Beaverhead Trails Coalition

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 12, 2015

Those present: Dan Downey, Kendra Bull, Pete Wakeman, Duke Gilbert, Nathan Wilson, Alan Weltzien, Larry Skiles, Ben Moore, Ed Mooney, Craig Simonsen, Larry Volkening, Lois Volkening, Kelly Pohl (GVLT), Rick Hartz, Dan Pence, Jen Boyer, Jen Downing, Joyce Connors

**Old Business**

Minutes for the February meeting were approved.

The bridge over Pigtail Creek is done and the approaches are almost done. The city will connect it to Park Street and we will be doing further work on the approaches and the trail itself.

Grant Activity:

Cinnabar – The application is in for a two year, $4,000 per year grant. These grants are for specific projects improving public access to public lands.

Capacity Building Grant – This is a capacity building grant made possible by the attendance of four members at the Capacity Building Workshop held at UM Western back in February. Nathan will coordinate a later conference call regarding this and other grants. Jen Boyer will help with this one.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust Grant – Jen Downing is working on this grant and it’s almost done. We’re gathering letters of support for the Dillon Town Overlook (DTO) project and photos to support the grant proposal. The draft will be sent to those interested in the final editing and a conference call will be held to take care of the last details.

Larry Skiles attended the March 3rd United Way Grant meeting in support of our grant application for $2,000 for signage, etc., to finish the Pigtail Project.

**New Business**

We will have a fundraising event on May 15th at Beaverhead Brewery. No details yet.

We will have a Fun Run and membership building day on May 2nd at the DTO trail. Kendra will be in charge of things.

We talked about doing something for Earth Day, possibly in conjunction with others.

Kelly Pohl, from the Gallatin Valley Land Trust in Bozeman, did a presentation on their work in acquiring easements for trails, community support, long term projects, partnerships and lots of other topics. One interesting fact with direct relevance to our projects was how current Montana law (MCA 70-16-302) protects entities such as BTC with recreational use statutes.

Our next meeting will be on April 16th, at which time we’ll finalize the May events. It was also noted that National Trails Day is June 6th and that Earth Day is April 22nd.