

The Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
600 Cregg Ln., Missoula, MT 59801
July 13, 2017
4:00 to 5:00 pm

Committee Members Present: Rob Erickson, Alexis Gibson, Gerhard Knudsen, Bert Lindler, Anna Noson, Daniel Spencer, Deke Tidwell, Regan Whitworth

Absent: Eric Anderson, Janet Krivacek

Others Present: Jim Habeck; Elizabeth Erickson; Open Space Acquisitions Attorney; Vickie Edwards, Conservation Project Manager, Five Valleys Land Trust; Bart and Wendy Morris, Owners of Oxbow Cattle Company.

Minutes

Public/Guest comments on items not on the agenda – none

Action Items:

Approve minutes from June 8, 2017 – Gerhard moved to approve the minutes, Anna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee recommends the City Council and County Commissioners approve the expenditure of up to \$175,000 of 2006 open space bond funds to purchase a conservation easement and cover a portion of transaction and project-related costs for the purchase of the 168-acre Oxbow Cattle Company-Miller Creek conservation easement in the Lower Miller Creek area of Missoula.

Daniel moved, Gerhard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Oxbow Cattle Company Rough Cut Evaluation

The Oxbow property is located just outside the City limits in the Miller Creek area.

Miller Creek runs through Oxbow Cattle Company property and they hold the senior water rights in Miller Creek. The property will remain privately owned and protected with a conservation easement.

The conservation easement project accomplishes a number of the purposes of the 2006 Open Space Bond by:

- Conserving a working ranch,
- protecting wildlife habitat,
- providing open space and scenic landscape,
- protecting water quality of rivers, lakes and streams, and
- paying non-personnel related transaction and project-related costs.

The project is consistent with the goals of the 2006 Open Space Plan and the City's Open Space Ordinance.