



City of La Verkin

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www.laverkin.org

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

Present:

Board Members:

Richard Hirschi	La Verkin City
Cameron Rognan	Washington County – HCP
Paul Heideman	Toquerville City

Advisory:

Rhett Boswell	UDWR
Steve Meisner	VRP

Others:

Kathleen Nielson	Washington County Grant Writer
Mike Chandler	Ash Creek Special Service District
Patricia Wise	La Verkin City Council
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 3:02pm.

II. Approve Minutes: June 19, 2019

Motion was made by Cameron Rognan to approve the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes, second by Paul Heideman. Hirschi-yes, Heideman-yes, Rognan-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Business:

A. Trailhead grant.

- Update on lot clearing and soil compaction

Kathleen explained the lot clearing needed to happen so the soil compaction could be done and so the person building the staircase could determine the best place for the landing.

The removal of the tree is next on the list.

The company performing the soil compaction test visited the site last week and feel confident there is not much work that will need to be done.

- Timeline for next steps

Kathleen reported she is waiting for information regarding the utilities.

Mike Chandler reported the Sewer Board approved the donation of 150 feet of 8-inch sewer pipe and 2 manholes. Ash Creek SSD will not be doing any of the construction. Mike will send Kathleen an email with the cost value of the material.

Kathleen was hopeful that La Verkin City could take care of the water. Once the costs are determined she will get that information to the City and get a plan figured out.

Cameron mentioned that anything La Verkin could do, even if it comes out of the money allocated to the City by the County, would be advantageous for this project.

B. Update on the LeRay McAllister Grant

Kathleen reported the grant has been sent off. She has received an email from the review board stating they would like to come and look at the grant area in early September.

- Give Your Land a Hand cleanup project

Cameron said the project is scheduled for the end of September. He does not have any new information on the event but would like the City to help advertise when the date gets closer. If the grant has been awarded, the volunteer hours can count toward the match. However, the project will move forward either way.

Details for the event have not been set.

Rhett mentioned Dedicated Sportsman can come and help. There will be a lot of hunters needing to get their hours in.

Rex Sorenson asked what area the Give Your Land a Hand project will focus on.

Kathleen replied it will hopefully be in conjunction with the LeRay McAllister Grant for the volunteer hours. It will be the lower part of the trail and the vegetation on both sides of the River in that area.

The biggest part of the LeRay McAllister grant was written for visitor safety. There is so much deadfall and debris that it is not safe.

Richard asked if the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve had a trail maintenance crew.

Cameron replied they have a field technician, a biologist and intern that all work in trails but no one dedicated specifically to trails. They do have a group of volunteers that are trail stewards. They walk the trails and remind people of the rules. Occasionally they will host a restoration project for trails, but they are very infrequent.

Richard said the Park needs work done on all the trails. He was hiking on the La Verkin side by the power plant. There is a catchment box that is full of dirt, so the water just runs right over the top and erodes the road.

Kathleen mentioned that could be part of the LeRay McAllister grant clean up.

C. Discussion on bridge grant proposal.

Kathleen reported the grant is not open until next spring. She did speak to Rosenberg Engineering and has taken Rick Rosenberg on a field trip to the location and they are very excited about the project.

It will be a pedestrian bridge. There may need to be some accommodation made for accident and maintenance situations.

She explained the location of the proposed bridge.

Cameron asked if Ash Creek SSD had plans for running water under the bridge to the Hurricane side. They would like to get water to the tortoise facility to plant trees and get native vegetation. Greening the area up would be healthier and more sustainable for the tortoises and would also be more pleasant for public viewing.

Mike replied Ash Creek SSD's intent on the plan reflects revegetation on that entire side of the River.

D. Update on Ash Creek Special Service District development plan

Mike reported he has a draft copy that is being reviewed. A lot of the notes incorporate the design of the new trailhead and talk about some of the trail issues as well as existing and future projects. He suggested creating a list of potential projects. There is some serious erosion on the Confluence Park Trail for example, the trail is gone next to the River. It needs some reinforcement along the bank. It is due partly from the washout of the Terry West diversion dam and the River continuing to migrate through there. Once the berm washes out, it will flood the lower area that is adjacent to it. This is an area they felt was important to try and protect in the Park. There are a decent number of projects that are identified, both for volunteer work and projects previously discussed, like low level crossings and plantings.

The plan is not ready yet, but it is getting close.

One of the challenges they are addressing is with the land they have designated for the treatment plant. The proposed treatment plant would fit on the property but there is not much room for expansion. Ash Creek SSD is considering moving the location north, to the other side of the hill, where they have room for additional phases, if necessary. There has been interest again in the east bench of La Verkin City which may bring sewer down the hill. They are close to finalizing the Toquerville Bypass Road and from at least south of the irrigation pond in Toquerville, the sewage will all come down that road corridor directly to the treatment plant. The amount of tributary area that feeds into the plant requires them to think about future expansion plans.

Mike hopes the plan should be ready in a month. Once he has his comments incorporated, he will meet with Cameron and Kathleen for their final review before it comes back to this Board for final approval.

The Toquerville pump station will remain but may need to be relocated to a different location, if possible. The pipe alignment low point is by the climbing face and old cave so they will either need to siphon from there, past the dairy and pump station or relocate the pump station.

The easement restrictions require there are no new buildings built but he would like to propose replacing a building with a building. He would replace the existing Toquerville pump station with a pump station that takes the sewer from lower down as well as what feeds the Toquerville pump station currently and equip it with bathrooms so it would be part pump station part multi-use facility.

There hasn't been an interest in restoring the dairy or granary to the point we could provide flush toilets and a water bottle refilling station.

The best location for that building would be at the lowest point of the alignment. This is where the road comes down by Gordon Woods property at the end of the field, where the willow planting area has been discussed. He would like to run it by the dairy for ease of installation.

Part of Ash Creek's plan was to get a feel from the County, monetarily, toward the idea, because while they would have the pipe there, they would not put in a bathroom and also to find out if the easement would allow for a trade out.

Rhett said the Board and Committee need to review and update the Confluence Park Plan. The plan is 12 years old and is very vague.

The easement does not change but the plan could be updated to include things like multiple-use buildings (a bathroom with a maintenance shed).

It would be a big process because a lot of people must sign off on it.

Cameron mentioned he would like to wait until Ash Creek SSD finishes their plan because it will have a lot of the concepts that the County wants and is specific enough it can just be copied over.

Rhett stated he does not want to revise the plan to accommodate Ash Creek SSD. He wants the plan updated so that Ash Creek SSD knows what is allowed.

Kathleen reported she is starting conversation with the historical people for the power station about what can be done with the location. She would like to see it become an interpretive center that would tell the story of the power station and the history of the Park.

E. Discussion of other Park projects.

Mayor Hirschi said La Verkin will fill in the sink holes as soon as they have time. Hurricane is letting them use a front-end loader.

Cameron reported an Eagle Scout may be interested in doing a project on the Hurricane side. Cameron told him picnic tables and benches are needed along the River and by the tortoise facility.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Richard Cutts would like to add the Rocky Mountain Power property to the next agenda.

Mayor Hirschi will add it to the agenda. He still needs to talk to them.

Derek is meeting with RMP, he will let the Mayor know the date so he and Kathleen can be there also.

Richard said he was told of a group called Friends of Confluence Park that raised a lot of money to do Park projects and were never able to coordinate with the Board. He wondered if anyone knew anything about it.

Kathleen reported she has been on the Committee for 9 years and has never heard anything about them. Perhaps they are talking about the Confluence Park in St. George.

Richard reported Casey Lofthouse is who he heard it from, and he was a member of the group.

Kathleen said he was part of the group that wanted to develop the Park. They wanted an event center and sell flowers and that is not allowed.

V. Board Members Concerns:

Rhett said he will send out a digital copy of the Confluence Park Plan with notes from DWR's point of view on sections that need to be more informative.

A lot of the original Board and Committee members are currently represented. It will take some time and be an ongoing item, but he does feel it is hard to understand what is allowed.

Kathleen mentioned if Casey's group did raise money in the name of Confluence Park that is a concern.

VI. Adjourn:

Motion was made by Paul Heideman to adjourn. Motion carried at 3:46pm

Minutes taken by Christy Ballard.

September 18, 2019
Date Approved

Richard Hirschi
Richard Hirschi, Chair

