

CITY OF LARAMIE

Public Works
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MINUTES MONOLITH RANCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE March 8, 2012 - 2:30 p.m. 405 Grand Avenue, Laramie, WY Annex Conference Room

The regular meeting of the Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 2:30pm in the Historic Carnegie Building (405 Grand Avenue), 1st Floor Conference Room.

I. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Rich Elliott, Cal Van Zee, Dave Paulekas, Joe Lord, Paul Rechar
Staff Present: Dee Moody, Steve Davidson
Guests Present: Malea Brown, Administrative Services Director
Shawn Garcia, Business Office Manager

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from February 9, 2012 were amended as follows:

Under Old Business, Item C -- Meteorological Tower, corrections are as follows:

- change date to data; (first line)
- change is to are; (first line)
- remove tower and insert wind. (second line)

MOTION BY PAUL RECHARD and seconded by Lord to accept the February 9, 2012 minutes as amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Discussion for FY 2012-2013 – Malea Brown, Administrative Services Director, Shawn Garcia, Business Office Manager, were in attendance to discuss the budget process with the committee. Malea explained the budgeting process for the Monolith Ranch Operations (7035) and Water Rights (7040) is underway, but there is nothing ready for review. She strongly suggested that the 6-year capital plan for the Monolith Ranch be reviewed and updated prior to budget process.

Dave Paulekas questioned the original purpose of the RAC and it was explained that the purpose for the RAC was to understand the total operation of ranching, protection of the water rights, and for eventual transfer of water rights to municipal use from agricultural use.

There was also discussion concerning the improvement of the property for ranching purposes which may include City support. As a working ranch, there will be a continual need of fencing improvements, building repair, pivot repair (until replacement), crop replacement and weed control to document beneficial use of water for agriculture. Also, there is always the unexpected damage due to weather conditions or unforeseen activities. It was noted that the ranch operation is being transitioned from Public Works to City Manager's Office for collaborative overview of ranch operation and water right protection.

Discussion ensued concerning the structural integrity of the Simpson Spring ranch house. Several repairs had to be made prior to the current resident, a ranch hand, could move in with his family. It was understood that the ranch houses are old and in some disrepair due to the age of the houses and lack of continual upkeep.

“Improving Our Quality of Life”

A **MOTION BY DAVE PAULEKAS** and seconded by Lord, to have a city inspector evaluate the structural integrity of Simpson Springs House on the Monolith Ranch for needed major structural repairs and improvements. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Standing Report from Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

Joe Lord indicated that there was nothing specific to report. The committee is working hard to define the work to be done.

Monthly Report from Water Resources Specialist

Ranch is in full winter operation. Lessee is winter feeding cattle and getting the cattle ready to transport to another location for the remainder of feeding, Steve discussed the possibility of extra stock tanks to spread the cattle over a larger area of the ranch.

Meteorological Tower

Tower still has not been removed. Jonathan Naughton, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wyoming, is interested in evaluating the collected data. The City will make contact and verify request.

Water Rights Transfer Reports

Steve indicated that the historical data and reports in one place and is ready for his review. Paul Rechar indicated that there recommendations listed in the reports and that these recommendations are not being observed. It was advised that the reports need to be reread and analyzed by staff, that the recommendations be noted and implemented or verify that the recommendations are being followed.

Simpson Springs Wells

Consultant contract has been awarded and Notice of Award will be sent to Weston Engineering. Work cannot begin until snow melts and frost is out of the ground. Weston Engineering will evaluate the access road for large equipment travel

V. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

MOTION BY RECHARD, seconded by Paulekas, to set the next meeting date for Thursday April 26, 2012, 2:00pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Standing Report from Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
Monthly Report from Water Resources
Meteorological Tower – John Naughton
Water Rights Transfer Reports
Simpson Springs Well

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY VAN ZEE, seconded by Lord, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm

Respectfully Submitted

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Dee Moody, Secretary

DATE