



City of LaVerkin

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www.laverkin.org

Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, May 15, 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
Steve Meisner	VRP
Rhett Boswell	UDWR

Others:

Kathleen Nielson	Washington County Grant Writer
Ray Justice	La Verkin City Council Representative
Mike Chandler	Ash Creek Special Service District
Rex Sorenson	Hurricane City resident
Richard Cutts	Hurricane City resident
Christy Ballard	La Verkin City staff

I. Meeting Called to Order: Mayor Richard Hirschi called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

II. Approve Minutes: March 20, 2019

Motion was made by Clark Fawcett to approve the March 20, 2019 meeting minutes, second by Paul Heideman. Hirschi-yes, Fawcett-yes, Heideman-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Business:

- A. Update and discussion on the trailhead grant.**
- LeRay McAllister grant

This item was moved to later in the meeting.

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

Mike Chandler with Ash Creek SSD reported the District had some of the concrete sewer lines collapse in Hurricane earlier this year that has taken their attention. However, Mike did meet with Commissioner Iverson to discuss some of the primary objectives of the Park.

Connectivity between the Park is an important objective and taking on the entire plan was to much so Mike would like to move forward with the project in phases.

This year they would like to focus on extending the irrigation system to the central parcel and install a low flow crossing across La Verkin Creek.

The crossing would be a 4'x 20' culvert that would allow equipment to cross and handle all but the highest of flows. It would go by the current pump station.

He also met with Cameron last month and went over the trail categorization.

Mike will be coming back to the Board with costs for engineering of the irrigation system, laser leveling of the fields and fencing around the parcel to facilitate planting and livestock.

Dennis Kay, Kathleen Neilson and Cameron Rognan arrived at 3:10pm

Once he has a set of plans for the crossing, he will meet with VRP and UDWR. It will be a small project that should take no longer than 1 week.

Mike gave a quick overview of Ash Creek SSD's plans for the people just coming into the meeting.

Rhett stated it is a good idea breaking the plan into phases. UDWR will need a 30-day notice from Washington County for all actions. Phases will give a good paper trail on how the actions unfolded. He would like a letter from Ash Creek SSD on the crossing.

Mike said he will get Rhett that information once they have a confined scope.

He also reported Commissioner Iverson will be pursuing a Hurricane/La Verkin pedestrian bridge. If that bridge does go in, Ash Creek SSD would like to see an irrigation line going across with it so they can get water to that side as well.

Cameron said he spoke with Commissioner Iverson as well and the bridge is a big priority to him. Kathleen will be seeking funding for the bridge during the next grant cycle. It will require a significant match, so it is a good idea for the communities to be thinking about that.

Commissioner Iverson did state he will support it as much as the County can but does want to make sure that all the local communities are contributing to the match as well.

Kathleen reported the grant cycle is in January.

Clark mentioned Hurricane will need to know as soon as possible. They award the RAP Tax money from the previous year in March. That will be the best funding source for Hurricane City.

Mayor Hirschi would like to know as soon as possible as well.

Cameron mentioned with Hurricane and La Verkin's RAP Tax money, County money and a grant, the bridge is a possibility.

Steve said the bridge will need to span the River as much as possible, so we don't have any issues like we did with Hurricane's water line.

Kathleen spoke with Rick Rosenberg and he suggested placing the bridge west of the USGS gage. The ground is stable there and would not require anything to be in the River. He also said the traditional pedestrian bridge, without the abutments, would cost approximately \$300,000.

Mike thought it would cost about \$500,000 for the bridge and abutments.

There is a natural abutment on the north side of the River where everyone repels off and where the gage station is on the South side of the River. If you used those areas as a natural choke point it would protect the abutments when the River did have high flow periods and would give you the shortest clear span.

Rex Sorensen asked why the emphasis on a bridge? He has looked at the expenditures of the Park and doesn't see where they have ever expended \$500,000 in its history.

Mayor Hirschi replied a bridge would connect the trails.

Mike answered Commissioner Iverson mentioned there is currently one connection point and that is the bridge, which is not good pedestrian access. It is a high-speed vehicular bridge with pedestrian access on one side. This would give people an easy way to get back and forth. It would be easier for the school kids and be an easier access to the Lions Club ball fields than SR9.

When the District discussed emergency preparedness this issue was brought up. One more access that would allow light vehicle access in an emergency is of a high importance. The bridge would also carry some infrastructure.

It would be more meaningful than just a Park accessory.

Richard Cutts stated he has read all the founding documents and management documents for Confluence Park. This is the executive board; nowhere does it say anything about this board being an advisory board. The documents state the cities have the authority to make decisions and it sounds like Victor Iverson is doing all the capital planning for the Park. He is not disagreeing one way or the other but feels that should be done at this level and then back padded to Victor for his information and action.

Cameron does take the information back to Commissioner Iverson.

Clark pointed out the bridge is on the plan for the Park. If the County is willing to put funds into a project, then we are going to move on it.

Richard said he has never seen a capital plan from this Board identifying priorities. It seems like this Board should be the one making the decisions.

Cameron pointed out this committee doesn't have money to implement the Park, but the County Commission does. They can determine their priorities and what they are willing to spend money on and that weighs heavily on what this Board can and can't do for the Park.

Richard said the founding documents don't say anything about this Board being an advisory only board. Having been in leadership positions in the military at a senior level, he develops a budget and delegates those chores, which the founding documents have delegated the decision making to this Board. Rex researched the budget for Confluence Park and in the past, there has been \$275,000 allocated to the Park. Spending that money should be up to this Board. It makes sense that Commissioner Iverson would want to review the recommendation before the money is spent.

Mayor Hirschi said the Board will look into that.

Kathleen mentioned when she began writing grants for the Park, they had zero budget. That was why she was hired, to get grants to at least do something.

Ray Justice mentioned that just because money is a line item in a budget does not mean it gets allocated and used. Often money is budgeted but if there is not the income to substantiate the expenditure then items get prioritized with the money that is available.

A. Update and discussion on the trailhead grant.

- LeRay McAllister grant

Kathleen reported the LeRay McAllister grant needs to go out on Friday. She is still waiting on letters from the different entities.

The Park has never been turned down for this grant, however there is new management which probably means a new selection committee. We should know late summer/early fall if we received the grant.

The environmental for the La Verkin Trailhead grant has not been completed yet but is should be done next week.

Mayor Hirschi reported there is an upcoming meeting with surrounding property owners of the proposed La Verkin Trailhead on May 30th.

Kathleen reported we are applying for \$35,000 from the LeRay McAllister grant.

She hopes we will be able to get water from Ash Creek SSD to this area. The time Ash Creek SSD puts into looking into getting water to the area can count toward the grant so she would like them to keep track of that information.

Rhett needs to know what the LeRay McAllister grant is going to be called because there are a lot of different grants under LeRay McAllister.

Kathleen said it is the Critical Land and Conservation grant. She is calling it the Confluence Park restoration project #4.

C. Discussion of other Park projects.

- Grazing

Cameron reported the RFP went out for grazing in the Park. That was awarded to an individual who had their animals down there for 2-3 weeks. It helped a little bit but would have been nice to get them in sooner. There is still a lot of vegetation and a pretty significant fire hazard down there.

- Fencing

This item has been worked out with Ash Creek SSD. Cameron reported some of the fencing was missing but Justin spoke with Blair Gubler and found out Ash Creek SSD was pulling some of it out in preparation of their project.

- Give Your Land a Hand clean-up project

Cameron explained Give Your Land a Hand is a subcommittee of the County to promote better cleanliness on our public lands and do cleanup projects on public lands. We were hoping to host a Give Your Land a Hand project in conjunction with the LeRay McAllister grant. Those service hours can be used toward the match for the grant.

He is going to organize a project whether we receive the grant or not. He would like to do that project in September/October.

There is enough work that needs to be done in Confluence Park that they talked about possibly scheduling an annual event with the group.

They would like as much community involvement as possible so the different communities would need to advertise for those projects.

- Road washed out by pump station

Cameron reported with the recent rain we have received the old road up to the power station is eroded. He wondered if La Verkin City could look at that project as part of the monthly hours to the Park.

There was discussion on where the road comes down from.

Mayor Hirschi will have Derek look at that.

Derek has looked at the sink holes and there is dirt that can be used to fill them down there, but all the City owns is a backhoe and he would like to use something bigger. He wondered if Cameron could find out if the County could bring a loader down.

Kathleen was in the Park and the weeds are very high. Underneath all of that is where the junk is that needs to be hauled away if we receive the grant, but that is not until this fall. It is a tremendous fire hazard and she wondered if anything could be done sooner.

Cameron asked the cities to do something, if possible, with regulating fireworks.

Rhett suggested using preemergent herbicide in the fall to help with next year.

Clark mentioned Hurricane may have a loader La Verkin could use to fill the sink holes.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Rex Sorensen would like Kathleen to put trail clean-up on the Hurricane side and the garbage slide on her agenda.

The amount of garbage has doubled since he reported last.

Clark will have Hurricane look at what they can do.

Richard mentioned the owner of the home being built next to the area owns a road construction company and offered to help clean the area up.

Rhett said he worries that it will keep getting worse if we don't create a berm to divert the water parallel to the road instead of across it.

Clark stated his concern is that there is so much stuff there it will take a lot of man hours and money to remove everything. He would like to push it all back and berm it if possible.

Richard suggested berm it at the top, clear out an area and take the large rocks at the bottom and push them up against it to stop the flow.

Rhett pointed out the storm water goes right down the road.

Dennis reported Virgin River Land Preservation Association is in discussion with the County Commission about selling the La Verkin City water shares they own. VRLPA owns 30 shares they would like the County to purchase for use in the Park. They also have the rights to a spring they are trying to transfer to the County for the Park. The spring is located by the power station the right is equal to 7-acre feet.

Ray Justice asked how the water would get down to the Park with no infrastructure.

Mike Chandler explained the process Ash Creek SSD went through to transfer the old Terry West water shares back to the City.

Richard asked about the status of the Rocky Mountain Power property.

Mayor Hirschi said they are thinking about it. He has tried to set up a meeting with them but has not been able to yet.

Richard explained the location and mentioned it would be a good parcel to connect the trail.

V. Board Members Concerns:

No comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56pm.

Minutes taken by Christy Ballard.

June 19, 2019

Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi
Richard Hirschi, Chair