

## Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting

January 9 , 2012

4:00 – 6:00

### **Attended by:**

Janet Sproull, Deborah Richie, Colleen Matt, Bert Lindler, Paul Parson, Kevin Verlanic, Giles Thelen

Non-Voting Members: Vickie Edwards,

Staff: Morgan Valliant

Others: Mary Manning, Jenny Tollefson

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

**Minutes: Approve notes of November 14, 2011 – Colleen moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Giles 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.**

**Election of New Chair:** Janet moved to nominate Giles Thelen as the new chair; Bert motioned to approve and motion carried. Colleen Matt volunteered as co-chair; motion was approved and carried.

**Agenda: Review and discuss the top CLM management priorities (as outlined in the previous meeting) as follows:**

Review and discuss current deficiencies in the following:

- Research & Development
- Education & Outreach
- Volunteer Program
- Develop recreational Use Policy
- Project Priorities

**Research & Development:** Morgan expressed the need for an on-staff researcher, noting budget constraints, although funding will not be reduced this year as in the past (3% each year until 2011). The board did have questions regarding the various resources such as UM students, grants, etc. Colleen also questioned if there was a research plan in place.

**Education & Outreach:** Discussion of utilizing social networking (Face Book, blogs, Tweeting, etc.) as a possible venue. Also, Senior Watch Groups, Park Ranger via MC Police Dept. were discussed as possibilities.

**Volunteer Program:** Morgan advised of the Parks & Rec's in house volunteer program that has grown in size from 500 volunteer hours per year to approximately 3000. Also mentioned, Partnership-In-Parks and Friends of Missoula Parks recently implemented to make recreation programs available to low-income youth of the community. A suggestion was made to make other committees and boards aware of these funding efforts. Also suggested ... make the tax deductible dialogue more apparent on the brochures. Janet shared the license plate design to be available starting in July.

**Recreational Use Policy:** Bert felt this agenda item should be the 1<sup>st</sup> priority of this committee, referencing the various runs held in the community, as an example. A moratorium until criteria standards are developed was suggested and questioned. With the ultimate goal being a policy criterion to cover all possible events and permit requests, each permit request would still need to be done on an individual, case by case basis. Mary Manning (OSAC) suggested utilizing 5VLT's Limits of Acceptable

Change as reference. Identifying different types of use and different property use levels is imperative to permit approval. The desired balance is keeping an open mind about public use of Open Space while keeping some Open Space as *Open Space*. Bert recommends a sub-committee to look into this and volunteers to gather information from another city or two and bring to the next meeting.

**Public Comment:** Mary Manning requests that trail braiding be a top priority for this committee.

Morgan gave a compelling Power Point presentation on land management activities for the 2011 season and of research on Sheep Grazing to manage invasive weeds on Mt. Jumbo and North Hills.

**Meeting Schedule: The next committee meeting will be held Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Adjournment at 6:05**