



City of La Verkin

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www.laverkin.org

Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 3:00 p.m. La Verkin Trailhead Confluence Park

Present:

Board Members:

Richard Hirschi La Verkin City
Darrin LeFevre Hurricane City
Cameron Rognan Washington County HCP

Advisory:

Rhett Boswell UDWR
Steve Meismer VRP
Dennis Kay VRLPA

Others:

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

I. Meeting Called to Order:

Mayor Richard Hirschi called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm at the La Verkin City Council Chambers at 111 South Main Street, La Verkin, Utah. The location was changed due to the weather (wind).

II. Business:

1. Progress report of current grant funded projects
 - a. Trailhead, staircase, rim trail, bathrooms

Kathleen reported Rosenberg has approved the staircase. Steve Westlund will be doing as much work as possible in his shop before installing on site.

Once the staircase has been installed the rim trail can be completed.

The grant needs to be completed by September 1st. She would like all work done by August 1st.

She is not sure of the status of the restrooms but the position of them has been moved farther south.

Derek explained the location was changed because of utilities. His crew will begin working on the restroom pad Monday.

Kathleen reported the County was awarded the \$150,000 Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant for the pedestrian bridge. The RTP grant has not been announced yet but she is hopeful.

b. LeRay McAllister grant – prison crew clean up

Kathleen reported there are new people officiating the LeRay McAllister grant so there have been some changes made. One of those changes is when the letters of support need to be submitted. She spoke with the entities that need to write those letters and has received most of them. She feels eradication of russian olive, tamarisk and phragmites are the top priority. She spoke with someone skilled in the eradication of these types of invasive plants. The bid he gave her was \$26,000 for the area around the power plant going west to the proposed bridge location on both sides of the river.

Cameron said the \$26,000 bid was just an estimate for the grant application process. If we receive the grant, the County will get at least 3 bids before someone is hired.

Kathleen explained the LeRay McAllister Grants do not fund anything over 50% so the application must include the total cost of the project. That means we need to find the other 50% of the funds.

Kathleen said there was a stability problem on the south side of the river for the pedestrian bridge but she has since seen them in the same location measuring things so it may have been resolved.

A bid was approved for a group out of Idaho to measure the depth of stone underneath the ground, but she hasn't heard the results from that.

Steve asked if the estimate for the eradication included money for restoration.

Kathleen was not positive, but she thought it did.

Rhett will get Cameron or Kathleen a list of contractors.

Cameron reported the prison crew removed a lot of debris and trash from the Park. Enough to almost fill a large dumpster.

2. Tree Utah and Give Your Land a Hand projects

a. Tree plantings, drip irrigation

b. Power plant restoration

Cameron reported Give Your Land a Hand helped repair damage done by the fire by planting trees and installing a drip system for those trees. They have also done a lot of work to restore the power plant. Commissioner Iverson made taking down the fence a priority. To do that the group closed the windows and doors to prevent people from entering the building. They also placed large metal sheets over the hole next to the building. Damaged and missing brick has also been replaced.

Mayor Hirschi stated he would like to figure out something to prevent graffiti before too much work is done on the building.

Cameron reported the building and new sign was vandalized with graffiti. The County maintenance crew was able to clean it off.

The County does still have plans to increase restoration efforts of the building. It is at a point now where the public can interface better with the building.

3. Update on grant applications for bridge & LeRay McAllister 2020

This was discussed with business item 1.

Cameron asked Patricia Wise to update the Board on the grant La Verkin City applied for the park.

Patricia Wise reported the City did receive a \$58,000 grant, with \$27,000 coming from the State for the neighborhood park they are putting in where the rim trail is. The City will use the grant to complete phase one which includes the installation of some utilities, pave the parking lot, installing a small grass area around the restroom, installation of crushed stone pathways from different locations along the parking lot to the staircase for people who want to head right down to Confluence Park, and the purchase of five benches.

She briefly went over the concept plan the City has for the Power Plant Trailhead park.

The City has 2 years to complete the work.

Kathleen said she is grateful to La Verkin for getting this grant, it will help the development of the trailhead.

4. Agricultural fields Request for Proposal

- a. Farming plan
- b. Flood irrigation

Cameron reported the County has put out an RFP to do a farming plan on the fields inside the Park. He will schedule a time for people to review the applications submitted. There are several hurdles in the way, the most significant being flood irrigating. Currently, La Verkin City does not allow flood irrigating, so he has been trying to figure out how to get an exception for the Park. It will require some planning and probably additional expenses if it's going to proceed.

Another potential hurdle is the water rights. He thinks the County is in the process of purchasing the water rights, but he is not sure that has been completed.

Dennis reported as of a week ago, the contracts were being negotiated. The water will come from La Verkin City's secondary water system along with a small spring that has legal right to it.

Cameron said while they are trying to get those two items worked out, he wants to move forward with the RFP. The contract will not be awarded until the issues have been resolved, but he wants to have a plan in place so when they are resolved the County can move forward quickly. He is concerned there will be a lot of weeds developing.

Derek reported the City has been working to resolve some of these issues. They know the City will be able to provide 200-400 gallons per minute to the Park if the City Council agrees to allow flood irrigating.

A flow control valve meter will need to be installed by the County to ensure the City will maintain the pressure needed to take care of the rest of the system.

The City will need to know how much water is needed to water the entire 29 acres.

Mayor Hirschi mentioned the City needs to be sure allowing flood irrigating would not affect the water pressure to the residents before they even consider changing the ordinance.

Cameron stated Commissioner Iverson has taken the lead on the irrigation, purchasing the water shares and the RFP.

5. Other park projects / concerns

a. Water line break in Hurricane

Darren reported there was a water line break in the high-pressure zone by the Virgin River in Confluence Park. It was fixed in 12 hours.

b. Construction debris spreading into the park

Cameron said there was a lot of construction debris at the top of the Park on the La Verkin side. There are a couple of construction sites on the top that are not securing the trash and it is blowing into the Park.

Derek said he will follow up with the building inspector to make sure the builder is notified.

c. Vandalism to power plant station

Discussed previously.

d. Catori Center 5K run/walk

Mayor Hirschi said Mr. McCausland contacted him asking for permission for a section of a 5k run to be in the Park.

Cameron reported the race will be social distanced by spacing the runners, the group size is not large, and they will not be making money on the Park.

Mike Chandler with Ash Creek SSD would like the date of the run.

The Board was fine with the race route going through the Park.

Mayor Hirschi asked Mike if he had anything for the Board.

Mike had a few concerns regarding the fields in the Park that he had spoken to Cameron about.

He would like to get water on the fields as soon as possible. He doesn't think the number of distribution arms put into the field will be sufficient. The District has a couple of flood irrigated basins and it takes 8 hours for one of those headers to water a 1-acre parcel.

He is also concerned with spreading the river bottom dredge, that has a lot of weed seed in it, on those bare fields.

III. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Christy passed out a list of potential geocache sites from Rex Sorensen.

Rex said there are several geocache locations in Confluence Park. He would like to place more on the Hurricane side. They would be close to trails.

Cameron would like to make sure they would not disturb any of the cultural resources in the Park.

Cameron and Rhett will review the list.

Rhett said since the Division is the grantee of the easement, they need a 30-day notice for any action. DWR needs to review any plans to make sure they "jive" with the agreement and also be notified when the work will be happening to make sure it is at a time that it will not affect wildlife.

It was a shock to see a new road. He knew nothing about it going all the way to the power plant. The easement specifically states no new roads and no reconstruction or improvement of existing roads. That said, the easement also states it is okay if it provides access for property management purposes. He thinks the focus on the old power plant justifies it.

Derek mentioned La Verkin City knew nothing about the fields being leveled until the City received the blue stake notice.

Cameron agreed that communication between everyone needs to be improved.

Rhett would like a development plan from Rosenberg Engineering for the pedestrian bridge.

Richard Cutts asked if there was any new information on the Rocky Mountain Power property.

Mayor Hirschi said there has been nothing new.

Dennis said Virgin River Land Preservation Association would not get involved with the purchase of any property until they were invited to.

IV. Board Member Concerns:

No comments were made.

V. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mayor Richard Hirschi to adjourn at 3:54 pm

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

July 15, 2020
Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi
Richard Hirschi, Chair

