

# Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: February 4, 2019

Time: 4-6 pm

Headwaters meeting room at Currents

600 Cregg Ln, Missoula, MT 59801

## Minutes

Committee Members Present: Chris Ryan, Patrick Bridegam, Giles Thelen, Beverly Dupree, Kathleen Kennedy, Jamison Starbuck

Staff Present: Morgan Valliant, Corena Maurer, Nathan McLeod, Clancy Jandreau

### **Action Item:**

- Approve minutes from the [January 7, 2019](#) meeting - Tabled

**Public Comment on non-agenda items:** None

### **Discussion Items:**

**2018 Conservation Lands Research and Monitoring Program Report:** An overview of research and monitoring activities from the 2018 season. Highlights to include:

- Results from the 2018 Clark Fork River use Survey
- Sheep grazing to control spotted knapweed
- Elk and Recreationist usage on the South Hills Spur (Clancy Jandreau)

Clancy Jandreau reviewed his goals and actions for the project.

Mr. Jandreau discussed vegetation monitoring and elk distribution. Mr. Jandreau discussed the monitoring project in the South Hills Spur that is studying how the elk are using the property. 60% of the area is used by the elk.

Mr. Jandreau presented a survey that was taken last year on river recreation that included different user groups by type of boat, single/multi tube floaters and beach use.

Giles Thelen asked about numbers of bridge jumpers. Mr. Valliant stated that they did have a survey on that as well.

On February 22, 2019, the 3 Rivers Collaborative will be holding a public meeting at Conflux Brewing Company to discuss future plans for the Clark Fork River as it runs through downtown Missoula.

Kathleen Kennedy asked how the river otter signs were working downtown. Mr. Valliant stated they have not done a specific survey on that.

Mr. Jandreau discussed the different options for control of spotted knapweed: sheep grazing vs. non grazing and herbicide comparisons. Mr. Valliant states that the use of sheep, as it was popular in the beginning, is now being seen negatively by some people as it requires them to keep their dogs leashed.

Mr. Jandreau shared the current results of a controlled study of the riparian impacts of deer browsing.

Mr. Jandreau discussed his monitoring and research projects for 2019.

Beverly Dupree asked about the elk plot and what damage might be done if there was to be a focus on reduction in use.

**Development of a Recreation Plan for the Rattlesnake Reservoir Site:** This plan will provide the vision for development of recreational infrastructure and public use following removal and restoration of the Rattlesnake dam and reservoir.

- Review and discuss the draft recreation plan and maps.
- Provide feedback on trails, trail usage and access points. (Morgan Valliant & Nathan McLeod)

Nathan McLeod presented a current map with possible recreation uses for the Rattlesnake Reservoir Site.

Mr. Valliant reviewed some highlights of possible recreation use. Mr. Valliant discussed trails, trailheads, ADA access and creek access.

Several options for the plan were presented and discussed by the group, including interpretive signage and protection of the wetland.

Mr. Thelen is requesting a drinking fountain near some interpretive signage that overlooks the dam site.

**Update on process for 2018 Open Space bond projects and expenditure of Maintenance Mill Levy funds: (Morgan Valliant) - tabled**

**Future items:**

Development of a recreational use plan for the Clark Fork Islands

**Announcements:** None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm

Submitted by:

Corena Maurer

City of Missoula, Parks & Recreation

Administrative Assistant