



City of La Verkin

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www.laverkin.org

Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Board Members:

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

Advisory:

Jessica Kinross	UDWR
Steve Meisner	VRP
Kathleen Nielson	Washington County Grant Writer
Dennis Kay	VRLPA

Others:

Brad Winder	Washington County Noxious Weeds
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 3:08 pm.

II. Approve Minutes: May 19, 2021

The motion was made by Kaden DeMille to approve the May 19, 2021, meeting minutes, second by Cameron Rognan. Hirschi-yes, Rognan-yes, DeMille-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Business:

1. Status of the La Verkin Power Plant Trailhead and staircase

Kathleen reported the project should be completed within the next two weeks.

Chris Haller, from the State, visited the site and is happy with the way things are progressing.

Once the project is complete and pictures have been sent to him, along with the required paperwork, he will sign off on the project.

The staircase just needs the inside rail installed to be completed. This rail will be round and have a special coating, so it won't get hot in the sun.

Lava rock will be placed in between the bump-outs along the rim.

There will also be black rock along the border with signs that state "no trespassing beyond this point".

Cameron reported there will be a ribbon-cutting once the trailhead is complete.

Mayor Hirschi reported La Verkin City has installed the Power Plant Park sign. We still have some landscaping items to install like grass.

2. Status of other grant projects

Kathleen reported the bridge is waiting on the Army Corp stamp of approval.

Steve explained the Army Corp must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service because of the endangered fish in the area. They are waiting for Fish and Wildlife to get them their opinion. He thinks the project will move forward but he is not sure about the timing.

Kathleen explained the LeRay McAllister grant covers the eradication of non-native species. The County can apply for that. She suggested applying for a grant to cover the replacement and removal of the trees that were damaged in the fire.

Cameron reported the County is still waiting on the status of our past grant application. The County asked for \$30,000 and was told the State was not going to fund LeRay McAllister. He has since received notice that they were going to fund the grant.

Kathleen said she was told by that Committee to move forward with what the Board was planning but we don't have a contract so that is what she is trying to figure out before we start spending money.

Mayor Hirschi asked if Kaden DeMille had a chance to look at the concrete on the Hurricane side to determine if it could be removed.

Kaden had not, but he will.

No one knew what the structure was from, but it is more modern because it has tabs for the concrete forms and rebar.

It is at least 30 years old.

Cameron stated if it is over 50 years old, that will complicate things. We need to find out how old it is before we do anything.

Mayor Hirschi will talk to the Blackmores to see if they have any idea what or when it was built.

Kathleen reported James Blackmore is upset about the placement of the trail.

3. Report on vandalism in the Park

Cameron brought photos of the vandals. Law enforcement has been looking at the pictures, but he has not heard back from them.

He will forward the images to the Hurricane and La Verkin police departments to see if they can help identify the individuals.

Steve reported on the "graffiti" on rocks along the River. It ended up being from a USGS person who controls the gauge in the River. Someone had built a dam across the channel and that raises the stage and throws the gauge off. The "graffiti" happened in a moment of frustration and will be cleaned up as soon as possible.

4. Weed Management

Brad Winder reported that during the Utah Weed Supervisor Association (UWSA) Conference, the group visited Confluence Park to discuss a couple of noxious weeds that they are worried about spreading throughout the State.

Twenty-eight out of the fifty-four State of Utah noxious weed list is in Washington County and four of those are specific to this County.

He explained how a weed gets put on that list.

The two weeds in the Park they are most worried about are the Silver Leaf Nightshade and the Scotch Thistle.

He passed around pictures of each and explained what they know about them.

The UWSA was interested in seeing the Arundo Donax weed as well.

Mr. Winder is worried about the Yellow Star Thistle and Malta Star thistle getting into the Park. These noxious weeds have been found in surrounding areas and are fast spreaders.

He is working with BLM to get the weeds treated on their property before they spread too much further.

The Gopher plant is a noxious weed local nurseries are selling. The UWSA is trying to get it off the market.

La Verkin City mows the Confluence Park area two times a year with a mower attachment rented by the County.

The County has a good budget for weed control chemicals. However, he is a one-man department, so it does take time to get to everywhere in the County.

Kathleen pointed out Mr. Winder didn't mention the Russian Olive and Tamarisk weeds.

Brad mentioned those weeds are on the list but are not a priority. They could if Confluence Park received grant money specifically for the treatment of those in the Park.

He will be working in the Park this week.

5. Other projects

Cameron said he has been approached by someone who would like to do an eagle scout project in the Park. They would like to build a bench, picnic table, or roof for the new sign. If the Board can think of another project idea, let Cameron know.

Richard Cutts suggested including no motorized vehicles on the signage for the Park. He caught people lifting motorcycles over the stepover into the Park in Hurricane.

Cameron will include that in a general rules sign for Confluence Park.

He also reported Janet Mika would like to donate a bench along the road that goes into the Park from the SR 9 trailhead. The details have not been figured out and the location has not been chosen but he will update the Board once he has that information.

Mayor Hirschi mentioned Jim Soria and La Verkin City are working together to build another trail into Confluence Park.

Kathleen would like the specific point of the trail. The Park has an easement through Janet Mika's property, there is just no parking. In the past, Commissioner Iverson said he would like to make the City-owned property a parking lot for Confluence Park with a trail down into the Park.

Mayor Hirschi will let Cameron and Kathleen know the particulars once he has them.

Kathleen reported the staircase for the Power Plant Park is not going to have stained concrete.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Richard Cutts asked if there was any information on the Lane Blackmore trade.

The Board has not heard anything from Mr. Blackmore.

V. Board Member Concerns:

No comments were made.

VI. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Cameron Rognan to adjourn, second by Kaden DeMille. The motion carried unanimously at 3:58 pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

July 21, 2021
Date Approved

Richard M. Hirschi
Richard Hirschi, Chair