

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: January 7, 2019

Time: 4-6 pm

Meeting room at Park Ops

100 Hickory, Missoula, MT 59801

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Giles Thelen, Jamison Starbuck, Carol Fischer, Hannah Specht, Chris Ryan, Kathleen Kennedy, Karen Sippy

Staff Present: Corena Maurer, Morgan Valliant, Nathan McLeod

Public Present: Patrick Bridegam

Action Item:

- Approve minutes from the [November 5, 2018](#) and [December 17, 2018](#) meetings
Chris Ryan requested the correction of “Mr.” to “Sam” in the November 5, 2018 minutes.
Hannah Specht requested the correction of adding 2018 to the date in the December 17, 2018 minutes.
Carol Fischer moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2018 and December 17, 2018 with the requested corrections. Chris Ryan seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment on non-agenda items: None

Discussion Items:

Review Plans for the Rattlesnake Dam Removal – Rob Roberts, Trout Unlimited

- Preliminary engineering report and design
- Implementation strategies and timeline
- Habitat creation and restoration

Rob Roberts discussed the history of the dam. He also discussed the plan for removal. Earthwork is set to begin in 2020.

Funding costs for dam removal were discussed.

Mr. Roberts reviewed an in depth timeline for the project.

It was noted that Bull Trout are still present in Rattlesnake Creek.

Ms. Fischer asked about opening up fishing in the area. Mr. Roberts states it will probably be opened up to a public review process once the dam is removed.

Recreational Use Plan for the Rattlesnake Reservoir Site - Nathan McLeod, Parks and Open Space Planning and Development

- Review existing conditions
- Discuss broad recreation management goals

Morgan Valliant discussed the NorthWestern Energy (NWE) easement that is near the dam site and possible trail options.

He asked the committee to propose recreation use goals for the site.

Nathan McLeod presented some trail options through the dam site and talked about the possible addition of low impact parking.

Trail sections that have conflicts between mountain bikers and walkers were discussed.

Ms. Fischer asked about options for users to access the creek.

Many different options about creek access were discussed, including limiting certain trails to pedestrian only.

Mr. McLeod talked about construction overlooks that would be available for the public to view progress on the project.

Interpretive signs were discussed at length.

Giles Thelen strongly proposed a drinking fountain at the dam site, possibly near the handmade rock wall.

The unique feature of the wetlands and the area being a wildlife corridor were noted and discussed.

A possible loop trail with the NWE easement and many possible recreational use options were discussed.

Kathleen Kennedy requested a map with the overlay of the proposal of the site.

Mr. Vallaint stated that the current recreation use possibilities for the site are:

- Combining uses
- Interpretation
- Accommodations with Disabilities Act (ADA) Loop trail
- Building formalized river access

Future items:

Development of a recreational use plan for the Clark Fork Islands

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM

Submitted by:

Corena Maurer

City of Missoula Parks & Recreation

Administrative Assistant