

**BOARD OF COUNTY PARKS BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**August 13, 2020**

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

Also present: Mike Haigler Parks Interim Director and Commissioner Brook Kaufman (liaison)

The Board approved the July 9th, 2020 minutes and the June 15th, 2020 minutes with corrections on page 3 of section "G" in the July 9<sup>th</sup> minutes. Jim Hill was changed to Jim Miller and page 1 of the June 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. WL was changed to WLC.

Parks Director Mike Haigler gave the following updates:

**MOUNTAIN:**

**1. Mountain Well Water System:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that the water system is still turned off. He is working with 609 Consulting (Barry Venn) to get permission from the DEQ and EPA to modify the existing well and correct deficiencies that were noted by the EPA almost two years ago. It will require a new casing, extending it 18 inches, repacking the surface infiltration, and taking the tank out of service. When the modifications are approved they will move ahead with the implementation and then they will be able to furnish water to the Trails Center only but would not furnish water to any of the campgrounds. He reported that it would most likely not get approved due to the cost. The type of system that goes to the campgrounds would need to be a public water drinking system. Mike reported that the current well needs to be fixed in order to provide water to the Trails Center, potentially put in a new pump if it's approved. A design will need to be submitted then someone contracted to do the work.

**Dave North:** Asked if there was a possibility to provided non-potable water to the campgrounds? What if they classify it as non-potable for clean-up and fire hazards?

**Mike Haigler:** Explained that the cost of a new system that meets EPA standards would be very expensive. You would have to redesign a whole water treatment system. This system was never designed to do that. It runs out of water at about this time every year and was not made for public utility or for putting out fires. It will supply water to the Trails Center. If they want to look at doing that it will stop the process from moving forward and it will cause delays on this project. As far as fires go they need to be put out with a shovel, it's just a re-educational process.

**Dave North:** Commented that he would like this project looked at later down the road.

## 2. Signage:

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that he provided some examples of kiosks. He was hoping to hear back from the Parks Board as to what they felt might be appropriate to replace the various sites throughout the mountain parks system. He reported that he hasn't received a whole lot of feedback on this. He is just kind of hanging out there right now on ordering until they come up with what everyone wants to see. He reported that maybe whoever is doing the shelter designs can spin off of that. He scheduled a meeting with Jeff Sun the GIS Instructor for Casper College. Jeff has agreed to have his students participate in mapping the existing signage on all the authorized County Trails on Casper Mountain on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with the County IT department and collect information on current signage. Once the data is collected it will be incorporated into a base map so that the data can be analyzed for accuracy. The next step would be to maybe come up with a task force to generate a master plan for signage on all County Trails. The students will only need to be paid for mileage.

**Jim Miller:** Comment that he had shown the examples to some people and most like example #3.

**Roy Buck:** Asked about the time frame and reported that he would like to see all the structures flow together as far as design is concerned.

**Mike Haigler:** Replied that the Grant was extended until next August so he believes they will be done by the next spring season.

## 3. Biathlon Venue:

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that Cathy Rosser wanted to be at the meeting but wasn't able to make it but will attend the next one. He had a meeting with Cathy and another gentleman to discuss improvement of trails. Cathy will be meeting with the Central Wyoming Trails Alliance and the user groups. He reported that at that meeting they had a question about trails that they wanted to improve but it was agreed that the County needs to come up with a Master Plan for trails on land owned or managed by the County. Mike reported that there needs to be a system because everyone wants something from bike trails, to horse trails, to walking trails, and they have good ideas but they need to work on an area that can get done, then work on another area, then another, until they have a finished product. Someone needs to take the initiative to say this is where we start and this is where we stop.

**Roy Buck:** Reported that one of his concerns is that he has been in contact with the CWTA as well as Jim Miller, Commissioner Kaufman, and Mike Haigler. He feels as though there are too many lines of communication and it needs to be organized. He reported that he felt that the Board should be the ones involved in that because their part is to collect information from the different user groups. He doesn't want to see them going directly to the Parks Director; or maybe they have a good line of communication with the Commissioners and are speaking to them but it needs to be established that there is a point of reference for the user groups to communicate with and there is a process.

**Mike Haigler:** Responded that it should be the Parks Director that brings it to the Board. That is the one line of communication. It flows from the Advisory Board to the Commissioners if it needs to. It could be a task force that works on it. Then you get a final product. Have public hearings on it as well. He replied that the County is not responsible for State Land, BLM land, or Private Land, and some of that is

in the mix. It needs to be focused on County Land. It was suggested that they have a task force that meets with the user groups and works on this project.

**Jim Miller:** Reported that they have informed Ben Smith, the new President of Central Wyoming Trails Alliance that they will need to provide a Master Plan but one has not been provided at this time.

#### **4. Trail Center Maze Area:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that Mr. Brubaker is working on building a temporary walkway and railing system around the new vaulted toilet. The Planning Department and Mike approved the temporary fix for winter and then the plan is to apply for a grant to build the permanent walkway and railing. The concrete work will be done next year. It will be ADA compliant.

#### **5. Rotary Park Bridal Trail Construction:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that a Notice of Award was issued to 383 Construction on June 29, 2020 and is awaiting the signed contract and insurance documents. The contractor will advise 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.

**Commissioner Kaufman:** Reported that they are waiting on the Commission to get the contract signed. There has been a delay due to figuring out the best way to address the grade at the top of the trail. WLC is working through some of that.

#### **6. Ponderosa Shelter:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that he spoke with the Ginsbach Construction on July 1<sup>st</sup>. to finalize the configuration of the building for windows and door placement. Approval of the plans were given on August 11th and construction is underway. Should be up there in September.

#### **7. Bear Trap Meadow Shelters:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that the roofs on all three shelters have been repaired for winter and the stone siding on the North shelter has been secured. A budget has been approved to design and build three new shelters by spring of 2021. The proposal hasn't gone in front of the County Commissioners yet but it will in their next meeting. As reported in the June meeting Stateline No. 7 (Lyle T. Mirtha, AIA) 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. They plan on having an opportunity for the public to participate in the selection of the final design. He anticipates all the designs will be the same. Mike also reported that with making everything ADA compliant they will most likely not be able to use the old foundations. The footprint will stay the same. Maybe a bit larger.

**B. PATHFINDER/ALCOVA UPDATE:**

**1. Road Maintenance:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that WLC is ready to go out for bid. The ADA drawings for the two picnic shelters are causing a bit of a delay. They used the BOR's on-line document but it didn't work out so CEPI has to draw it up. The NEPA study has been done.

**2. Drone Flight:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that aerial flight was completed for each of the following areas (Cabins, Trailer Park, Boat Club, and Ski Club) the data that was given to the BOR and after the meeting on 7 /9/20 the data was given back to CEPI so that they could fix the discrepancies and resubmit it to the BOR for their review and acceptance. He reported that It's hard to explain but the layering is messed up as far as colors go. Reporting that it's hard to tell what you're looking at. Converting Autocad to the GIS function caused it to get scrambled but CEPI is working on that now.

**3. Lights at the Pathfinder Boat Ramp:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that the contractor is still 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. In the event they do not find a suitable light this project will be incorporated into the Master Plan for the Pathfinder Marina area. This winter they are going out with a RFP to design a campsite at Pathfinder so some of these might have to be moved anyway, he is recommending that it goes into the engineering plan.

**4. Site Modification Process and Guidelines:**

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that 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. It is under his review right now then it will go out to the cabin and trailer owners so they know what the guidelines are at the Bureau. He anticipates these guidelines to go into place in September of 2020.

**Stuart Hill:** Asked if he could see those guidelines?

**Mike Haigler:** Replied yes he could get a copy. He will get a copy to all of the Board members.

## 5. Full Hookup Bath House:

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that Haass Construction started the foundation for the Bath House and block is going up this week. The paving was delayed because a couple spots were rented in January and they couldn't turn those people away. The next window that no one has rented a spot, is next month. The project appears to be on schedule for completion.

**Stuart Hill:** Asked if they are putting a shelter up?

**Mike Haigler:** Responded that yes there is one big shelter and they poured for that yesterday. Each individual site has a little shelter with it. Except one site due to the retaining wall. They have fire pits, water, electrical, and two are ADA compliant.

## 6. Master Plan Approvals:

**Mike Haigler:** Reported that the Casper Water Ski Club, Alcova Marina, and the Casper Boat Club are still awaiting their Master Plan approval from the BOR and the County. The Boat Club is re-working theirs so it has a narrative instead of just maps. He reported that a letter came in today because someone put in an approved boat dock but then added a raised pad behind it without approval. This happened two years ago. The Master Plan will be held up until it comes out.

## 7. Water/Sewer System:

The system at the lake has been functioning normally.

### Discussion Topics:

Parks Rules and Regulations are awaiting final approval. The wording was changed on a couple things. They had to go back through Eric to simplify the State Statues but they will be given to the Board members.

### Proposals and Permits:

All pending proposals and permits are under review for completeness and follow up submittals to the BOR for their approval.

### Public Comments:

There were not any public comments.

### Board Comments:

**Stuart Hill:** Commented that the rules need to get finished. He also commented that it is frustrating that we are spending lake money on things the public will never use and are angry about the roads. He stated that as landlords the County has been terrible. They put money into the trailer park that is a private area to get them electrical and sewer, so he doesn't see why we

can't do the roads. He asked why they were involved to manage a park when the BOR is making it so hard for them to do it?

**Dave North:** Commented that he agrees with Stuart 100%. They thought things were moving forward and they haven't been. He hopes things can get moving forward and he understands that Mike was handed a lot of stuff that he wasn't expecting, also commenting that there has been a lot of stuff this year that has happened that was beyond any of their control.

**Jim Miller:** Commented ditto to the rest of the board members. He wants to know more about the lodge situation. Commenting that Board members have not had the opportunity to look at the evaluation from the structural engineer. He was wondering if they were going to have anything in place by this fall.

**Commissioner Kaufman:** Responded that she doesn't want to speak on Commissioner Milne's behalf but she knows that he is reaching out to find temporary structures that could go up there but a lot of it did come back as faulty design and some lack of maintenance. She reported that the payment isn't going to be what they were hoping for so they are interested in a public-private partnership, which has been said before, potentially with the Rec Board, the School District, and the County. She recognizes that they have to have a solution.

**Jim Miller:** Commented that maybe some communication and a little pressure should be put on the School District by the County to get involved instead of just the board. Mr. Elbogen is in charge of the School District construction.

**Roy Buck:** Commented that he would like to thank Commissioner Kaufman and he asked about the County's Park Director position and if any decisions have been made.

**Commissioner Kaufman:** Responded that they have all talked about how Parks is a beast and they all know that. It's difficult to hire someone from a different place or from off the street. She posed the question; How do we get somebody under Haigler to work for two or three years then they would be prepared to run Parks'? Mr. Haigler would need to be able to really mentor and provide some education over a period of time.

**Mike Haigler:** Responded that right now is not a good time because of the time it would take him to mentor. He is getting everything organized and straightened out at this time and putting someone under him would not be a good idea. At this time things need to be organized and fires put out first. Putting someone in the Director's position would not be good because they would not know what they were doing and it would be setting them up for failure and he doesn't want to see that happen. The Parks Director's position is a very demanding job and can be overwhelming. Right now is just not the time to mentor someone or just put someone in there and have the same results they have seen before.

**Commissioner Kaufman:** Responded that she acknowledges that they can't give the best answer to that right now but the Commissioners fully support Mike.

**Roy Buck:** Replied that his concern is how to inform the public and keep the user groups engaged. He wanted to know the time frame on a job description.

**Mike Haigler:** Responded that he can't give a definite answer on that right now with everything else that is going on.

**Roy Buck:** Responded that he understood but thinks that due to winter sporting events he would think maybe by the end of September, if they even happen because so many things are up in the air right now.

**Stuart Hill:** Commented someone to work under Mike Haigler is what they are talking about.

**Mike Haigler:** Responded that it isn't that simple. It needs to move slower than it ever did. It needs to be structured. There needs to be direction. He wants to be fair to them and throwing someone out there and saying go work on this when right now he is not able to give guidance due to currently picking up the pieces and putting out fires so to speak is not fair to that person. He reported that there needs to be a Master Plan for Parks that doesn't change no matter what Commissioners and/or Board members come and go, the plan stays the same and continues to move forward. The changes hold everything up and nothing ever gets completed. Everyone wants the fast track and that doesn't work.

**Roy Buck:** Replied that that is fair enough.

**Commissioner Kaufman:** Commented that as far as signage and what a new lodge might look like; she is happy to help with that project. She asked if KLJ has anything about trails in the Master Plan that the County approved but didn't adopt. Maybe look at KLJ study and Bruce Lamberson has shown her another study she would like to look at. The Biathlon needs a conversation about the grooming this year. The Bear Trap shelter proposal pricing looks great but needs a really good public session. There is \$90,000.00 in the budget next year to fund those. She will follow up with the County Attorney on the parks rules and regulations.

**Jim Miller:** Commented that they have all received calls on the hazard of fires starting and asked who orchestrates the fire ban on the mountain?

**Mike Haigler:** Replied that he does as the Fire Warden. He reported that there is a fire ban in place right now. You can still have a fire but it has to be in the fire ring. He reported that fires have only started from lightening at this point in time.

**Roy Buck:** Asked if there was any further questions or comments. He acknowledged that there was not.

**Dave North:** Motioned for the meeting to be adjourned.

**Stuart Hill:** Seconded the motion.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

