
MINUTES
Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee
July 13, 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 1:00 PM.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Marius Favret, Keith Rittle, Amy Nagler, Paul Rechar, Vicki Henry, Tony Hoch, Jason Sherwood

Members Absent: None

There was a quorum present at all times.

Staff Present: Cindy Williams, David Derragon, Darren Parkin, Cal Van Zee

Guests Present: None

II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Jason Sherwood and Tony Hoch

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY Rittle, seconded by Nagler, to approve the agenda.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 (Hoch)

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY Nagler, seconded by Henry, to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2017 special meeting as sent via email.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 (Hoch)

MOTION CARRIED.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Tri-State Substation Update – Parkin

1. An easement was submitted to the City for review and a follow-up meeting is scheduled. Transmission lines and powerline routes have been staked and surveyed in including on the Mountain Cement property. The project is moving forward. It will end up being 5.4 acres. Maintaining and access issues remain with Mountain Cement.

B. Goforth Reservoir Update – Parkin

1. Ducks Unlimited (DU) project is moving forward. DU submitted a draft proposal, edits were made to emphasize the agricultural water rights factor, the final plan available soon. Groundbreaking potentially in September. The size of the reservoir is still to be determined. Henry completed the initial bird survey as a base count before the reservoir welcomes in new birds. Henry's information will be distributed upon completion. (Hoch arrived) Public access to be a topic of future discussion. Lessee opposed to public access.

C. Quarterly Report/Pivot Update – Parkin

1. It was a good run-off year. There was almost no regulation on the river, we were able to divert adequate water. There is a good-looking hay crop, and the alfalfa crop filled in this year with this being its second growing season. An end gun was added onto the center pivot. This year the lessee will chop the hay crop instead of baling. At this point it is unclear how the consumptive use will be affected by the chopping process. There was extra haying on the Goforth this year. This will not be possible after the DU project gets underway. For the first cutting, the pivot was shut off on July 2nd. All other water was shut off on July 10th.
2. The data loggers greatly need to be replaced. Data has been lost. Council has approved this request; a bid is out now for new equipment. The new loggers will have cell phone telemetry which will help monitoring and data collection.
3. Two miles of the southeast corner of the ranch perimeter needs refencing. As per agreement, it is the City's responsibility to maintain the perimeter.

D. Titus Survey Update – Parkin

1. The next Board of Controls meeting is in August. The re-description of the irrigated acres of the Dowlin Ditch is slowly moving forward. Progress is sluggish due to interpretation of historical agreements where some water rights of the Pioneer Canal/Lake Hattie Irrigation District lie on top of Dowlin water rights.

E. Ducks Unlimited Tour of Walden Project August 3rd

1. Discussion on logistics. Williams will send out details when they are determined. Parkin is trying to contact DU for a set time of the tour.

F. Hunter Management Plan Agreement Renewal – Sherwood

1. The agreement was approved. The Wyoming Game & Fish website has been updated and improved. Permission slips, maps, and applications for licenses can be found online.

G. Review and Discussion of Revised Goals – presentation to City Council Work Session August 8th (handout)

1. Presentation will be done by Derragon, Parkin, and Favret. Harriet Hageman is expected to attend. Maps are recommended. Henry will meet with Derragon to review the structure of the work session.
2. Topics: Why a master plan is useful; Overview including a map segmenting best uses for each section; Current projects to enhance consumptive use; Make long-term management plan for the ranch the main topic. Rittle will make a first draft and email to the group, revisions and additions welcome. Sherwood will make up a story map

presentation (if possible). Parkin/City staff will create maps with GIS. Nagler, Favret, Henry will meet early the following week to finalize.

MOTION BY Hoch, seconded by Henry, that the committee recommend to City Council the adoption of the Management Goals and Objectives for the Monolith Ranch as written.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION CARRIED. (Rittle departed)

H. Review Proposed Options for Grant Application

1. Baer Livestock, Pioneer rehabilitation, Long-term rehabilitation for pasture/plant growth
2. WWDC grant application deadline: December 31st
3. Would lessee be interested in rehabilitating some of the property? (Parkin to follow-up)
4. Will the matching money for the grant be in the City's budget?
5. A proposal and conceptual plan would be needed by December.

VII. SET DATE FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING – October 12, 2017

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

VALIDATED:

Marius Favret

10.12.17

Marius Favret, Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee Chair

Date

Cindy Williams

10.12.17

Cindy Williams, Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee Staff Liaison

Date

The signed document is on file.