Regular Meeting

Beaverhead Trails Coalition

February 18, 2016

Those Present: Dan Downey, Craig Simonsen, Dan Pence, Michael Mhoon, Ed Mooney, Larry Skiles, Pete Wakeman, Joyce Connors

**Wild and Scenic Film Festival**: The film festival went well with lots of attendees. Dan D., Alan, Eric, Joyce, and Michael all helped out. We’re not sure if we made any money on it and will wait for a report from Mandy Maas. We agreed that we’d help out again in the future.

**Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust Grant**: We’ve signed the easement papers with UM Western for their repair and maintenance work on the “M,” and will include this in our grant application. Regarding game birds, not only have several people seen droppings of Sage Grouse, they have also been seen in the hills, along with Chuckers along the road. This bolsters our application in that we can mention our protection of upland game bird habitat in the hills above the river. Jack Kirkley, Biology teacher at UMW, has written a letter of support for the application regarding the habitat. We urge anyone with something to add to the application to contact Alice Buckley. Joyce will tally the sign-ins at the trailhead and pass that along to Alice.

**Work Day**: We are planning a work day on April 9th to work on the DTO Trail, High Trails, Pigtail Bridge, weed control and general cleanup. We hope to get some help from the college kids. One thing that needs done is to paint the Pigtail Bridge with a preservative of some sort.

**Winter Trails Day**: Winter Trails Day is this coming Saturday, between 9:30 and 4:30 at Elkhorn. Dan D. and Andrea S. will volunteer for BTC. There will be skiing and snowshoeing and snacks at the cabin.

**Sign & Trail Committee**: The Sign Committee has been working on signs and trail maps. Ed will work with Scott Marsh on updating the big map with the agreed upon trails and any other updates needed, then will pass along the updated maps to Alice Buckley for the MFWCT Grant. Scott has already updated many things on the maps, as evidenced on the new map he printed for us for the Wildlife Film Festival. The committee consists of Ed (chairman), Larry, Pete, Ben & Alan. They’re working on potential trails for Phase I and Phase II.

**Signs**: We’re waiting on the signs from Signs Now. Tim Anderson will install the signs. We still need to order three “Hiking Trail” signs for by the Interstate, the Cliff Road, and the DTO Parking Lot. (Note: there was a work day on March 5th at 11:00 to flag the placement of the signs.)

**Bike Racks and Dog Station**: Larry has ordered bike racks and a dog station that will need to be installed. The plan is to install it on the north side of the trailhead, across from the map. Larry will look into how to install things – cement vs posts.

**Bicycle Recycling**: We need to work on a budget for the program. The Jaycees gave us $420 to pay for the storage for one year. Joyce will send a letter of thanks to the Jaycees for the donation.

**Donor Base**: Joyce and Craig will work on the Donor Base so we can get it up and working before the April Fundraiser (Pint Night).

**Earth Day**: Earth Day is April 16th and we plan to have a table at the event. (Note: There is an organizational meeting at UMW on Monday, March 14th at 5:30)

**Box**: We plan to order Box from Tech Soup. We discussed how it could be used and thought it would be useful.

**Web Site**: We talked about web site updates and realized that Ben had been updating the website even while out of town, as evidenced by updates on the Wildlife Film Festival. We want to make sure it is updated for the MFWCT grant and want to post the Pint Night planned for April 30th.

**BLM**: We need to meet with the BLM regarding a letter of support for the MFWCT grant. It would be good to have a new letter regarding the BLM 40 acres and their plans for a bench and a directional sign of some sort. Dan D. and Dan P. will try to meet with Cornelia Hudson of the BLM regarding the letter of support and their plans, next Tuesday.

**Donation Letters**: We discussed sending out donation letters to those that purchased items at the Silent Auction. It’s a big project and we plan to have a card to hand out on Pint Night to those making purchases, which will alleviate a big end of the year project.

**Wisdom American Legion**: Michael Mhoon has been working with the American Legion in Wisdom on trails in that area. They would like to work with us and we support collaborating with them on trails. We aren’t sure how we can help, but we’re willing. There’s a program called Trails RX that has to do with working on local trails.

**Treasurer’s Report**: There are no real changes in the financials. Joyce processed the W-2 for Nathan, the 1099 for Jim, and is starting work on the 990 tax form. She’ll get together with Dennis Peck for the 990 as we have to do the more complicated version this year, due to the amount of donations we received in 2015 for the land acquisition.

**Reconnecting with other local trails groups**: We talked about reconnecting with those who are also working on local trails. We need to communicate with each other about the trails and include their trails on our maps. We also want to connect with the Terre Verde group at the college and Michael M. will talk to them.

**Cinnabar Foundation**: We received word from the Cinnabar Foundation about applying for a grant. The deadline is Febr 29th for some grants. Another deadline is March 31st for 2016 Special Project Grants. This is one of the additional grants that Alice (Future West) could work on as part of their contract. We plan to ask for a grant for the Bicycle Recycling program.

**John Erb corner of the hills**: Dan has talked to John Erb and he’s on board to give us the approximately five acres of land that is the southeast corner of the cliffs. Dan D. called Ray Gross to see if he could survey it for us.

**March Meeting**: Our next meeting will be on March 10th, likely at the Law Enforcement Annex. Several other meetings will take place between now and then, such as meeting of the Donor Base people , the Signs and Trails group, and a planned walk to mark the placement of the new signs.