



City of La Verkin

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www.laverkin.org

Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 3:00 p.m. La Verkin Trailhead Confluence Park

Present:

Board Members:

Richard Hirschi	La Verkin City
Clark Fawcett	Hurricane City
Cameron Rognan	Washington County HCP
Gary Chaves	Toquerville City

Advisory:

Dennis Kay	VRLPA
Rhett Boswell	UDWR
Steve Meismer	VRP

Others:

Kathleen Nielson	Washington County Grant Writer
Patricia Wise	La Verkin City Council
Ray Justice	La Verkin City Council Representative
Mike Chandler	Ash Creek Special Service District
Derek Imlay	La Verkin City Director of Operations
Christy Ballard	La Verkin City staff

I. Meeting Called to Order:

Mayor Richard Hirschi called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and introduced the new Toquerville representative, Gary Chaves.

II. Approve Minutes: October 16, 2019

Motion was made by Cameron Rognan to approve the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes, second by Clark Fawcett. Hirschi-yes, Rognan-yes, Fawcett-yes, Chaves-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Business:

A. Update on the Trailhead Grant

Kathleen reported the staircase may change from a traditional design as planned to a spiral design. She has been told the spiral would be cheaper than the traditional. Once the final bids have been submitted the decision will be made.

She passed out a picture of both designs. The traditional design is the favorable one.

Costs are coming in higher than originally anticipated and with the fire, we need to really be conscientious of the budget.

This trail will be a pedestrian only trail.

The bathrooms have been ordered with the upgrades La Verkin City requested. The total cost of the restroom is \$63,847 with La Verkin City responsible for \$16,000 of that total. They did include two wastebaskets for inside the restrooms so animals couldn't get into them.

Kathleen will send an invoice to La Verkin City.

La Verkin City will need to stub in the utilities for the restrooms. The building does not need a concrete pad, just a leveled dirt pad.

Mayor Hirschi reported he has an invoice for the County for the utilities and once we have that money, we can start the project.

Rhett Boswell arrived at 3:12 pm

Kathleen continued; the hand-built trail has been completed. It is a rough trail but doable.

The fire helped in a lot of ways. The money set aside for tree removal will be added to the money received from the LaRay McAllister Grant to help with the La Verkin Trailhead.

She hopes there will be enough money to get all the interpretive signage, we will know for sure once we know the cost of the staircase.

The parking lot may be road base with only a couple of handicap spots paved. The railing for the paved trail will be for the bump-outs only.

B. Update on the LeRay McAllister Grant

Kathleen reported the contracts and agreements have been signed but the County has not received the money yet. There will be at least \$10,000 for new tree planting from the fire and tree removal. The tree planting will take place once we have a water source.

Derek mentioned the City is running a 2-inch irrigation line to the trailhead and suggested temporarily running a line from there off the hill to the location.

Cameron asked what the cost would be. It is a temporary solution until the permanent line can be installed so he doesn't want to spend too much.

Derek will check on the price and report back to Cameron.

Kathleen explained the funding for this grant has been difficult to anticipate. She received a bid from McArthur Welding for the staircase during the grant application process for \$14,000, now he is saying the spiral staircase would be \$48,000 and the traditional staircase would be over \$100,000. Some of that is because we have an engineer-designed staircase and not just a basic model.

Neither McArthur Welding nor D Ironworks will build the traditional staircase. She is waiting for the final bid from Westlund Fabrication. When she spoke with Steve Westlund, he said a traditional staircase would cost somewhere in the forty-thousand-dollar range.

The grant for the bridge opened today, she will be working on that, it is due in March. We will need to figure out what needs to be done on the Hurricane side as far as creating a trail to the bridge. The County has an agreement from Rosenberg Engineering on the bridge but not the price yet. We only have the design cost which is \$46,150 and includes the permits. The abutments and bridge will be a separate cost.

The bridge will be a pedestrian/bike bridge but will accommodate a small motorized vehicle for emergency purposes only. Horses will still need to cross in the River.

Kathleen reported she has a bid from Bill McMurrin and Karl Rasmussen to detail the steps for each phase of the power station restoration for \$11,000. Bill is an architect and Karl is a structural engineer.

C. Tree Utah and Give Your Land a Hand projects

Cameron reported his office will be applying for a small grant to replace some of the trees that were burned in the fire. In association with that, he would like to have a public event where the public can plant the trees which is part of the grant requirements. He would like to incorporate it into Give Your Land a Hand. The event is tentatively planned for the end of March, but it may need to be in the fall. There needs to be a water source there before trees can be planted.

Kathleen said the La Verkin Trailhead grant closes in September so tree planting could be incorporated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for that new trailhead.

Mayor Hirschi reported La Verkin will be applying for a grant to develop a city park at that location.

Patricia Wise is the La Verkin Councilmember that will be applying for that grant on behalf of the City. She reported she spoke with the Outdoor Recreation Office to see if there would be a conflict if Confluence Park was applying for a grant as well. Tera McGee told her she didn't think there would be an issue.

She will also be applying for a Land and Water Conservation grant for the City park as well.

D. Ash Creek Services Development Plan

1. Status update on the plan

Christy passed out a copy of the 2019 Confluence Park Master Plan to the Board Members.

Mike with Ash Creek Special Service District (Ash Creek SSD) reported this is the completion of the planning charrette. This is a completion of all the trail cross-sections, the different trail mapping throughout the Park and the irrigation for the different areas and pastures.

Ash Creek SSD plans to get the treatment plant design completed this year.

The Master Plan covers all the items listed out in the original scoping document. It also has several different maps that cover a variety of properties as well as the development improvements discussed.

He met with Todd to coordinate the extent of irrigation. The Park will need to be closed while the blasting and hammering are done for the installation of the pipe from the power substation.

The pump station at the head of the dairy pasture is old and outdated. There are two things he would like the Board to consider. First, connect to the sewer and replace the vault toilets at the trailhead with flush toilets. Second, rather than changing the pump station in the next 10-15 years he would like to abandon that location and bring in a new pump station below the dairy. That will allow Ash Creek SSD to bring all the flow from the La Verkin pump, which is on top of the hill above the power building, down off the hill to the area just before the bottleneck, which is the lowest point in the Park. If they can gravity all the sewer to that location, then the power substation, the dairy, and the campground can all have flush toilets. It would also allow Ash Creek SSD to pump everything back up to the new treatment plant. If the Toquerville By-Pass road goes in, development in that area could potentially come down the Ash Creek drainage and they will need a way to get sewer across the Ash Creek drainage and down into that

area as well. Placing the pump station at the lower end of the Park and abandoning where it sets today would allow all those things to happen.

Cameron asked if the primary challenge has been the rule of no new buildings.

Mike replied when he spoke to Rhett the “no new building” rule means no net increase so you can abandon a building and replace it with another. He would rather remove the current building and put in something more attractive and more functional.

The pump station services 5 homes that are too low to gravity feed into La Verkin’s system, so the pump station is necessary. This change would provide several advantages to Ash Creek SSD and to Confluence Park.

Installing the pipeline, moving the pump station and connecting the trailhead to the sewer are all part of phase one of the Ash Creek SSD treatment plant project.

Another item he would eventually like to discuss with the County and Rhett is some form of low-level crossing on La Verkin Creek so whoever is running livestock down there isn’t driving livestock and vehicles through the Creek between the two pastures.

The Board has discussed installing a big box culvert in the past.

Mike asked the Board to turn to page 22 of the Master Plan. This is one of the biggest concerns right now. It is where the River bounces off Rob Vigoren’s property and swings back around. There is some pretty significant erosion. The trail itself is pretty much gone and what remaining trail there is, is the only barrier to a high flow coming in and completely inundating that low-lying area to the right where all the trees are.

If we don’t get some armoring or some form of protection done on that section of the River it will continue to erode that area.

Mike pointed out on a map the location of this area. He is concerned the River will flood the area and ultimately bypass its current channel and run through it. As it continues to straighten itself out velocities will get higher and there will more problems with erosion. It needs to meander to some degree, but the problem is where it’s meandering needs to be reinforced.

He recommends the Board consider some sort of restoration effort.

Steve mentioned there might be some possibilities of doing that if Mr. Vigoren and Ash Creek SSD would be willing. The problem has always been getting access to the line. They already have a plan and design in place they just need the money.

There was a discussion of possible funding sources.

Rhett asked about moving the access road to the east.

Mike replied moving the road is part of the treatment plant project. They are trying to get all the utilities moved back to that area. Dominion Energy has been the most difficult because it is the main, high-pressure line. However, they do have those lines scheduled to be replaced in the next 8-10 years. The Hurricane water line will not be moved because it was just replaced, but that line doesn’t impact them so that should be okay.

Mike explained the new location of the road. They will have a slot for each of the utilities along the road.

He will bring the treatment plant preliminary and then construction plans back to the Board once they have been completed.

2. Irrigation to pastures & south side of Park

Cameron asked Mike to update the Board on the irrigation water.

Mike explained he met with Todd and there is still some confusion on the entirety of the scope. Todd was talking about bringing water down to the dairy pasture and stubbing a line through the bottleneck. That will give the Park water to the point, but it doesn't get it to the Gordon Woods area and other areas. The problem is when Ash Creek SSD comes back through the area with a gravity sewer line they will be blasting, and the waterline will be destroyed.

He intends on working with the County to install a permanent irrigation line in that trench along the utility corridor. He would like to see a power/communication line go in at the same time for the restrooms and the new pump station. The pump station will have to have both power and communications and it could be beneficial for the restrooms to have security cameras.

Kathleen pointed out the original plan suggests the dairy building be an educational building. If that were to ever happen to have those utilities that close would be good.

Derek stated the idea of laying the pipe to the bottleneck and then covering it with fill would be a waste of time and money and he would be opposed to it.

Mike said he knows there is a strong desire to get the trees planted but the County is only willing to put an irrigation line to the dairy pasture.

Cameron asked if it would be easier to come up with an irrigation water solution by bringing it from the top by the Ash Creek SSD power station?

Mike mentioned the only problem with that is in the past it was a "jerry-rigged system" that came off the hill. The challenge will be the big drop off and without a PRV the pressure at the bottom would cause problems.

Steve said he has suggested in the past an orifice plate at that point to restrict that flow coming off the hill.

There was a discussion of possible options for running irrigation water off the hill.

Mike said once the treatment plant is installed, they can control the irrigation system water pressure.

Derek mentioned it may be possible to run a line from the cleanout at the pump station to the location.

Cameron asked about the timeframe if the County and Ash Creek SSD did a cost-share, working within the RFP and coordinating with Ash Creek's long-term plans. Would getting irrigation to the area be doable by mid-summer? Commissioner Iverson would like to have water to the area and the trees planted by March.

Mike replied there were several different levels discussed and Todd was unaware of the budget available. If Commissioner Iverson is going to set a timeframe then we need to know what monies are available to work with.

Mike met with Todd to show him where the irrigation lines were terminated at the top of the south field and where they crossed the creek over to the middle pasture.

Todd met with Matt Spendlove to discuss leveling the area. If the County's contours are accurate, it could be more involved than anyone realizes. It may be better to take whatever money is available and get the fences upgraded, the two pastures laser leveled and get the irrigation distribution system into them.

Mike was not sure what Todd intended to do after stubbing the line temporarily to the dairy pasture and covering it with dirt.

Matt told Todd it is about \$3,000 per acre to laser level a field and that doesn't include the piping cost.

Derek explained La Verkin City does not allow flood irrigating so the ordinance will need to be changed. Flood irrigating may also create issues for La Verkin City's irrigation system so he may need time to consider different options.

Mike said those are the challenges he can see with getting water to that point right now.

Cameron said there needs to be more coordination between the County, Ash Creek SSD and La Verkin City before anything can move forward.

E. Discuss preparations for Outdoor Recreation Grant
Already discussed.

F. Discuss the possibility of camp host
Kathleen reported she is working on a plan to advertise for a camp host. There will be some duties required. There are no trailer hookups and they will not be paid.

Cameron said this will be on a trial basis during peak season, spring or fall. They are still working on the description and will get it to the county attorney for final approval. He hopes to have someone there in spring.

G. Other Park projects
Nothing to report.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Kathleen reminded everyone to keep track of the hours spent doing anything related to improving the Park and submit them to her.

V. Board Member Concerns:

Cameron mentioned they have been discussing the possibility of a trail steward for Confluence Park for both the Hurricane and La Verkin side.

VI. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mayor Richard Hirschi to adjourn at 4:15 pm

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

February 19, 2020
Date Approved

Richard Hirschi
Richard Hirschi, Chair