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**MINUTES**  
**Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee**  
**October 8, 2015, 1:00 PM**  
**406 Ivinson St., Laramie, WY**  
**City Hall Jury Room**

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**The regular meeting of the Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee met at City Hall,  
406 Ivinson St., Jury Room.**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Joe Lord, Jason Sherwood, Jayne Pearce, Paul Rechar

Staff Present: Darren Parkin, Cindy Williams, David Derragon

Absent: David Evertson

Guests Present: Mindy Meade – US Fish and Wildlife Services, Gustave Anderson –  
Leadership Laramie

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION BY Sherwood**, seconded by Rechar, to approve the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION BY Rechar**, seconded by Lord, to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2015 meeting as sent via email. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Goforth Reservoir Update with Ducks Unlimited Suggested Contract**

Ducks Unlimited provided a suggested contract if we were to move forward with their proposal (attached). Some changes to the contract would have to be made. At this time the Committee believes the best use may be just for bird habitat with no public use at this time. Focus being on fixing our irrigation diversions that are washed out in order to reactivate them. If the bird habitat prospers, hunting may be an option in the future. Grants from Laramie River Conservation District and Wyoming Natural Resource Trust Fund may provide cost-share money for the project. Primary goals of any contract would be that changes would not interrupt the ranching operation, and it doesn't impact the Dowlin Ditch. Dave Derragon will provide direction to staff before anything goes to Council.

**B. Lease Negotiation and House Inspection Update – Water Resource Manager**

Stanley Baer's proposed lease was approved by Council. He would now like changes to the contract regarding the hay payment flat fee changing to \$44,000.00 and his first year's hay payment changing to \$30,000.00 for two years. Any changes to the contract at this point would have to go back to Council. Inspection of the house on the property is included in Baer's lease.

**MOTION BY Rechar**d, seconded by Sherwood, to recommend not to approve Baer's changes to his current contract. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Feeding Laramie Valley (FLV) Update – Water Resource Manager**

City staff is working with FLV trying to find an alternative location to the Monolith Ranch. There remains the possibility of FLV operating on the ranch in the future depending on negotiations.

**D. Standing Report from Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee – Water Resource Manager**

It has been agreed to implement some of Planning's recommendations. After the Master Plan is approved there will be a joint plan between the City and County.

**E. Hunter Management Plan Update – Jason Sherwood**

In May a new pay schedule was approved by Game and Fish. We have continued to operate based on the old contract up to this point. There have also been some problems with people staking claims to blinds and keeping them for themselves. Portable blinds, on the other hand, seem to be working well. We've been recommending hunters put their name and address on their portable blinds in case they are left behind.

**MOTION BY Pearce**, seconded by Rechar, to recommend Council renew the Hunter Management Agreement at the new pay scale with Wyoming Fish and Game as presented. Yay: 3 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1 **MOTION CARRIED.**

**F. Quarterly Report – Water Resource Manager**

- The center pivot was shut down for the season. Seasonal maintenance on the pivot is about to start.
- Oat hay turnout was 1,046 bales. This was a great hay year.
- Winter cattle is starting to come in.
- We haven't had any data collection or recorder issues, and the overall condition of the ranch is good.
- The beavers are back and have created many problem areas. The Haul Road Ditch especially has a lot of dams.
- No news yet on the Bath quarry. We're supposed to be notified if the cement company puts in their expansion permit to DEQ.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service is doing a toad assessment study across the ranch relating to reintroducing toads into their natural Wyoming habitat. United States Fish and Wildlife Service is also looking at property for this near the wastewater treatment plant.
- UW is doing a seismic study across the hay meadows looking for historical stream channels of the Laramie River.
- The ranch had 47 students from Indian Paintbrush school come out for a fieldtrip.

**G. Titus Survey Update – Water Resource Manager**

HDR has partnered with Steil Surveying out of Cheyenne and the project is moving forward. They were supposed to have surveyed our acreage last month. There are specific milestones and deadlines in their contract they have to meet or their contract may be cancelled.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

In order to schedule the Annex conference room for the 2016 quarterly meetings the following tentative dates have been proposed: January 14, April 14, July 14, and October 13. Cindy will reserve the Annex conference room although final dates may change as time gets closer.

**VII. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is set for January 14, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in the Annex conference room.

**VIII. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

- A. Goforth Reservoir Update
- B. Lease negotiation Update
- C. Feeding Laramie Valley Update
- D. Standing Report from Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
- E. Quarterly Report from Water Resource Manager
- F. Titus Survey Update from Water Resource Manager

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

S/ *Cindy Williams*  
Staff Liaison  
Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee

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Date