



City of LaVerkin

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Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, April 17, 2019 3:00 p.m. La Verkin Trailhead Confluence Park

Present:

Board Members:

Richard Hirschi	LaVerkin City
Cameron Rognan	Washington County – HCP
Clark Fawcett	Hurricane City
Paul Heideman	Toquerville City

Advisory:

Dennis Kay	VRLPA
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Others:

Kathleen Nielson	Washington County Grant Writer
Richard Cutts	Hurricane City resident
Christy Ballard	LaVerkin City staff

I. Meeting Called to Order: Mayor Richard Hirschi called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.

II. Approve Minutes: September 19, 2018 and November 20, 2018

Motion was made by Cameron Rognan to approve the September 19, 2018 and November 20, 2018 meeting minutes, second by Paul Heideman. Hirschi-yes, Fawcett-yes, Rognan-yes, Heideman-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Business:

A. Update and discussion on the trailhead grant.

This item was moved to later in the meeting.

B. Update on Ash Creek Special Service District development plans.

There was not a representative from Ash Creek SSD, so this item was moved to later in the meeting.

C. Discussion of other Park projects.

Cameron reported the County has been working with Todd Goss and KC Ellingford to get the first rock climbing routes installed at the beach area. The larger wall opposite the beach will be the next area routes will be established.

There is new graffiti on the freshly painted wall. He is not sure when those will be repainted. It was a lot of effort and money in paint for it to not last very long.

Mayor Hirschi will have La Verkin go check the area to see if anything vulgar was written that would need to be removed immediately and if paint or chalk was used.

Paul suggested placing a camera there to find the people doing the graffiti.

Cameron reported he has posted an RFP for cattle grazing in the Park. The two fields will be a fire hazard if they are not taken care of.

Sheep and goats would be okay too.

The County weed guys have been spraying in the Park.

The road has been washed out by the power station. He wondered if La Verkin City can look at the area and see if that would be a project they could do.

Mayor Hirschi said he will take Derek down to look at that area and the graffiti.

Cameron asked Clark if Hurricane had been contacted about diverting the water from the road by the old dump. That is something that needs to be taken care of.

There was a discussion on possible ways to fix the issue.

Kathleen arrived at 3:16pm

Cameron mentioned the property owner offered his equipment to clean the area. Permission was given during the last Confluence Park meeting to take equipment down there, but it doesn't look like it had been done yet.

Richard Cutts said it would be nice to have a volunteer group with permission to drive in to help rescue people or pick up trash.

He also suggested signage reminding people to take water with them when hiking in the summer months.

He would like to have a volunteer organization established, with a policy, so the volunteers could have some liability protection.

Cameron pointed out Search and Rescue responds to calls when local emergency responders are not able to reach people in need.

Kathleen suggested once the bridge is installed, to have that trail wide enough for emergency motor vehicle access.

Cameron said both sides already have emergency access so it would not be necessary to install a bridge that wide.

Kathleen said Rick Rosenberg recommended the Park improve the Hurricane access to be wide enough for vehicles up to the proposed bridge site.

Cameron replied he would need to check the easement. He feels allowing a road into the Park would shrink the Park and degrade the view from the top.

It is a primitive nature park.

Paul said while it is a nature park, it should be available to all the public.

Kathleen pointed out on occasion it is. She will be doing a tour on May 11th for the Washington County Historical Society that will have vehicle access.

Tours are okay but allowing individual four-wheeler access is not.

Christy said La Verkin City has received multiple requests to hunt turkeys in the Park. She has been refering them to DWR.

Dennis said the Park does fall in City limits so La Verkin's shooting ordinance would come into play. DWR cannot authorize anything without city permission.

Mayor Hirschi pointed out there is no shooting within city limits.

Cameron said he is fine with people removing turkeys if they receive the okay from the City and DWR.

There was a discussion on possibly closing the Park for one day to help reduce the turkey population.

Kathleen said there is a new grant released through the LaRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund. The Park has received this grant in the past to clean up the La Verkin Creek area. It is a cleanup and restoration grant.

The pre-ap is due May 17th which is not a lot of time so she wondered if the Board would like her to pursue this grant.

Motion was made by Paul Heideman to purse the LaRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation grant, second by Cameron Rognan. Hirschi-yes, Fawcett-yes, Rognan-yes and Heideman-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Kathleen said she would like to use this grant in conjunction with the trailhead grant to clean up the area around the pecan orchard and possibly help get water to them.

Dennis mentioned if the headbox for the spring was cleaned out, maybe it would start putting usable water out.

Mayor Hirschi suggested using the grant to clean up the trail by the old dump on the Hurricane side.

Kathleen said she was not sure that would qualify but she will look into it.

The LaRay McAllister grant has two sides, conservation and restoration and property purchase. They gave 1-2 million dollars for the purchase of Confluence Park.

Richard Cutts suggested using the grant to purchase the Rocky Mountain Power property. Purchasing that property would extend the trail and make a nice addition to the Park.

Kathleen said that would require a separate proposal and they will not fund us twice in the same year so the Board would need to decide what their priority was. Purchasing property would also require an additional grant from another entity.

Cameron said he feels the priority now is to clean up what we already have. Especially since we have a grant for a new trail, they could work in conjunction with each other.

Kathleen suggested Virgin River Land Preservation Association head up the purchase of the Rocky Mountain Power property.

Dennis replied they could, but they would need to be approached by Rocky Mountain Power.

Richard mentioned if Rocky Mountain Power donated some of the property, it could count as part of a matching grant.

Kathleen would like to do something about the power station. There is going to be more people in the area with the new trail and trailhead. There is nothing left inside that can be carried out. The only thing left is the iron workings of the turbans. There are several federal programs that are offering brick and mortar grants that may pay for an architect to do an evaluation of the building to make it safe. Her idea is to reconstruct it only in its basic sense, (repair the roof and make sure the walls are stable enough to support the structure). For the inside, build a platform lobby area that goes around the inside to see the workings and visuals of interpretive panels explaining what it was, how it worked, and what brought it to its end. She would like Rocky Mountain Power to be a contributor. We could spotlight them in the interpretive signs.

Dennis said perhaps Rocky Mountain Power has some old equipment that could go into the building to show how things worked.

There was a discussion of different ideas that could be done at/for the power station.

Kathleen said as the different projects are completed, we need to prepare for what is going to happen to Confluence Park. There may need to be some kind of presence in the Park similar to what Washington County Water Conservancy does at Pah Tempe. We could provide utility services in exchange for people monitoring the area. She is not sure how DWR would feel about allowing someone to park a 5th-wheel trailer at the power station and/or La Verkin Creek Trailhead but feels it is something for the Board to consider.

Richard Cutts mentioned if the Board would consider a volunteer organization, this could tie into it. Once approved, the Board could recruit volunteers to maintain and patrol the Park.

Paul said it would need to be decided before Ash Creek SSD put the utility lines in.

Kathleen reported the environmental for the trailhead grant is almost complete. She is just waiting for a letter from DWR.

Cameron reported Rhett sent an email stating that DWR does have a draft letter for the grant Kathleen is working on and she should see it soon. They are deciding internally who should sign said letter.

Cameron reported they are trying to get bids on trail construction. They have one but would like to get at least two more.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Richard suggested, regarding the rock-climbing proposal, the people proposing rock climbing in the Park need to present a plan on how they will keep the rock climbers “in check” from climbing in other, non-designated areas within the Park.

The other item he would like to bring up is in the field by the dairy barn there are sink holes all over. The Park has the dirt, it would not take much to fill those sink holes in.

All the trails in the Park need work. This is the other area a formal volunteer group would be helpful.

Finally, the pecan trees need to be pruned right away if you want them to live.

Cameron asked Mayor Hirschi to have La Verkin look at filling in those holes as part of their hours.

Kathleen stated pruning the pecan trees can be done as part of the grant.

Richard commented that it is also a good time to burn.

Cameron reported State Forestry and Fire has been contacted to burn for us.

Kathleen pointed out if State Forestry and Fire can burn for us in the fall it would count toward the match for the LeRay McAllister grant.

Christy asked the Board on behalf of the building inspector for La Verkin City how they felt about the temporary re-routing and signage of the SR9 trail during construction of Janet Mika’s project.

Cameron said they just wanted to maintain a safe access, so they are fine with it.

Richard Cutts asked if the Board would be willing to formally approve a volunteer group.

Clark said there needs to be a policy in place before the Board can formalize a group.

Cameron said he envisions a group like Friends of National Parks that come in and do projects.

Richard said the Board needs to have something established so people come energized. Nobody wants to step up or feels like they have any authority to do anything.

There are a lot of things that could be done in the Park by volunteers.

Dennis mentioned it would be like the HCP trail stewards. There should be a policy in place for that.

Kathleen pointed out HCP trail stewards has funding. Confluence Park has no budget.

Cameron pointed out there are projects done in the Park all the time by volunteer groups.

Clark said if the Board creates a volunteer group then we pick up the liability for anything that happens.

Richard would like something formalized so if he is trying to help someone with his side-by-side and the police come he has something stating he is authorized to have the motorized vehicle in the Park.

Clark mentioned that is an easy fix. The hard part is if someone gets hurt while doing work in the Park, they can sue.

Cameron explained the trail stewards fill out volunteer forms with the County. They walk the trails giving friendly reminders about the rules and occasionally participate in a cleanup project.

Kathleen stated there are "friends" groups that are independent 501c3 groups. She thinks a trail steward could be set up but anything more than that would require someone to oversee it.

Richard suggested putting a formal proposal together to investigate the Rocky Mountain Power property purchase.

Mayor Hirschi stated he will contact Rocky Mountain Power.

V. Board Members Concerns:

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm.

Minutes taken by Christy Ballard.

June 19, 2019
Date Approved

Richard W. Hirschi
Richard Hirschi, Chair