



CITY OF LARAMIE
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MINUTES
MONOLITH RANCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 26, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.
405 Grand Avenue, Annex Conference Room, Laramie, WY

The regular meeting of the Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 2:01pm in the Historic Carnegie Building (405 Grand Avenue), 1st Floor Conference Room.

I. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Rich Elliott, Cal Van Zee, Dave Paulekas, Dave Evertson, Grant Frost,
Joe Lord, Paul Rechar
Staff Present: Dee Moody, Steve Davidson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from March 8, 2012 were amended as follows:
MOTION BY PAUL RECHARD and seconded by Lord to accept March 8, 2012 minutes as submitted. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Member Term Limits

It was announced that terms for Grant Frost and David Evertson expire October 2012.

- Grant Frost indicated that he will no longer be able to attend meetings or continue on the committee as he will be accepting a new position in Cheyenne, WY and will be moving to Cheyenne.
- David Evertson is agreeable to accepting another term.
- Cal advised that when City Manager's office takes over management of the Monolith Ranch that he should not be a member of the RAC committee and suggested that Dave Derragon fill his position.
- As committee member positions come open, it is normal for the City to advertise for parties who may be interested.

The City Manager's office will be taking over the Monolith Ranch Management as of July 2012. Rich indicated that Public Works Department had been charged with the management of the Monolith Ranch several years ago. Rich will be having conversations with the City Manager's Office concerning the operations and management and existence of RAC membership.

MOTION BY RICH ELLIOTT and seconded by Paulekas, that there be a discussion with City Manager's Office regarding the ongoing RAC responsibility for operations, maintenance and funding of ranch activities.

Discussion continued with responsibilities charged to the Committee:

- Identify and preserve the water rights for municipal operations and recommend cost-effective actions to more efficiently manager for Monolith Ranch;

- Gather information and data from advocacy groups and public regarding attitudes and opinions relating to grazing operations as they pertain to the protection of Laramie 's water rights for future transfer;
- Evaluate current range and habitat conditions on the Monolith Ranch and suggest viable alternatives for better, more holistic operations;
- Engage in other specified duties or assignments as directed by City Council related to its review of issues such as; potential recreations activities, public access, wind-farm development, grazing operations, and overall management of the Monolith Ranch.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Moriah Ranch (State of WY purchase)

An article and map concerning the State of Wyoming purchase of the Moriah Ranch was presented for informational purpose. The article from the Governor's office mentioned the excellent water rights and excellent recreation possibilities.

C. Dave Evertson presented a memo received from a resident

This memo, regarding the City and the Monolith Ranch, suggests that the City sell off some of the land not involved with water rights and then the City would have some money to work with. Dave Paulekas remarked that if any part of the Monolith Ranch is sold any monies received have to be returned to the Enterprise Fund. The Ranch has had many uses over the years that have been valuable to the City. Research is needed to confirm water rights, land usage, etc. The memo will be presented to Council via the minutes.

D. BALE PRCESSOR.

The machinery was advertised for two weeks; one bid was presented for \$2,560.00 from Stanley Baer and accepted by the City of Laramie

E. FENCE REPAIR.

The budget indicates \$37,080.00 and there is \$36,600 left to expend for fencing maintenance or replacement by the end of the fiscal year. Cal indicates that fencing repair needs to continue because of fence condition.

MOTION MADE BY GRANT FROST and seconded by Lord, to continue the fencing repairs or replacement based on staff recommendation. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

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

Joe Lord reports that the Ad Hoc Committee made a motion requesting Mr. Lord to ask the RAC to identify or discuss possibilities of developing recreational facilities on the property, i.e., a bicycle and/or pedestrian path along the northwest side of the river. The Ad Hoc committee was advised to continue looking at the ranch property and the RAC will continue to review the ideas presented.

B. Monthly Report from Water Resources Specialist

Started irrigating level ground on March 26th, pivot startup on Monday, 6th gate on the river will be dropped on Monday, if water in the river runs dry all indications remain that pivot will remain in irrigation mode. Ranch lessee and manager are also looking at fencing options.

C. Meteorological Tower

Tower still has not been removed. Jonathan Naughton, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wyoming, will be contacting Mike Lytle after UW graduation.

D. Water Rights Transfer Reports

A written report (attached) was presented concerning Monolith Ranch Management Recommendation Review. This review covers the 2004 Fassett Report and the report developed by Wes Bressler concerning operations of the ranch. To summarize; irrigation improvements have occurred, flow measuring devices have been installed, flumes are maintained, ditch maintenance continues, fencing repairs/replacement continue, should water rights be transferred to more productive areas of the Ranch. The committee should now focus on the recommendations in order of importance or elimination.

E. Simpson Springs Wells

Weston Engineering will be doing an on-site survey next week; a construction contract will be developed for drilling and testing to occur in June, 2012.

F. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

MOTION BY Elliott, seconded by Rechar, to set the next meeting date for Thursday June 7, 2012, 2:00pm. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

G. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEW – No Items

OLD

- Standing Report from Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
- Monthly Report from Water Resources
- Meteorological Tower – John Naughton
- Water Rights Transfer Reports
- Simpson Springs House – Integrity of Structure
- Simpson Springs Well
- Fencing Follow-up
- Term Limits Discussion

H. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY Rechar, seconded by Paulekas, to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Respectfully Submitted

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

s/DEE MOODY

Dee Moody, Secretary

DATE