more of a problem near the bottom, which would be on John Erb land, rather than Leonardsons. We have talked about contacting Erbs to see about an easement or asking if they would outright give this corner of the hill to BTC for the future county park.

Access Across the Old Dump: Pete will meet with Mike McGinley regarding trail access across the old dump. We discussed the best way to guide the trail across the dump without making it too wide and we also discussed that it was good to keep the rock base as is. Pete and Mike have already gone out there to discuss a route. Although this is county land, it is “sealed” county land, meaning it is not public property with public access. We will need signage regarding staying on the trail through the area. It was decided to let Pete and Mike figure out where the best access is and Pete will also meet with Bill Kolar to go out and look at it.

Database/Donor Perfect: We need to get more work done on the database in order to make it more useful. Craig, Joyce and Jim are on the committee and they will try to meet once per month to make more progress on getting more information entered so it will be useful for us in the future.

Dillon Town Overlook Trail: Ben and Dan met with Cornie Hudson of the BLM to discuss plans for the Town Overlook Trail. They’re on board with Phase II and they plan to put a bench on top of the hill and maybe an interpretive sign of some sort. They want to work with us on the project.

December Meeting: The December meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 2015.