

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 9, 2016

Room 326, City-County Building
5:32 to 6:53 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Eric Sivers, Jim Philips, and Betsy Miller. Also, Nate Kopp with PPLT, and staff members Brad Langsather and Greta Dige.

Minutes:

Minutes from the January 12, 2016 meeting were presented.

General Discussions:

- Sivers moved and approved the January 12, 2016 minutes. Wirak seconded the motion with corrections. Motion passed.
- Wirak asked if anyone would be interested in taking an officer position (chair, vice chair, or secretary). Discussion item only. No action taken.
- Wirak asked if there was any trail issues (i.e. repairs & maintenance). Wirak discussed the waterline trail.
- Langsather discussed the scope of service with the PPLT. No further items regarding this was discussed.
- "Challenge cost share". Discussed the potential to do some clean up from the bottom of the McKelvey trailhead up to the top of the ridge. US Forest kicked in \$20k into this area from the "MRAC". Missouri River Advisor Committee. US forest service has some insect in this area so spraying may not be an option.
- Philips discussed taking time to brainstorm to capitalize on the economic resource of the trails (i.e. Tourism). Along these lines, Langsather discussed the new concept being called "Helena 360", where all agencies work together in a 360 degree view around Helena. Not all just forestry projects. There is always funding issues and struggles. A possibility being explored is having a regional parks district funds being collected from 3 counties. Quite a bit of work has been done on this but got postponed due to the jail funding ballot.
- Tackle on the work plan. Langsather discussed the possibility of have some advertising on the "mutt mits". Those are getting expensive and he wants to cover the cost. Wirak discussed adding a fee to the dog license to cover this type of cost.
- Kopp discussed the trail user "counter". He noted the high end or the price range is approximately \$5k each, but some are less. PPLT is exploring getting 4 sets about \$3k. However, they have not yet decided where to put them. Langsather discussed that the University of Idaho did a study a while back showing which trail head got the most use, but having a trail counter will be very helpful in determining priorities for resources such as parking, etc.
- Langsather to coordinate with the committee to work on the change to the tax assessment that was recently dropped. General costs have increased due to better trail maintenance not so

much simply related to additional acreage. It was about \$10 per lot. Need impervious and the base.

- Wirak discussed how people park on Daisy Hill at the main Mount Helena parking lot area. Langsather made mention he may make some changes to this.
- Langsather issued a project status report, and went over each item. Philips asked if Langsather could share the HOLMAC budget. Langsather said he'd bring it to the next meeting. Langsather might be able to include "funding source" to the project status report if feasible from a formatting perspective.
- Dige discussed the remaining funds of \$2k of the original \$14k in spraying reimbursements to property owners.
- Langsather will handout work plan at the March meeting which will include some of the weed projects.
- Siver discussed the existing idea of adding a trail on the parcel near Lime Kiln drive. It's about 22 acres. Langsather noted that he'll revisit this idea as it does have some merit or potential. This parcel is commonly known by staff as the "Lodge pole parcel".
- Siver moved to adjourn the meeting. Wirak second the motion. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 8, 2016 at 5:30 City County Building.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

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