



BIG SKY COMMUNITY CORPORATION

Trails Committee Meeting Minutes March 14, 2007

The Big Sky Community Corporation Trails Committee met on March 14, 2007 at 9:00 AM in the BSOA Conference Room. Committee members in attendance included: John Leeper (Chair), Jeanne Johnson, Steve Johnson, Ryan Hamilton, Pete Bolane, Bill Olson and Josh Heller. Kate Halloran was in attendance representing the staff.

1. Call to Order

John Leeper, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM.

2. Minutes

John asked if anyone thought that changes were necessary for the February Meeting Minutes and everyone agreed that no changes were necessary.

3. Report on Spur Road Trail (Greg Benjamin) – Bill reported that the County Attorney has had the MOA between MDT and County since October; MOA is required for any trail in the right of way. The County feels that the MOA is too onerous and they will not sign it as is. Mindy Nowakowski was in attendance and she has been working with both the County and MDT to resolve this problem. Mindy explained that normally, if we had CTEP funding the county would sign this MOA without question, because when CTEP funding is involved the County has leverage; however, since there is no CTEP funding, things are different and the County has no leverage, yet is still being asked to take all responsibility. Mindy is working out an MOA that can be satisfying to both parties.

Bill stated that with Mindy's help we are hoping to have this resolved this week, prior to the meeting with MDT in Helena. He also stated that the contractor needs to be able to start this month; otherwise his window for this project closes.

4. Committee Reports

- a) **New Trails/Master Planning/Easements** – Denise Schmidt and Barry Margetts are currently on vacation.
- b) **Maintenance** – Steve Johnson reported that nothing was new at Ousel Falls – the same sliding issues are still on his radar; Yellow Mule needs work on the stretch before the Big EZ Bridge – Bill stated that Yellow Mule will be continual maintenance issue. Steve also informed the committee that a piece of road had slid within 20 feet of the South Fork – the first weekend in June is National Trails Day and Steve will scope out what needs to be done then.
- c) **Donation Collection** – Jeanne reported that Ousel Falls canister had been broken. Bill was able to get Taylor Middleton of Big Sky Resort to agree to giving us a canister location – Pete will contact the resort and figure out the

best placement. John gave Pete the okay to sign the canister agreements on behalf of the BSCC. A target date of April 14th was set as the day to install donation canisters.

- d) **Finance/Budget/Grant Writing** – John Leeper informed the committee that Resort Tax Applications are due April 18th.
- e) **USFS Liaison** – Bob Donovan was not present
- f) **Maps/Signage** – Bill recommended working with Larry Watson of Gallatin County to get funding for stop signs on the Ophir Trail.
- g) **Public Relations/Fund Raising/Events** – Pete informed the committee that the Crop Dusters would be unable to perform at our outreach/bridge party. Jeanne informed the committee that without a specific date it is difficult to ask bands to commit.
- h) **Spur Road Trail** – See beginning of Minutes.

5. New Business – Bill reminded the committee that Mr. Whipple had donated \$11K to finish the Beehive Trail – Bill is going to try and get this done and Josh offered to support Bill with this project.

6. Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Trails Committee will be Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 9 AM in the BSOA conference room.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:09 AM.