



City of La Verkin

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www.laverkin.org

Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

Present:

Board Members:

Richard Hirschi	La Verkin City
Cameron Rognan	Washington County HCP
Kaden DeMille	Hurricane City
Gary Chavez	Toquerville City

Advisory:

Dennis Kay	VRLPA
Jessica Kinross	UDWR
Steve Meisner	VRP

Others:

Randee Sanders	Washington County
Todd Olsen	Bowen Collins Engineering
Mike Chandler	Ash Creek Special Service District
Rex Sorenson	Hurricane City resident
Patricia Wise	La Verkin City resident
Christy Ballard	La Verkin City staff

I. Meeting Called to Order:

Mayor Richard Hirschi called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

II. Approve Minutes: January 20, 2021

The motion was made by Cameron Rognan to approve the January 20, 2021 minutes, second by Kaden DeMille. Hirschi-yes, Rognan-yes, DeMille-yes. Motion carried.

III. Business:

1. Ash Creek Sewer District outreach efforts for the new treatment facility

Mike explained that one of the things he wants to address early on is the construction challenges they will face with building in the Park.

He has directed Bowen Collins to prepare a public outreach effort. There will be a period they will need to close the Park for public safety reasons. He would like to know what this Board/Committee would like him to do to accommodate that closure.

He suggested to Bowen Collins they possibly hold two open houses to show people the construction plans and anticipated timeline and asked if the Board had any other ideas for public outreach.

The second item he would like to mention is Ash Creek SSD will likely handle this project with two bid packages. The first will be the pipeline construction and things that go through the main body of the Park and the second will be the treatment facility.

When they begin construction inside the Park there are several sensitive areas that they want to be attuned to. If there are questions/issues regarding current easements, how would they go about getting those addressed?

Todd Olsen asked if there were any special considerations such as biological resources or tortoises, with construction in the Park.

There is one connection through the Virgin River, so they are planning on Army Corp permits.

Mayor Hirschi asked if La Verkin Creek poses any concerns for the project.

Mike replied one concern with the Creek is since it is the first freshwater source downstream from Pah Tempe springs, he anticipates the Division of Water Quality to give them stringent nutrient limits. Where they are planning to spread irrigation throughout the Park, they will take the pipeline down toward the Virgin River to discharge. They hope to provide a benefit to the River by diluting some of what Pah Tempe puts into it, at the same time trying to avoid the stringent limits on La Verkin Creek. He has spoken with Steve Meisner and Melinda Bennion and they both agreed.

This will be a satellite facility that collects, treats, and distributes the water onsite.

Cameron asked about the timeline and wondered if it would be possible to close the Park in the winter and summer leaving the spring and fall open for public use.

Mike replied they are about 12 months away from turning dirt. He would like to get in there in the winter if possible. Once they get further in the design process, he will have more of that information.

Todd stated construction will be long enough it will probably span through the spring and fall.

Mike reported the design plans for the treatment plant will take 12-18 months to complete and the improvement plans should take 8-10 months. Once those plans are finished, he will bring them back to this Committee for review.

Mayor Hirschi asked if the road into Confluence Park was going to change.

Mike said yes, they plan to realign the sewer line and the access road to run along the foot of the hill through Ash Creek SSD's property. They do not intend to realign any of the roads through the Park.

Patricia Wise asked if the proposed multi-use trail could use the existing road as part of that trail.

Mike did not have a problem with that.

Todd said they are planning on having a couple of open houses and would like to work with the County and La Verkin City to post links to a website. They will also post the public meeting information on site. Is there any other outreach needed or will that be sufficient?

He intends to have plans and renderings of what the facility would look like at those open houses.

Mayor Hirschi suggested inviting the Board/Committee members.

Cameron said the County could add it to their outreach efforts.

Rex suggested including it in the Hurricane City newsletter.

Patricia mentioned the Zion Regional Collaborative would also be a good resource for outreach efforts.

Mike said he will get everyone's information the closer we get to that point. He was more concerned with public participation. Does the Board think there will be a good attendance at an open house, or should they focus the education efforts on advertisement through each municipality and signage at the trailheads?

Todd asked if there are any specific requirements or permits needed before utility line construction begins.

Mike pointed out he has sewer easements already. This would be for culinary water and power if the Park wants to have improvements. Part of the approvals would come from Jessica but he wants to make sure all parties are involved upfront so easements/permits can be obtained in a timely manner to not delay the project.

Mayor Hirschi told Todd to get in touch with La Verkin City.

Mike stated, with no other input from the Board he will task Bowen Collins with getting the design layouts as early as possible. He will bring them back to the Board so if there are any deviations or concerns, they can be addressed quickly.

Cameron mentioned he and Jessica can review those layouts as soon as they are complete to verify there are no issues with the conservation easement. He can also work with them for presentation to this body.

2. Status of the La Verkin Power Station Trailhead and staircase

Kathleen was not able to attend so Cameron read the following update from her.

Staircase:

All parts have been built.

Due to snow and wet ground, the Crane will not be able to be supported enough to move the load down into the canyon until the ground is much drier than it is today. They want it to be dry enough that there will be no slippage and all will be safe. Once that is possible they will be there. They have been in contact with Steve Westlund (fabricator of staircase sections) every day this week as they were scheduled for the second time this past Tuesday (yesterday). Weather has been the problem for the past two weeks.

The switchback trail builder will be available until March 25th to bring the hand-built section of the trail to the "meet" point of the staircase ending point. Steve Westlund is making arrangements to meet with them to make this happen as soon as possible.

Rim Trail:

Todd Edwards (Washington County Civil engineer) is waiting on the staircase/crane situation to be resolved before bringing in Washington County Public Works to help create and finish the trail bump-outs and put in the ADA trail from restroom to staircase along the canyon rim with a turnaround at the trail's end point beyond the staircase entrance.

Interpretive signage along rim trail:

The different novalloy plaque-styled signage is near completion of edit and design and will be sent to fabricator soon. Map and other directional signage etc. will be completed and ready to mount in the final phase of completion of trailwork as well.

Patricia Wise would like to see the design of the interpretive signage before it goes to the printer.

Cameron said he will send her a copy of the map.

3. Status of the Virgin River bridge

Cameron reported it is still in the environmental review and permitting process. There were a few updates that needed to be done to the environmental assessment. He thinks those had been completed but was not sure if permits had been issued.

He thinks it is still on schedule to be completed this fall.

The County is considering pursuing another grant to help fund the bridge if the staircase grant is finished in time.

Gary Chaves arrived at 3:34 pm

Gary asked if the federal government or state government approves the environmental?

Cameron thinks they both approve it.

Steve said everyone that needs to approve and issue permits is tied into one permitting process.

Gary mentioned Toquerville has several projects that are delayed because President Biden has put a 60-day hold on federal approval.

4. Power Plant submission on Historic State registry

Cameron reported he met with the State Historic Preservation Office and they are very interested in adding the power station to the registry of historic sites within the State. They even offered to help write the application. This will be very beneficial for the public and may also provide additional grant opportunities to rehabilitate and restore that building.

Mayor Hirschi asked if there are still vandalism concerns.

Cameron reported the cameras have been installed and they are reviewing those tapes and reporting suspicious activities.

5. Other park projects

Cameron reported the farmer will be working on the fields in the Park now that the irrigation water is back in the system. Those individuals will be working with Todd Edwards (Washington County public works) to figure out how the water system is going to work and make sure they do not go over the flow limits the City has imposed.

Mayor Hirschi reported the fields have already been planted.
The City still needs to meet with the County to figure out a water source.

Patricia Wise asked Cameron if the County had any plans to improve the utility road on the Hurricane side to make it easier for people to hike.

Cameron said the County does improve it for vehicle use, but he has not heard any plans to improve the surface so he thinks it will just be the regular maintenance.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

No comments were made.

V. Board Member Concerns:

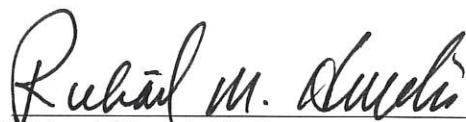
No comments were made.

VI. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Cameron Rognan to adjourn, second by Gary Chavez. The motion carried unanimously at 3:44 pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

18/5/21
Date Approved


Richard Hirschi, Chair

