



City of La Verkin

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Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 3:00 pm.

Present:

Board Members:

Patricia Wise	La Verkin City
Cameron Rognan	Washington County HCP
Gary Chaves	Toquerville City

Advisory:

Dennis Kay	VRLPA
Jessica Kinross	UDWR
Kathleen Nielson	Grant Writer

Others:

Randee Sanders	Washington County HCP
Michael Chandler	Ash Creek SSD
Laren Hall	Hurricane City resident
Richard Cutts	Hurricane City resident
Rex Sorenson	Hurricane City resident
Karl Wilson	La Verkin City resident

I. Meeting Called to Order:

Patricia Wise called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm.

II. Approve Minutes: October 20, 2021, and November 17, 2021

Gary Chaves motioned to approve October 20, 2021, and November 17, 2021, meeting minutes, second by Cameron Rognan. Wise-yes, Rognan-yes, Chaves-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Business:

1. Update on the Confluence Park bridge project

Cameron reported the County had awarded contracts to move forward on the bridge. Interstate Rock Products (IRP) was selected to perform the groundwork. That work has already begun and should be finished by the end of April.

Comtech has been awarded the contract to build the bridge. He did not have an exact time frame but is hopeful it will be ready for installation at the end of April once IRP's work is complete.

The grant expires May 18, 2022, which is the deadline to complete the project.

Gary mentioned the discussion from the last meeting was regarding the continuing rise of construction costs and wondered if this project increased much.

Cameron replied the bridge came in under budget, but the construction work was more than expected. Any support from the different municipalities to help cover that cost would be appreciated. Hurricane City has already indicated they would be contributing \$50,000 toward the grant.

Patricia asked Cameron to send La Verkin City and Toquerville City a breakdown of the project costs. She would also like an image of how the bridge will look.

Cameron reported the grant is from UORG. One of the reasons the cost is higher is that the County anticipated getting some funds from the Recreational Trails Program. They were turned down because the County already had an existing, open grant with them.

Kathleen asked if a personal donation would be accepted.

Cameron replied that the County would decide that, but he thought they would be open to it.

Laren Hall-He would like to know how high this bridge would be above the River and commented that he has seen many floods wash out a lot of structures. He also wondered how many bridges were needed to get from Hurricane to La Verkin. He asked if the trails would connect to St. George.

Cameron answered that the plan is just one bridge that will be centrally located in the Park. The bridge will connect existing trails.

He was unsure about the height, but Rosenberg Engineering analyzed the project. It has been designed to fit into the 100-year flood cycle.

Mike Chandler mentioned the initial discussion included the concept of getting irrigation water across the bridge to water the area by the tortoise habitat. Does the bridge have knockouts or casings that will allow for the hanging of future pipes?

The Sewer District intended to revegetate the whole south side of the River with effluent water from the treatment facility.

Cameron will send Mike the plans for his review. He will also talk to Todd, the County Engineer. This is something that would need to be decided very soon.

Mike said it would only be a four-inch pipe and wouldn't change much but would still require a place to hang it.

2. Update on the LeRay McAllister Grant & restoration efforts

Randee reported the deadline for this grant was today. Everything was submitted last week. The project consisted of a tree planting event, the removal of Russian Olive and Tamarisk, and other restoration projects. There were a lot of volunteers who came and contributed to these events. It was a very successful restoration and grant project.

Cameron reported the County plans to apply for this grant again this spring.

Patricia asked what the new grant would target.

Cameron replied that it would be like this year's project of continued restoration efforts. He would like to restore the first little field by the parking area for pollinators and butterflies. The monarch butterfly is one endangered species this would be an excellent location for. He would also like to install some interpretive signage discussing pollination and monarch butterflies.

Randee explained deadfall was removed from the 2019 fire; however, there is still a lot of removal necessary from the power station toward the SR9 trailhead.

Patricia mentioned the area looked nice. She could tell the difference.
There is a pocket under River Rock that needs to be kept clean from the dead brush.

3. Other projects

Cameron reported that Back Country Horseman contacted him, letting him know of their willingness to help with anything that facilitates equestrian use. They did volunteer to put in stepovers. The stepover at the main gate and the one on Main Street are both narrow, so he will have them look at them. There is also one on 200 West that should be checked.

Patricia mentioned Paul, with the Back Country Horseman, would be able to identify areas that could use a stepover.

Cameron said the County is accumulating a lot of wood chips, so if anyone knows of any locations to spread them within the Park or any interested parties that may want to have some, just let him know.

Patricia suggested covering the nightshade below the switchback trail with wood chips to help control it.

Cameron will check with the County Weed Supervisor.

There is Russian Olive in the mix, so it would not be okay for bike trails. However, it is ground fine enough for hiking trails.

The piles are located throughout the Park, most of which are around the power station.

Cameron reported the County did give Hurricane the okay to move forward with the concrete structure removal.

The land exchange proposal is still being considered, but the triangular piece has been removed from the potential agreement.

Rex Sorensen asked if removing the triangular piece was a permanent decision or if the property owners would need to worry about it coming back in the future.

Cameron stated he could only report on what was happening at this moment.

Gary asked if the area around the restroom would still be included in the proposal.

Cameron replied that those pieces would likely be appraised and part of the potential exchange. Details of what would be included in the proposal won't be ironed out until the appraisals have been completed.

Patricia asked if this Board would have any input on the proposal.

Cameron said the proposal would be decided mainly between the Division of Wildlife and the County. When the exchange was first proposed 6-8 years ago, the Board did weigh-in and made an official recommendation to proceed. There have been additions made to the proposal since then.

There will be a public review as part of the easement amendment process at some point in time.

Patricia would like this Board to be up to date on the proposal's status and for the Confluence Park Facebook page to notice when the public review time is.

Cameron explained that when the process gets to the public review portion, it would be appropriate for this Board or the different municipalities to weigh in.

Jessica said the entire process is about 1 ½ - 2 years, with the public review being about the middle to end of that time. There is still a lot of work that needs to happen before it even goes to the public process.

Cameron asked if La Verkin City had an update on the landslide.

Patricia said there had not been an update for several weeks. The engineers have drilled 8-12 core drills to see where the water is coming from. There has not been anything conclusive from that. We are waiting for Sunrise Engineering to determine the next step.

Mike with Ash Creek SSD reported they have been monitoring the slide as well. They are the next utility inside the asphalt that may need to move. The slide stopped about three weeks ago. The water sample they got off the spring demonstrated it is not culinary or irrigation water. There is some suspicion there may be a perched aquifer that sporadically hits a tipping point where it overflows or something where the flow shifts. The last heavy wet year we had was 2018, and we haven't seen movement since 2010. This year, it started back up again, even though we are three dry years away from a wet year.

Patricia will give a status report at the next meeting.

She will have Kyle add Cameron and Randee to the information email Kyle Gubler sends out.

Mike reported that as part of the permitting process, the State requires them to do an Antidegradation Level 2 Review on receiving water bodies. Although they are planning on reusing for most of the treatment plant effluent in the future, there may be times, like during the winter season, that it could discharge into the Virgin River or La Verkin Creek.

The Division of Water Quality sent a sampling list and various sites to start profiling the River. They want help from Ash Creek SSD in doing that.

One of the questions he proposed to them was can we reach out to VRP or DWR and work together to get some of the work done?

The State wants it done, but they don't have all the resources right now. Occasionally DWR or VRP are in there and could potentially work with Ash Creek SSD to get the work completed.

Before construction or any operating permits can be issued, several thresholds of things need to be completed.

He went over some of the different requirements the State has.

He is confident the Antidegradation Level 2 Review will come out fine. With the hot springs being such a polluter of the River, there is a desire for something to dilute it.

The work will be happening over the next nine months.

Ash Creek SSD anticipates completing the Antidegradation Review, getting the regulatory permitting in place, and determining if inflation of materials is too much. The project's cost has increased by 6-8 million dollars in the last 12 months. That decision will need to be made by the end of the summer. He anticipates having everything ready to begin by October if they decide to move forward.

Kathleen asked if the building would be similar to its surroundings.

Mike explained the building would be the turn of the century pioneer architecture.

5. Discussion and possible action to amend the Confluence Park Bylaws from monthly meetings to meeting every other month.

Christy explained this item is on the agenda to find out how the Board felt with having meetings every other month instead of monthly.

She asked Cameron if the County was going to amend the bylaws.

Cameron said either the County Attorneys or the City Attorney would need to review proposed changes. He feels it would be more efficient to meet every other month.

The Board members were okay with meeting every other month.

Jessica was okay limiting the number of meetings as long as DWR was made aware of any projects happening with the Park.

The other Technical Advisory members were okay with changing the frequency of the meetings. The option to have a meeting, if necessary, will still be left in the bylaws.

Patricia asked the Board members to weigh in on the possibility of restoring the power plant. The roof needs attention.

She spoke with the La Verkin Mayor and Councilmembers who would love to see it restored, as would the Utah Historical Society. Anytime there is support from a state agency, it makes receiving grants much easier.

Kathleen reported the Utah State History Association voluntarily asked if they could write the designation and submit it for us. That is how strongly they felt about this building.

Patricia pointed out with all the money the County and La Verkin City have put into Power Plant Park and the area surrounding the power plant. It makes good sense to work on the building.

The other item she would like to discuss at a future meeting is the possibility of a paved path in the Park.

Cameron explained that process would begin with DWR. They have signaled there is flexibility in the language, but they still need to review the proposal. After that, we will further refine it from public comment.

He will send a written notice to DWR for their review before the next meeting.

Patricia mentioned she is not sure most people would be on Board with the trail. That is why she would like to have public comment to answer any questions and hear the pros and cons, assuming it goes forward from DWR.

Cameron stated it would be good to collaborate with the municipalities because there will be connecting trails on both sides of the Park that would probably need to pursue grants to "tie in all the loose ends." He thinks it would be best for the municipalities to submit for those grants. UDOT has a lot of money for paved trails.

Patty reported UORG has an educational outdoor classroom grant that may be good for the power plant to accommodate field trips. She will look into it further.

Jessica reported the Division of Wildlife had completed the Division monitoring, and everything looked good. A copy was sent to County.

Cameron reported it was signed and submitted right before this meeting.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Richard Cutts said three years ago that when the land swape was being discussed, he thought it was pulled off, so this Committee would not have officially approved it.

Who is going to pay for the economic analysis and environmental analysis?

Cameron said that is part of the agreement they are still working on with Mr. Blackmore.

Rex Sorensen asked who from the County is working on the land swap?

Cameron answered the Assistant County Attorney is working on the agreement.

Richard stated that according to the bylaws, it sounded like this Committee was supposed to approve it. It seems odd that step is missing. He knows Hurricane was not in favor of the land swap and backed out of it.

Cameron said there was an official recommendation from this Board four or five years ago. Before moving forward with any changes, it should come back to this Board.

Patricia pointed out this item has been mentioned several times over the years, and there comes a point where the different parties have legal standing to decide and that will be the answer.

V. Board Member Concerns:

No comments were made.

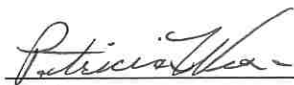
VI. Adjourn:

Patricia Wise made the motion to adjourn at 4:05 pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

March 16, 2022

Date Approved


Chair