

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting NOTES

Monday, January 14, 2013

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Headwaters @ 600 Cregg Lane

Attended by:

Paul Parsons, Chris Ryan, Kathleen Kennedy, Bert Lindler, Deborah Richie, Colleen Matt, Giles Thelen, Beverly Dupree, Greg Howard

Non – voting: Allen Byrd

Absent: Vicki Edwards

Public/Guest comments on items not on the Agenda - NONE

Minutes – Approve notes of November 2012 – approved as submitted

Welcome and Introduction of Greg Howard – Greg Howard was selected by the Missoula Parks Board to serve a three year term starting October 16, 2012 to October 15, 2015. Howard has worked as a professional in the industry for 15 years specializing in botany, wetlands, and riparian. His career also included land restoration of native landscapes.

Agenda:

Items for Discussion include:

Action Items

Annual elections for Chair and Vice Chair

It was moved and seconded to elect Giles Thelen as chair and Bert Linder as vice Chair for the committee. All members of the committee voted in favor of the motion.

Updates/Discussion Items

Conservation Lands 2012 Management Summary and 2013 Goals - presentation by Morgan Valliant, Conservation Lands Manager. The presentation included the accomplishments 2012 and goals for 2013.

- Expansion of research and monitoring program
- Cultivation of New and existing partnerships
- Completion of the Greenough Park Survey

By the Numbers:

- Volunteers 508 people = 2700 hours or about \$39,000 in labor
- Trail construction - .9 mile new trail
- Fencing constant - repair .3miles and remove .35 miles
- Forest thinning - 45 acres on Mt. Jumbo
- Invasive tree removals - Norway Maple, Siberian Elm and Golden Willow - 2.5 acres in South Hills, Tower, Greenough Park and Mt. Jumbo – this is being done to preserve the native trees.
- Hand pulling across 19.5 ac on Jumbo and South Hills
- Weed mowing = 139 acres
- Revegetation - slowing expanding the amount of revegetation and realizing this needs to happen at a higher level to reach goals. It did not help that seed prices were quite a bit higher last year and not able to purchase as much as seed.
- Herbicide applications across 785 ac = 154 ac weeds sprayed
- Sheep grazing - 886 ac in 94 days and in 2006 – 930 ac in 150 days
- Grant donations = \$181,000 which helps leverage budget dollars for every dollar in the budget

Projects or new for 2013

- New greenhouse - the goal is to provide full time staff to run greenhouse
- Hire train research specialist
- Develop monitoring program for recreational use of cons. lands
- Set up monitoring program for restoration of riparian habitats
- Work to secure funding to increase restoration program
- Get dedicated money for seed, plants, and greenhouse supplies in order to restore areas
- Need more efforts into restoration and trail maintenance issue and less weed control.
- Staffing needs: greenhouse attendant, additional maintenance laborers

Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.