
MINUTES
Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee
January 12, 2017 1:00 PM
405 Grand Ave., Laramie, WY
Annex Conference Room

The regular meeting of the Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee met at the Historic Carnegie Building, 405 Grand Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room and was called to order at 1:05 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Marius Favret, Keith Rittle, Paul Rechar, Vicki Henry

Staff Present: Darren Parkin, Cindy Williams, Cal VanZee

Absent: Amy Nagler, Earl Smith, David Derragon

Guests Present: Tony Hoch, Laramie Rivers Conservation District; Zach Iddings, Baer Livestock

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY Henry, seconded by Rittle, to approve the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY Henry, seconded by Rittle, to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2016 meeting as sent via email. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on WWDC Small Water Project Program by the LRCD – Tony Hoch

1. Watershed study and available funding. LRCD would be the sponsor and would partner with the City as the recipient for funding. Next deadline: December 31st.
2. Small Water Program potential funding: \$35,000 maximum grant matching money (50% match up to \$70,000) for projects up to \$135,000.
3. Favret requested Parkin report on overview of Ranch, specifically areas that need improvement and their priority.

B. Synopsis of Baer Livestock Ranching Operation on Monolith Ranch – Zach Iddings (Note: Feeding Laramie Valley was not able to make this meeting as noted on the Agenda. Baer Livestock was a last-minute addition in its place.)

1. Overview of Baer Livestock on the Ranch
2. Ranching cycle and operation of the property

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Tri-State Generation's Update from Water Resource Administrator

1. Tri-State is trying to contact Mountain Cement regarding accessing property to determine where the power lines will be.

2. Carbon Power is determining where their power lines will be. It has the potential to interfere with the current haying operation.
3. The Committee would like to remind the City Attorney when he is reviewing the agreement between Tri-State and COL that the Committee the land be restored. It was decided Henry and Parkin would both contact the City Attorney on this issue.

B. Goforth Reservoir Update from Water Resource Administrator

1. Ducks Unlimited engineers surveyed the area late fall/early winter. The project is being put together now. A proposal will most likely be presented to us in the spring. Rehabilitation of the Goforth Reservoir is also included in this project, repairing the Harney Creek irrigation infrastructure.

C. Quarterly Report/Pivot Update from Water Resource Administrator

1. Snowpack is at 145%. We had a slow start, but should have a good run-off. A welder in town will be putting new slide gates on our main diversion at the Dowlin. They are in much need of repair. David Strain from the Utility Division is helping with the irrigation. This will assist in keeping our property in compliance with the consumptive use plan.
2. The water collection system of data loggers are starting to show wear and are having issues of equipment failure.
3. It was a good hay year. We raised 2,118 tons of grass hay in 2016. 2015: 1,600 tons, 2014: 1,100 tons, 2013: 1,300 tons, 2012: 900 tons.
4. There is an issue with the number of deer in the pivot irrigation area. The issue is being investigated with the help of Game & Fish.

D. Titus Survey Update from Water Resource Administrator

1. HDR Engineering reviewed our water rights on the Dowlin Ditch and possible changes they recommend making before the transfer of water rights in the future. HDR recommended putting an end gun on the center pivot, which was done, and gave us an extra 34-35 acres. We are also considering our return flows to the river.

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Removal of City Council liaison as a voting member/replacing with other qualified permanent voting committee members

1. There has been a change in the Council liaison since the item was added to the agenda. Currently, the Council liaison has two votes, one during the committee meeting, and another at the Council session.
2. Henry proposed the Council liaison continue to be a voting member; however, she proposed establishing two more voting members, one from LRCD and the other from Game & Fish. Discussion occurred whether they should be voting members or advisory participants.

MOTION BY Henry, seconded by Rechar, that the committee further research the possibility of representatives from LRCD and WY G&F as voting members on this committee. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Tony Hoch will approach LRCD; Marius Favret will approach WY G&F.

B. Development of a long-term Monolith Ranch Management Plan

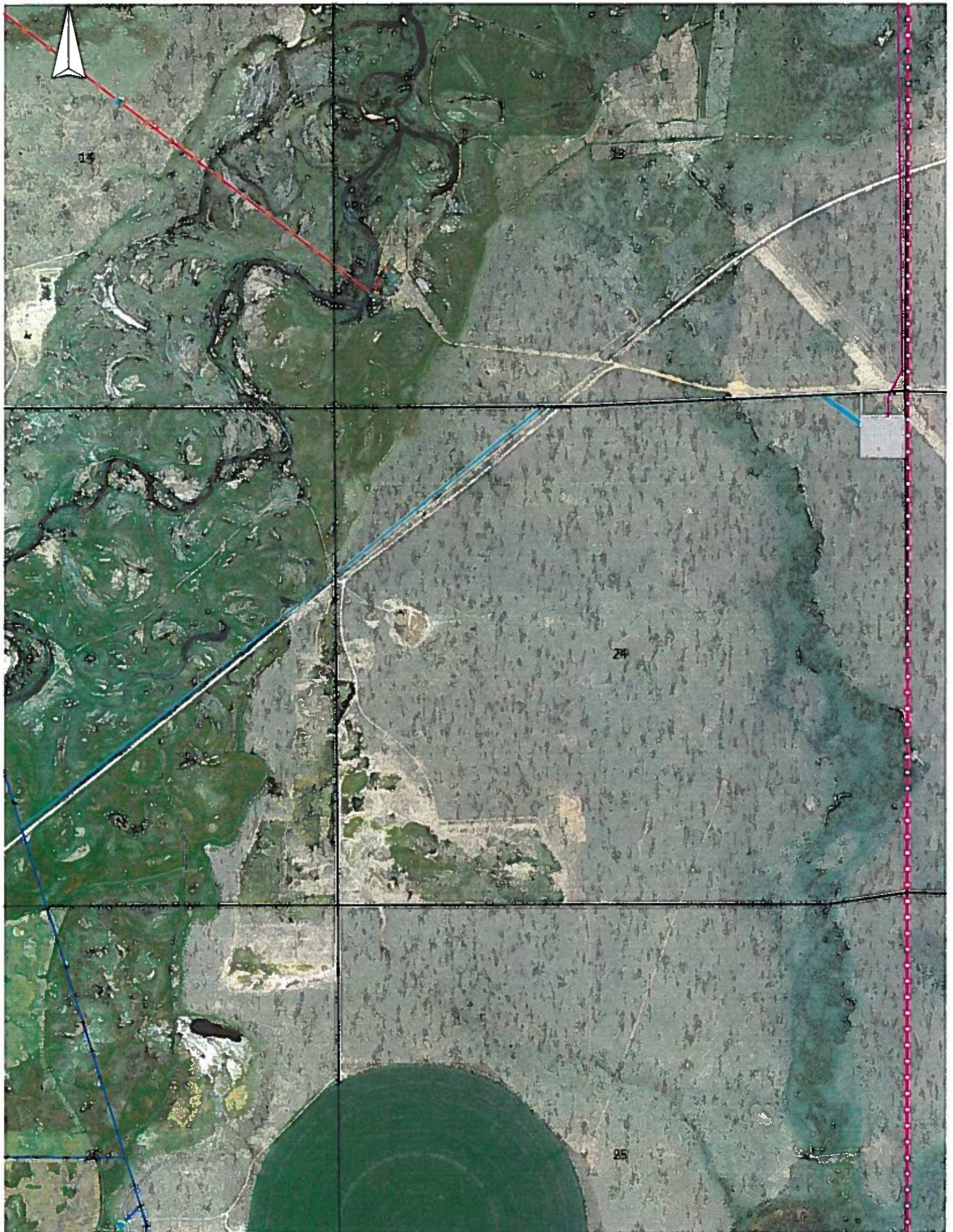
1. Development of a master plan regarding recreation, ranching, water rights, other. What is the long-term vision of the ranch?
2. A special meeting with this item as its only agenda will be scheduled to begin this discussion. Special meeting is set for **Thursday, February 16 at 1:00 in the Annex conference room.**

VII. SET DATE FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING – April 13, 2017

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

The original Minutes were approved and signed on 02.16.17.
The signed document is on file.



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