

Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Minutes from Joint State Federal Board
Meeting – May 15, 2018

Attendees:

David Allen, Chair (USFWS) david_allen@fws.gov
Roxanne Peterson, Co-Chair (Bureau of Reclamation) (repeterson@usbr.gov) (called in)
Rick Hotaling, (BLM) rhotaling@blm.gov (called in)
Erin Fryer, (USFS) (jhagengruber@fs.fed.us)
Rick Northrup (MFWP) rnorthrup@mt.gov
Jeff Hagener, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation (jdhagener@bresnan.net)
Jay Erickson, CAB
William Orsello, CAB
Leroy Schram, PPLT board member
Deb Lane, Recorder (deb@mtoutdoorlegacy.org) (call-in)

Dave convened the meeting at 9:10 am.

The 01/18/2018 minutes were presented. Motion by Rick H to approve; Second by Rick N; Vote to approve 5 – 0.

Financials:

Quarterly and summary figures were presented:

Ending 03/31/2018 balance of the Trust was \$25,168,025.

Reflected a downturn of .92%

Discussion regarding inflation and protecting the corpus. A request to DAD will be made to determine how inflation has impacted the corpus value in today's dollars.

Time to revisit the current financial policies which will be sent to board members for review.

TM Transition:

New ED search: 16 applications received and are being reviewed – targeting a June 2018 decision

MOLF will move to Helena

2 more board resignations & 2 new members coming on board

Bannack Group is used for their fundraising activities.

TM Quarterly Invoice: 1st quarter TM invoice reviewed –\$77,636.48. **CAB and JB chairs approved the invoice.**

Old Business:

Interim voting items:

South Billings Bridge FAS project approved by email vote on 2/14/18

Prickly Pear FAS approved by email vote on 3/14/18

Attorney (Sally Johnson) Invoice for \$2,581.25 approved by JB Chair on 5/15/18

Monitoring Request:

Received a request from Lewis & Clark County per their deed the Trust would need to provide permission for them to review and approve a restoration/beautification project on a shared boundary line (Hill Project from 2014 for the Trust and Conrad Evarts property). Letter was issued allowing only the work specified in the proposal to be reviewed and approved if it also fits within the County's guidelines. JB Chair and TM signed off on the letter.

Toston Project Update:

CAB approved the project for \$637,000 and it is now in the 30 day public comment period. Fencing was a potential concern, however, no fencing exists on these parcels at this time.

TM is taking into consideration acting as intermediary for the acquisition of the land with a simultaneous closing transfer to BLM. Their board will review during their next conference call in June.

Joint Board minutes on website:

All Joint Board minutes on file electronically will be posted on the website. Deb will create a page with for current minutes and create access to archived minutes also.

New business:

CAB Replacement:

Reviewed draft recruitment letter. Additional updates include attending meetings in Helena twice a year; a demonstrated commitment to public access; and small consistency updates in the document. The draft will be sent once more to the JB prior to disbursement to hunting and sportsmen's organizations, state and federal contacts, and others in the data base. The Joint Board supports the CAB's initial recruitment activity. Once applications are received the CAB & JB will review and select a couple of potential candidates to send to the Interior Secretary for final approval.

When the process is complete the Trust will need to summarize the procedures to follow for CAB replacements in the future.

2018 CAB public comment recommendations:

The CAB met on May 14 to review projects submitted during the 2018 funding cycle. Thirteen projects were received; one (City of Harlowtown) was denied due to the request for funding of infrastructure work only. A total of \$1,000,000 was available for 2018 project funding.

Inside the Target Area:

Cartan Acquisition: this would add acreage and access to the Canyon Creek WMA. An appraisal will need to be completed to confirm the purchase price.

Palmquist: small acreage and while it did not score well, it will create good added value and access for the Canyon Creek WMA. An appraisal will need to be completed to confirm the purchase price.

Outside the Target Area:

Dover Island: Mt NRDP. An acquisition and FAS from the Yellowstone Oil Spill fund in the Billings area. Completion in 2019 is planned. CAB recommends: \$100,000

Tenderfoot Falls: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Three parcels and Tenderfoot Falls are included in this phase of acquisition. This will be transferred to the FS when complete. The Trust has funded prior projects of this phased acquisition. CAB recommends: \$100,000

Falls Creek: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. On the Dearborn River this includes frontage on the river and will open up 25,000 acres of public land. RMEF has also applied for Open Space bond funds for this acquisition. If everything falls into place they hope to have the area open for hunting in the fall. CAB recommends: \$100,000

Sand Creek Trail: The Conservation Fund. Additional acreage for the CMR-NWR. Currently held by the Conservation Fund and would be transferred to USFWS. CAB recommends: \$50,000

Dillon High Trails: Beaverhead Trails Coalition. Trust has supported this phased acquisition since 2015. Final phase. Eventually the County will take ownership of the land and develop a management plan with Beaverhead Trails to maintain the area. CAB recommends: \$50,000

City of Hamilton: City of Hamilton. 70 acres adjacent to the City of Hamilton. It includes 2 miles of riverfront property. A trail system and river park would be developed. No bird hunting is allowed due to the proximity to Hamilton. CAB recommends: \$50,000

Bell Ninemile: Vital Ground. This includes 52 acres and would create a linkage of habitat areas for the wildlife to use. Eventually, it would be transferred to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for management of the property. CAB recommends: \$26,000

Flaxville WPA: Pheasants Forever. Just under 55 acres this first parcel would be added to the Flaxville WPA in Daniels County. Short-term management would be by Pheasants Forever until the second parcel is purchased. Once complete, PH will gift the parcels to the public thru USFWS. CAB recommends: \$15,000

Travelers Rest: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. A historical site where Lewis & Clark camped during their journey. It does include water rights. It would be used as a campground and historical area. CAB recommends: \$9,000

Miners Trail request from Madison Byways for funding of an easement along interstate 15 for bikers, walkers, etc. was not funded.

Deb will send out the scoring summary sheet to the JB.

Public Comments: none

Next meeting date: The next Joint Board meeting will be held on June 28th at USFWS in Helena. It will begin at 9 AM.

Adjourned