

Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee

April 15, 2010

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Monolith Ranch Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 2:05 p.m. in the Historic Carnegie Building, 405 Grand Avenue.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Joe Lord, Paul Rechar, Cal Van Zee, Pete Burns, David Evertson and Rich Elliott
 Members Absent: Grant Frost, Dave Moore and Eric Molvar
 Staff Present: Mike Lytle and Sherryl Schilling
 Councilmen: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY BURNS, seconded by Rechar, to approve the minutes with revisions from the March 25, 2010 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Continued review of water management on the ranch
- B. 2004 Fassett Report Water Plan Summary

MONOLITH RANCH

<i>Dowlin Ditch Water Rights Maintenance</i>	
Redefine water rights acreage to match actually irrigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lytle commented that we should identify the lands only when City has funds to take care of it. Once the rights are clearly defined, they are easier for our opponents to get hold of. It will take significant resources to get those lands under irrigation. Lord explained that it would require overlaying drawings with infrared color photography which will make it clear which lands are irrigated. • Pull petition from Board of Control
Move acreages from poorer to better lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the road off, transfer poorer lands
Document irrigation operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records back to 1986, there are probably older ones, Lytle will find them, state records are more than incomplete
Board Of Control Annual Review and Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City files reports with Darin Parkin, District Water Commissioner with flows from Monolith, Dowlin, Wright, Pioneer Diversions • Mike has original data sets
Replant irrigated lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% done, identify on map
Prepare evaluation for site of new WTP near city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level I Study • Pivot area for summer time water • Existing WTP needs to be replaced in the next 15 years
Install climatological station on ranch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearest station is at the airport • Need 5 years worth of records
Prepare irrigation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, irrigation is documented
Prepare annual irrigation and BOX activity reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lytle explained that this is an internal document on what BOC had done so that we could see what precedents had been set
<i>Park Irrigation with Surface Water</i>	
Apply for Level II Feasibility Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWC advised to leave it alone to maintain water quality, parks serve as a flushing for the drinking water system
Participate in Level II Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Prepare mapping of green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Transfer water rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Design and construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<i>Columbus (GoForth) Reservoir Rehab</i>	
Hydrologic supply and water rights review to assess feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is cheaper to do a Level I Study • Give it to Parks and Rec
Apply to WWDC for funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Design and construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<i>Five-Mile/Harney Creek Irrigation Rehab</i>	
Field Inspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lytle reported that we are irrigating with the water when it is available • Rechar stated that there is not a real possibility of having enough water for municipal purposes • Lytle said that the water rights may come into play with the Platt River completion, they may be a bargaining chip for substitution as the City grows so that we don't deplete the Platt, we need to keep using the rights, keep the ditches maintained and ask for water every year

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Mile comes across Monahan's property
Design improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Petition BOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
LARAMIE RIVER	
<i>Laramie River Water Transmission Pipeline</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently being constructed
<i>WTP Upgrade/Booster Station</i>	
Define design criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recharad said that the WTP will need more capacity once the pipeline is completed, we will have to use the water • We need to experience how the plant handles the water from the new pipeline and what the impacts are • Lytle stated that we need to have a plan and work the plan to satisfy BOC
Apply for financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Design and construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We may need a pump station, the question is when
GROUNDWATER	
<i>City Springs/Turner Wells</i>	
Install flume to measure bypass flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lytle reported that this has been completed
Define design criteria for expanded municipal use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASR (aquifer storage and recovery), SEO feels that our historic use does not support doing this, DEQ feels that we might pollute the aquifer
Apply for Level III grant and SRF loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Design and construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<i>Spur Wells & Soldier Well</i>	
Annual monitoring and report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We issue an annual report to SEO • We are in year 11 of 20 year agreement with landowners which limits the drawdown put on the system, currently at 12-13 ft of the allowed 20 ft drawdown
Install flume to measure bypass flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flume installed at Soldier to monitor Satanka water, keeps washing out • Soldier line is 100 years old, it is good line, we don't exceed 40 psi
<i>Simpson Springs</i>	
File groundwater permit app with SEO for Simpson Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received permits on 4 wells • Have to drill wells by end of 2011, typically drill 350 ft, case off first 100 ft. • Surface water right • Water is artesian right now
Install flume to measure bypass flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flume is installed, manual reads in summer
Define design criteria research and apply for project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once wells are drilled we have to put water to use, pipe it to town, irrigate and stock water
Apply for funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Design and construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

C. Recreation Plan – bike/pedestrian trails, motorized vehicles, fishing, hunting, equestrian use, public input

The feeling of the committee is that as long as there are cattle on the Monolith Ranch, a recreation plan is not compatible. Recreation can be considered once water rights are transferred. In addition, the mosquito population makes it impossible to be outside even when they spray for mosquitos.

IV. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Council has requested that the Ranch Advisory Committee attend a Work Session on June 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss the items that the committee was initially charged with so Council can review and receive comments from this committee. Recharad, Evertson, Lord, Van Zee and Lytle agreed to attend. The remainder of the committee will be notified.

V. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

A. Forward items to the Secretary

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY LORD, seconded by Evertson, to adjourn the meeting at 3:41 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sherryl Schilling, Secretary