

Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee
January 7, 2010
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 2:03 p.m. in the Historic Carnegie Building, 405 Grand Avenue.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rich Elliott, Joe Lord, Paul Rechar, Grant Frost, Dave Moore and Cal Van Zee
Members Absent: Pete Burns, David Evertson, and Eric Molvar
Staff Present: Mike Lytle and Keri Brown

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion regarding fencing invoice for Contract Year 09-10

MOTION BY RECHARD, seconded by Lord, to acknowledge that staff and the committee have reviewed the map, the invoice and the completed work and that this invoice appears to be reasonable. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The committee again expressed their opinion that the invoices should be approved by the Ranch Manager and not the committee.

B. Update on Water Well Applications

The committee recommended that the city request an extension on the processing of our applications. Elliott pursued that avenue only to be told by Lisa Lindeman, State Engineer's office, that they would not grant an extension on the applications. Elliott contacted Harriet Hageman and was advised to send a letter requesting that they process the applications. They are in receipt of the letter requesting the applications be processed. In the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, there will be a line item under Water Rights to initiate drilling activities at those four sites for grazing, irrigation, and municipal use. The cost is unknown at this time; the wells have indicated depths of 400 and 500 feet.

MOTION BY LORD, seconded by Van Zee, that the committee takes the position that they are in favor of pursuing water well applications. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Update on Rocky Mountain Power Wind Farm Electrical

Elliott stated that the committee wanted additional information now that we have the met-tower erected at the ranch regarding generation of electrical power. Could that power be routed back to town and get credit for selling it? He talked to Travis Tanner in Portland who indicated that we have three options:

1. Net metering - we tie into an existing meter.
2. Sell the power through their qualifying facility program - which would require constructing transmission lines at a cost of approx. \$200,000 a mile. There is a \$500 application fee. This was the recommended option.
3. Joint venture - the indication was that it probably wouldn't work since it is not a prime location.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Advocacy Groups

1. Allison Holloran, Audubon Wyoming

Holloran has worked for the State Office of Audubon Wyoming for the last 10 years. She provided the following handouts: Wyoming IBA Program Frequently Asked Questions, Nomination Form, Status of Wyoming Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program and Important Bird Areas in Wyoming - Criteria for Site Selection. She explained the IBA Program includes the sites of the Laramie Greenbelt and the Laramie Plains Complex. To meet IBA criteria, an applicant has to meet only one (not all four) of the following:

- Endangered, threatened and special concern species;
- Other high conservation priority species;
- Rare, unique or representative habitat;
- Significant concentration of waterfowl, terns, gulls, shorebirds, waders, raptors, landbirds.

The most endangered ecosystem in the United States is prairie grasslands. Her job is to assist in applying for IBAs in Wyoming and grant work – state, federal. There are 48 IBAs in Wyoming with some very nice ones here in Laramie. If the ranch contains an IBA, the benefit would be in the funding aspect for improvements to the land. There are no regulatory stipulations on the land. Holloran agreed to come back with additional information from the Audubon Committee regarding the ranch land.

2. Grant Frost, Game and Fish

Fishing access is restricted by the number of accessible points. The Hunter Management Area is dependent on the number of people the ranch is willing to have on it at any one point combined with management objectives for antelope and small game. If the committee wants to look at changes in the Hunter Management Area, then we should bring Jason Sherwood back in to meet with the committee (Jason made a presentation to the RAC in August 2009). Frost said the only concerns he has about habitat would be Russian Knapweed along the river that needs to be worked in conjunction with County Weed and Pest Control. It would require a site visit prior to making any recommendations. He will ask if Game and Fish feels the need to make any changes to the agreement.

3. UW Research

Dr. Naughton is the only contact at UW that has expressed interest in partnering in research at the ranch.

B. Council Work Session - January 12, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

Elliott invited the committee members to attend the study session regarding the grazing lease.

IV. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was set for February 11, 2010 at 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Annex Conference Room.

V. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

- A. Presentation by Matt Ashby, City of Cheyenne Planner, regarding Belvoir Ranch
- B. Water rights – plan for future water transfer
- C. Wind Data – met tower
- D. Capital Items from Nov. 19, 2009 minutes

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY EVERTSON, seconded by Lord, to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherryl Schilling, Secretary