

**BOARD OF COUNTY PARKS BOARD
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
JULY 9,2020**

The regular meeting of the Natrona County Parks Board was brought to order at 5:30p.m. by Chairman Roy Buck. Members present: Dave North, Tina Kruse, Jim Miller, Stuart Hill was absent.

Also present: Mike Haigler, Interim Parks Director, Commissioner Brook Kaufman (liason) via teleconference

I. **Roll Call**

Members present: Roy Buck, Dave North, Jim Miller, Tina Kruse.

Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting of the Natona County Advisory Board was brought to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Roy Buck.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Approval of June 11, 2020 Meeting as recorded on Youtube**

Dave North moved for approval of the June 11th, 2020 minutes.

Tina Kruse seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Roy Buck reported that Mike Haigler has assumed the Director's responsibilities at this time and until further notice.

IV. **Reports Parks-** Mr. Mike Haigler reported the following projects:

A. Mountain well/water system:The water system has been turned off and the drilling of a new water well has been placed on hold due to the structural issues that exist at the Trails Center. The campgrounds are not being serviced with water at this time. Discussions with the DEQ and the EPA are ongoing to see if modifications can be made to the existing water well. If the modifications are approved we will move ahead with their implementation and then we will be able to furnish water to the Trails Center only. This will not include campgrounds.

B. Signage: Mr. Petrea had reached out to RDG Planning & Design from Des Moines, Iowa and hired by the City of Casper, for a quote to provide services on trail signage and a Wayfinding

Master Plan. We do not have that proposal yet, we have a call into them to discuss the scope of work and their proposal. I am also researching the availability of kiosks that are appropriate for placement at various sites throughout the mountain parks system. Mr. Haigler handed out pictures of examples of kiosks to the board members.

- C. Biathlon Venue: A new two stall vaulted toilet was installed in June and is operational.

- D. Trial Center Maze Area: A new two stall vaulted toilet was installed in June and is not operational yet because it is designed to have 4 to 5 feet of snow around it to allow access. For summer use gravel base needs to be placed around it to make it accessible and this has not been done yet. There are signs on it indicating it is out of service.

- E. Rotary Park Bridal Trail Construction: A Notice of Award was issued to 383 Construction on June 29, 2020. We are awaiting the signed contract and insurance documents at this time. The contractor will advise us of his schedule to construct as soon as all documents have been received. 383 bid \$81,500.00 and the Engineering & Construction Management was \$21,400.00. Trail design specialists out of Dainiesville, GA gave some recommendations to change the trail and not follow the existing trail. We are looking into this option at this time.

- F. Ponderosa Shelter: Spoke with the Ginsbach Construction on July 1st to finalize the configuration of the build for windows and door placement. Construction is estimated to start within the next two weeks and installation on site will be coordinated with the Road & Bridge Dept. to make sure the road to the sites are passable.

- G. Bear Trap Meadow Shelters: A decision to temporarily repair the roof and masonry features of the three shelters has been made. Mr. Haigler referred to the pictures that were handed out. They include shelter roofs. The roofs will get a moderate treatment to secure them for the rest of this season and the masonry (rock features) will be secured or repaired. A budget has been approved to design and build three new shelters by spring of 2021. Stateline No. 7 (Lyle T. Mirtha, AIA) has provided a proposal which includes Geotechnical, Civil Engineering, Landscape, survey etc. Environmental Assessment and Site design for an open style building with no fire place, no restroom and no demolition of existing shelters or

foundations. His proposal is for \$17,850. Lyle was the designer of the David Street Station in Casper. We plan on having an opportunity for the public to participate in the selection of the final design. A revised proposal for three shelters was \$24,300.00. The building would be 20x40. Jim Miller asked if that would include the tear down. Mr. Haigler reported that it does not include the tear down. Mr. Buck asked if that would include a new pad. Mr. Haigler reported that it would probably include a new pad.

- H. Central Wyoming Trails Alliance: Update on potential summer projects. This was skipped until the end of the Mr. Haigler's report so the Central Wyoming Trails Alliance President could speak.

- I. Road Maintenance: A contract was signed between the County and WLC on 11/5/19 for design and bidding out the drainage improvements and gravelling of roads in the Cabin area, Black Beach and Cottonwood Beach. A site review was conducted 12/31/19. The final design was sent to the BOR in May for their review and NEPA approval, we are awaiting their final approval. I anticipate this project going out to bid soon with a completion date of November 1, 2020.

- J. Boathouse & Dock SO: Requested an approval from the BOR to locate it just east of the Alcova Marina. The facility will serve the Sheriff and the Game & Fish offices respectfully. Approval was granted for exploratory digging or drilling to find bedrock; this was accomplished and now the building is undergoing design.

- K. Drone Flight: Aerial flight was completed for each of the following areas (Cabins, Trailer Park, Boat Club, and Ski Club) The data that was collected has been given to the BOR and they have reviewed it. The data was scrambled but I will get with CPI and get the files corrected. The parks will use this in the future to look at these facilities.

- L. Lights at the Pathfinder Boat Ramp: A plan to install 3 solar lights on poles was submitted to the BOR, they came back with a recommendations to use a less intense light due to (light pollution) The contractor is now in the process of trying to find a light that meets the BOR requirements for lower level emissions. Lights are being provided by the Walleye Fishing Club.

- M. Site Modification Process and Guidelines: The BOR provided the Final Draft of the Site Modification Process and Guidelines for Alcova and Pathfinder Reservoirs, dealing with the

leaseholders and any proposed modifications to property. Mr. Gutierrez and Eric Nelson along with myself are reviewing their comments and then the document will be finalized and implemented. The BOR will look at anything over a \$1,000 improvement.

N. Full Hook-Up Bath House: Haass Construction started the foundation for the Bath House last week. Project is looking good. Should start to pave the 27th of July, all the full hook-ups. They are on track.

O. Master Plan Approvals: The Casper Water Ski Club, Alcova Marina and the Casper Boat Club are still awaiting their master plan approval from the BOR. I will be working to expedite this process that has stalled due to lack of information and communication.

P. Water/Sewer System: There was a failure of the automated SCADA system that operates the water pump and the sewer lift stations at Alcova. The water system serves 155 trailers, 22 Full Hookups, Casper Boat Club, Casper Water Ski Club and the Alcova Marina/trailer Park. It also serves the general public via the fill stations. This system failed to fill the water tank on Sunday night June 21st crews were dispatched and with the help of service techs, electrical devises were replaced and the system has been functioning normally.

Q. Backup Water Operator: We have contracted with WG3 LLC to provide a licensed backup operator at the Lake. Mr. Gillinham, our water/sewer operator, is operating the lake and the mountain. By law we have to have a back up. We contracted WG3 with Bill Mixer as our back up. The cost of this service is \$250 per month on an as needed basis.

Mr. Haigler reported that he did not have it on the agenda but asked Depty Olson to report on the lake and mountain over the 4th of July.

Dave North asked if the ramps at Alcova were going to be looked at. Mr. Haigler reported that the ramps at Alcova are not an issue. The ones at Pathfinder however will be designed and engineered. The water level has to go down before work can start on that project.

Sheriffs Deputy Olson reported calls from July 3rd through the 6th. There were about 60+ calls for the Alcova Pathfinder area. Couple fireworks, couple noise complaints, and people encroaching on eachother's camp sites. This will continue until camp sites are designated. One fight and a fire in the cabin area that was distinguished with a fire extinguisher. Game and Fish gave out a couple citations for Boating Under the Influence. Important to be noted

that some people will report things that are not happening. It is important that things are verified. There was 6-7 Deputies on duty at Alcova from approximately 10am-3am. 28 calls on the mountain. A couple fire works, a couple noise complaints. It was busy but a couple camp sites were still available. Ran four deputies full time over the weekend.

Roy Buck- *"Thank you for your service, we appreciate having you in the County and thank you very much."*

Roy Buck asked Mr. Haigler about the water system at the lake. If there was communication issues and if everyone understands what is going on. Mr. Haigler reported everyone understood what was going on once they saw them out working on it. They thought they had a leak, we thought we had a leak, but they did not have a leak.

Jim Miller asked if there was a summary on the lodge situation that the insurance adjuster came up with. Mr. Haigler reported that we are waiting on the insurance adjusters report. We were told two weeks and it has almost been that.

Mr. Buck stated that he wanted to jump back to the agenda item from the Central Wyoming Trails Alliance. They wanted to start an open line of communication and talk about potential summer projects.

Ben Smith from Central Wyoming Trails Alliance spoke with the Board about his groups willingness to participate in building trails. They want to figure out what they need to do to get some trails built. They were looking at skirting the area around the McMurry area to provide more open space. Jim Miller reported that they do not have any problem with building trails but they would like to see a 1,3,5 year plan. Ben is the President of the CWTA at this time with approximately 40 members.

R. Discussion Topics:

S. Parks Rules and Regulations: Mr. Buck said that it has been submitted but he is not sure where it stands. Commissioner Kaufman reported that she will follow up on that.

T. Proposals & Permits:

Mr. Haigler reported that all pending proposals and permits are under review for completeness and follow up with BOR to schedule approval. I am also working with Jason

Gutierrez to close out any outstanding permits. Requests can be turned in anytime right now but in the future, potentially, they will be turned in later in the summer so they can go through the process during winter months to be ready before the water comes up in the spring. No guarantees about it not being held up if there are issues with things that concern the BOR, and it may have to go through NEPA, so no guarantee on a timeframe but potentially a deadline on the date they are submitted. Applications will go to the Parks office, then to planning, then to BOR if it's over \$1,000. The customer can then pull the permit with planning. Parks Dept. will facilitate the permit process if and when this comes into effect.

U. Public Comments:

Community Member Douglas Irvin asked about the Parks Director position. What is going on with that position due to having two Directors in six months? The other question would be about Insurance Money for the Lodge, what is the time frame on that? Mountain Amenities, are the amenities going to be replaced? It appears there are less and less over time with the water at the camp grounds. There seems to be a trend of losing amenities. Where are things with the fire pits at Rotary Park? This is always a concern and there are fires being left unattended. Communication with the public, all handouts given to the Advisory Board should be on the website for the public to view.

Mr. Buck reported that as far as the Director's position it is all up in the air right now. It's a conversation with Mr. Haigler and the Commissioners. The system for hiring will be different but the board is not sure what that will look like. Everything is on the table. As soon as we know something you will know something.

As far as the decreasing amenities the well can not be replaced due to cost of reaching EPA standards for drinking and selling water. Mr. Haigler reported that if the well is able to be revamped it will service the lodge. If it can't be revamped, a well for the lodge will be drilled.

Roy Buck reported on the fire rings reporting that this will be determined by the County Commissioners if they approve the new parks rules. This is also contingent on Fire Bans. The other question on communications with packets, Mr. Buck reported that once communications are figured out that will most likely happen.

Community Member Mary Peterson asked without the well will campers have a place to fill water jugs? Mr. Haigler reported that the answer to that right now is no. Mrs. Peterson asked if there is a plan for that in the future? Mr. Haigler reported that that can't be answered right now. The size of the system for the amount of time it's used without it generating much revenue is probably not realistic. To

comply and maintain is not cost effective. The system was never made to fight fires. The fire station has its own well and tanks.

Community Member Howard Christman asked Is there a ban on fires right now? Mr. Haigler reported there is a fire ban that allows you to have a fire in a fire ring only. Mr. Christman discussed bike apps for phones dealing with existing trails but doesn't show private land ownership. Mr. Christman expressed his concern about fires with the dry weather and fire rings not being extinguished.

V. Board Member Comments:

Jim Miller thanked Mr. Haigler for stepping in and taking this on again.

Tina Kruse thanked Mr. Haigler and knows that communication is important and as a Board they are working on getting communication to the public. Letting everyone know about Rotary Park is important. I like the idea of putting new trails on the mountain, Podersa Park would be an awesome place to start trails.

Dave North thanked the public for their comments stating that those were good questions and a lot of questions they don't have the answers to during this transition period but they appreciate Mr. Haigler for stepping up and acknowledged that he has done a lot. Mr. North reports that it is going to take a little while to figure it all out all across the system but we will take it a day at a time. We are just an advisory board so we can recommend and advise and that's all they can do at this time but things do need to change and he hopes to get a few things expedited. We are moving forward on the shelters at Beartrap, the water is an issue because everyone knows there isn't a lot of water on the mountain and working with the EPA, they have more restrictions with anything you are bringing to the public so it will be a challenge.

Roy Buck commented that yes it was unexpected that we lost our Parks Director but it happened but he would like to thank Mr. Haigler for doing an amazing job even in the last couple of weeks taking all this on. We are not going to stand still and it's important for everyone to know. The parks rules and regulations may take some time but they will get done. The second thing is everything is on the table as far as how the Advisory Board will look, the Director, an Assistant to the Director, Assistant Director, this whole process is up in

the air, so any suggestions are welcome from the public. We are looking at all the options for the Parks. We want public input. You can go to the County Web Site or call any of us. Commissioner Kaufman thanked everyone for their service.

W. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm