

Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust
MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2016
Holiday Inn Sheridan, Sheridan, WY
Sibley Meeting Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Kim Floyd. Floyd called the roll. Board members in attendance: Ken Banister, Jacelyn Downey, Pidge Fulton, Mike Massie, Steve Meadows, JoAnn Pearson, Don Schramm, Esther Wagner. Also in attendance were Executive Director Bob Budd and Grants Manager Robin Haynes.

Absent: None

Attendance:

Wyoming Game and Fish Department – Lara Gertsch, Paul Dey
The Nature Conservancy – Rick Pallister
Sheridan County Land Trust – Colin Betzler
Wyoming Wildlife Federation – Steve Kilpatrick
H & M Scott Foundation – Jenny Craft

Minutes: Floyd asked the board to review the minutes from the April 14, 2016 board meeting.

Fulton moved, Banister seconded the motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Budd has kept the board up to date as regarding the financials. He informed the board that the Governor has asked all agencies for an 8% cut in their budget. Budd explained how the process worked, how the request would affect our agency and what he had proposed as our portion of the cut. Discussion followed.

Project Status Reports: Budd stated that the latest version is in their folders for their review. The Board reviewed the report and discussion followed.

Update on Website and Mapping Project – Haynes gave the board an update on the progress she has made revising the website and asked the board to check it out! She also provided an update on the mapping project that the University of Wyoming has been working on.

Update on Facebook – Downey gave an update on partners and agencies that are connected to our Facebook page. She asked the board to send her pictures of wildlife and natural resources as they travel around the state, so she can add them to the Facebook page.

Project Funding Allocation:

Budd recommends that the same process be followed, as in the past. Budd reminded the board that the projects will be reviewed individually and that the board member(s) that did the site visit will provide a summary of the project and provide their recommendations.

Floyd asked the board and guests to review the project list.

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| <u>03-16-022</u> | <u>Granger Fence</u> | Site visit Don Schramm, Kim Floyd |
| | Request amount \$20,000 | |
| | Schramm gave an overview of the project and recommends full funding. | |
| <u>03-16-044</u> | <u>Rendezvous Park Wetland</u> | Site visit Steve Meadows |
| | Request amount \$17,400 | |
| | Meadow provided a description of the project. Mix of public use and wildlife habitat. He recommends full funding. | |
| <u>03-16-012</u> | <u>Beaver Creek Cottonwood</u> | Site visit Don Schramm, Kim Floyd |
| | Request amount \$20,000 | |
| | Schramm provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding. | |
| <u>03-16-034</u> | <u>TFB Aspen</u> | Site visit Kim Floyd, Bob Budd |
| | Request amount \$30,000 | |
| | Floyd and Budd provided an overview. They recommend full funding. | |
| <u>03-16-037</u> | <u>Shell Farson V</u> | Site visit Kim Floyd, Bob Budd |
| | Budd provided details of the project and explained the Shell money and how this process for these projects have worked. He recommends full funding. | |
| <u>03-16-001</u> | <u>Rankin Creek</u> | Site visit Bob Budd |
| | Request amount \$10,000 | |
| | Budd provided details of the project. Recommends full funding | |
| <u>03-16-008</u> | <u>Wolf Creek CE</u> | Site visit JoAnn Pearson, Jacelyn Downey |
| | Request amount \$192,020 | |
| | Downey provided details of the project. She recommends full funding. | |
| <u>03-16-018</u> | <u>Squirrel Creek Fire Rehab</u> | Site visit Kim Floyd, Bob Budd |
| | Request amount \$28,000 | |
| | Budd provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding. | |
| <u>03-16-023</u> | <u>Grass Creek Aspen</u> | Site visit Pidge Fulton, Kim Floyd |
| | Request amount \$25,000 | |
| | Fulton and Floyd provided an overview of the project. They recommend full funding. | |

- 03-16-029 Red Canyon Cheatgrass Site visit Steve Meadows, Bob Budd
Request amount \$20,000
Meadows provided an overview of the project. Budd added additional details.
Meadows recommended full funding.
- 03-16-025 Lewis Creek CE Site visit Kim Floyd
Request amount \$180,000
Floyd provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding.
- 03-16-026 Little Red Creek Cheatgrass Site visit Esther Wagner, Ken Banister
Request amount \$4,400
Banister provided an overview of the project. Budd provided additional information
regarding these types of projects. Banister recommends full funding.
- 03-16-027 Little Red Creek Juniper Site visit Esther Wagner, Ken Banister
Request amount \$7,500
Banister provided an overview of the project. Discussion followed. Paul Dey
provided additional details of the project. Banister recommends full funding.
- 03-16-009 Tensleep Fence Site visit Pidge Fulton, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$36,000
Fulton provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding.
- 03-16-014 Blue Bell Diversion Site visit Don Schramm, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$35,000
Schramm provided an overview of the project. Floyd provided additional details.
Banister noted that the application requests \$5,000 funding for planning, and
WWNRT does not provide funding for this. Discussion followed. The
recommendation is to reallocate the \$5,000 to another section of the project. They
recommend funding.
- 03-16-015 Beaver Creek Uinta Site visit Don Schramm, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$6,000
Schramm provided an overview of the project. Floyd provided additional details
and noted that the WWNRT funding would be for contractor costs. Discussion
followed. Schramm recommends full funding.
- 03-16-016 Little Mountain Fence Site visit Don Schramm, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$53,000
Schramm provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding.
- 03-16-019 Big Creek Fish Passage Site visit Kim Floyd, Bob Budd
Request amount \$105,000
Budd provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding.

- 03-16-021 Bob Creek Aspen Site visit Esther Wagner, Ken Banister
Request amount \$6,625
Banister provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding.
- 03-16-043 Table Mountain Juniper Site visit Steve Meadows, Bob Budd
Request amount \$27,600
Meadows provided an overview of the project. Budd provided additional details.
Meadows recommends full funding.
- 03-16-011 Upper Tongue Rehab Site visit JoAnn Pearson, Jacelyn Downey
Request amount \$50,000
Downey provided an overview of the project. Pearson provided additional details.
They recommend full funding.
- 03-16-013 Currant Creek Fish Passage Site visit Don Schramm, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$50,000
Schramm provided an overview of the project. He recommends that this project
be tabled until further information can be determined.
- 03-16-017 Booth Ditch Site visit Don Schramm, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$190,000
Schramm provided an overview of the project. Floyd added additional insight on
this project. They recommend full funding.
- 03-16-024 Green Mountain Aspen Site visit Esther Wagner, Steve Meadows,
Request amount \$100,000 Bob Budd
Budd recommended that this project be deferred, because they were unable to
access the sight.
- 03-16-041 New Fork Wetlands II Site visit Steve Meadows, Bob Budd
Request amount \$20,000
Meadows provided an overview of this project. He recommends full funding, plus
\$3,000 additional funding for comparison monitoring of this project.
- 3-16-004 Adams Fish Passage Site visit Bob Budd
Request amount \$82,500
Budd provided an overview of this project. He recommends full funding.
- 03-16-005 Horse Creek Invasives Site visit Steve Meadows, Bob Budd
Request amount \$60,000
Meadows provided an overview of this project. He informed the board that they
are reducing their request to \$30,000. He recommends full funding at \$30,000.

- 03-16-020 Blue Downey Reservoir Site visit Ken Banister, Bob Budd
Request amount \$85,000
Banister provided an overview of the project. No site visit was done due to lack of access. Budd offered additional information on this project, and recommends that this project be funded at \$100,000. Discussion followed. The recommendation is for full funding, plus the additional \$15,000 for a total of \$100,000.
- 03-16-030 Sand Hills Cheatgrass Site visit Esther Wagner, Ken Banister
Request amount \$4,400
Banister provided an overview of this project, as well as 03-16-033 and 03-16-031 and all three are recommended for full funding.
- 03-16-033 Stonehouse Cheatgrass Site visit Esther Wagner, Ken Banister
Request amount \$4,400
The project is recommended for full funding.
- 03-16-031 Schnoor Cheatgrass Site visit Esther Wagner, Ken Banister
Request amount \$4,400
The project is recommended for full funding.
- 03-16-045 Big Horn Invasives III Site visit Pidge Fulton, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$150,000
Fulton provided an overview of this project. Discussion followed regarding whether or not this project is a continuation of Big Horn Invasives, or if it is a new project. The recommendation for funding is \$95,000.
- 03-16-002 Skyline Aspen Site visit Steve Meadows, Bob Budd
Request amount \$50,000
Meadows provided an overview of this project. Discussion followed. He recommends full funding.
- 03-16-028 Ocean Lake Irrigation Site visit Steve Meadows, Bob Budd
Request amount \$25,000
Meadows provided an overview of this project. Meadows recommended that this project be funded at \$15,000, with modifications to the project.
- 03-16-006 Tongue River Russian Olive Site visit JoAnn Pearson, Jacelyn Downey
Request amount \$17,000
Pearson provided an overview of this project. Discussion followed. They recommend full funding.

- 03-16-007 North Gateway Open Space Site visit JoAnn Pearson, Jacelyn Downey
Request amount \$158,500
Pearson provided an overview of the project. Discussion followed. Budd recommends that this project be deferred to the August meeting to consult with the Attorney General's Office.
Meadows moved, Banister seconded the motion to defer this project consideration until the August 2016 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 03-16-032 Seepie Springs Sagebrush Site visit Esther Wagner, Ken Banister
Request amount \$7,725
Wagner provided an overview of the project. They recommend full funding.
- 03-16-038 Willow Springs Water Site visit Kim Floyd, Bob Budd
Request amount \$119,996
Floyd provided an overview of the project. They recommend full funding.
- 03-16-003 Pole Mountain Vegetation Site visit Bob Budd, Kim Floyd
Request amount \$53,750
Floyd provided an overview of the project. Banister moved, Schramm seconded the motion to defer this project till August, 2016. Discussion followed. Banister voted yes to defer, Schramm, Fulton, Massie, Meadows, Wagner, Pearson and Downey all voted no. Motion defeated. Full funding is recommended.
- 03-16-039 Hams Fork Bridge Site visit Steve Meadows, Bob Budd
Request amount \$10,000
Meadows provided an overview of the project. He recommends full funding.
- 03-16-042 Government Draw Invasives Site visit Don Schramm, Bob Budd
Request amount \$36,000
Budd provided an overview of the project.

Massie moved to defer 03-16-013- Currant Creek Fish Passage, 03-16-024 – Green Mountain Aspen and Riparian Enhancement, and 03-16-042 – Government Draw Invasive Plant Monitoring/Treatment 2016, until the funding cycle. Fulton seconded. Motion carries unanimous.

Consent list: **Massie moved to fund projects at the recommended level with any exceptions on the list, Meadows seconded the motion.** Massie asks that 03-16-027, Little Red Creek Juniper Removal be removed from the consent list. Banister asks that 03-16-001, Rankin Creek Source Protection be removed from the consent list. Massie called the question.

03-16-001, Rankin Creek Source Protection – Banister recommends no funding on this project. **Massie moved to fund the project at the recommended level of \$10,000. Meadows seconded the motion.** Meadows asked Banister the reason for not recommending this project. Banister stated that there is no rancher money, no BLM money involved. Massie asked Budd why he recommended funding. Budd stated that this is the same type of project that we have funded in the past and he felt the benefits were positive for wildlife. Massie stated that the BLM is donating \$10,000 cash and other agencies are donating in kind. Discussion followed.

Haynes called the roll:

Banister - no

Downey - yes

Fulton - yes

Massie - yes

Meadows - yes

Pearson - yes

Schramm – yes

Wagner - yes

Floyd – yes

Motion to fund carries.

03-16-027 Little Red Creek Juniper **Meadows moved to fund the project at the requested \$7,500. Schramm seconded.** Discussion followed.

Haynes called the roll:

Banister - yes

Downey - yes

Fulton - yes

Massie - no

Meadows - yes

Pearson - yes

Schramm – yes

Wagner - yes

Floyd – yes

Motion to fund carries.

Old Business:

Wapiti Ridge Conservation Easement (Project 09-13-026, Contract 00111983)

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has presented a request to WWNRT to maintain the original \$300,000 funding allocation on this project. This project was originally estimated to have an appraised CE value of \$1.2 million. New appraisal numbers have reduced the CE value to \$750,000, which would increase WWNRT's percentage of total project cost from 25% to 40%. Budd provided details regarding this project and recommends that the board consider not approving this request ahead of closing. Discussion followed.

Meadows moved, Banister seconded the motion to not fund this project ahead of closing.

Haynes called the roll.

Banister - yes
Downey - yes
Fulton - yes
Massie - yes
Meadows - yes
Pearson - yes
Schramm – yes
Wagner - yes
Floyd – yes

Motion to not fund ahead of closing carries.

09-15-005, Red Desert to Hoback Migration Fencing Initiative (Wyoming Wildlife Federation)
The original request of \$155,000 was submitted in the September 2015 WWNRT funding cycle and was deferred at the December 2015 meeting. The WWNRT board had asked for a “big picture” to show the scope of the project. Steve Kilpatrick presented additional information on this project, which is related to the Mule Deer migration route. He provided details, including priority areas. 130 miles of fence that could be changed to wildlife friendly. There are three (3) landowners that are ready to go. The new funding request is \$169,500. **Meadows moved to approve this project at \$169,500. Fulton seconded the motion.** Discussion followed. This is new fence, not just replacing parts of the old fence. Banister asked for the total cost of the fence, which is approximately \$325,000.

Haynes called the roll.

Banister - yes
Downey - yes
Fulton - yes
Massie - yes
Meadows - yes
Pearson - yes
Schramm - no
Wagner – yes
Floyd - yes

Motion to fund carries.

New Business: There was no new business discussed.

Next Meeting: Rock Springs/Green River – August 9/10, looking at a tour of the Trona mine on August 9 @ 1 PM, with a board meeting on August 10. Meeting and tour details will be provided when available.

Adjournment: Chairman Floyd adjourned the meeting at 3:59 PM. At this time, the board moved to executive session.

Executive Session: 2016 WWNRT Partner of the Year selection