

The Town of
Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming
NATURAL RESOURCE BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, April 8, 2022

Present: Greg Greenhoe – Chairman
Victor Padilla – Member
Ruzena Rok – Member
Paul Bordwell - Member
Craig Adler – Chair, Trails Committee/Trail Crew
Shirley Greenhoe, Chair, Parks and Landscaping Committee
Don Baillie (TSVR NRB Council Liaison)

Absent: Deb Adler - Alternate Member

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** Chairman G. Greenhoe called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.
2. **Review and Approval of Prior NRB Meeting Minutes.** P. Bordwell motioned to approve the final minutes as written from the February 22, 2022 NRB Meeting. V. Padilla seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **NRB Donation Account Report.** V. Padilla presented the account report. At the last meeting the Trails account balance was \$6,629.94. Since then, there have been expenditures for Cedar Creek and Prater fencing along with nails and trail tools for a total of \$1,700.91. Donations from Friends of the Bridger Teton (FBT) and for trails were received in the amount of \$3,300. The total Trails account balance is currently \$8,229.03. From last month, the General Fund account balance was \$10,934.52. Since then, expenditures include Fox Run Park fencing, fencing nails, stock tanks and the Weed Bounty Program for a total of \$7,896.65. Donations in the amount of \$405.00 were received for the Community Garden and Arbor Day. The General Fund account balance is currently \$3,442.87. The total for both the Trails account and the General Fund account is \$11,671.90. G. Greenhoe noted the NRB may have to move some money from the Trails account to the General Fund account this year. P. Bordwell motioned to approve the report, R. Rok seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **2022 NRB Budget.** G. Greenhoe noted that to date the NRB is spot-on in terms of execution of the 2022 budget. Next month V. Padilla will present a spreadsheet during the NRB meeting that shows what has been spent to date on each planned project.
5. **Trails Committee/Trail Crew Report.** C. Adler presented the Trails Committee report. [See **Appendix I** for the full Trails Committee report.]
 - All fencing was picked up on 11-12 March for the three 2022 budgeted projects. Over \$2,000 was saved by picking up the fencing directly from Pickeroon in Pinedale.
 - C. Adler relayed there was a downed fir tree at the Prater Canyon entrance that was blocking the access road. The tree top has been cut and also limbed and we need to figure out whether the cut limbs should be left or removed.
 - Since the last meeting the trail tools were sharpened at Victor's shop.

- There was a wet slide avalanche in early March along the north end of the Vista-Prater Trail. It took two days of effort to clear and reopen the trail for snowshoeing. Some early season trail work will also be required to remove debris once the snowmelt has completed.
 - C. Adler discussed the issue of parking congestion on Cedar Drive at the Prater Canyon National Forest access area. There is currently a sign about parking but it does not provide specifics on where parking should not be allowed. There is no space for large trailers to turnaround. The easiest solution may be a change to the signage (i.e., you can only park between “here and here” for example).
 - On 23 February G. Greenhoe and C. Adler met with Marinda Vechnak of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Greys River Ranger District.
 - The main topic of discussion was the Prater Canyon Trailhead project. The USFS provided preliminary approval of the project, however, they will require a walk-through before any work can begin. There are still some logistics to sort out, however, receipt of preliminary approval is a big deal. Signs have now been ordered and fencing has been procured.
 - Final trail numbers for Green Canyon complex trails and the Cedar Creek trail were also received from the USFS.
 - During the meeting with USFS, the proposed North Star trail project was also discussed, however, it appears the USFS does not have an interest in pursuing the effort at this time. G. Greenhoe commented that the USFS may have more interest in a Lost Creek to Dry Creek connector trail given that Dry Creek Canyon currently has no public access. C. Adler further elaborated that on the north side of Haystack Mountain along Dry Creek Canyon there is a gorgeous trail but no access to it due to private property restrictions. Access from Lost Creek would solve that problem. The latter project (if realized) would be a FBT effort (with potential volunteer assistance from our TSVR NRB Trails Crew).
 - One additional topic during the USFS meeting was trail accuracy on USFS maps; the TSVR NRB agreed to provide updated GPS tracking data to improve the maps.
 - C. Adler reported on other Trails Committee efforts beyond the USFS meeting. This June there will be a partnership project with FBT, TSVR Trail Crew and Silverstar volunteers to complete the Cedar Creek trailhead fencing project.
 - C. Adler noted that there was damage at Fox Run Park caused by Town plowing crews over the winter to include damage to log dividers that define the edge of the parking area, a broken Mutt-Mitt post as well as damage to the Mutt-Mitt sign/dispenser box. At a minimum marking of areas with “not to plow” indicators or signage might be helpful. Additional training for snow plow operators along with setting up a meeting with town public works personnel might also be useful to prevent damage in future. C. Adler stated he will work to get the Mutt-Mitt fixed as quickly as possible at Fox Run Park.
6. **Parks & Landscaping Committee.** S. Greenhoe presented the Parks & Landscaping Committee report. Gravel has not gone up in price since last season according to S. Greenhoe; this is a good thing given that the alley between the south end of Crop Circles Community Garden and the north end of Canine Commons Park will be graveled. The gravel is actually getting delivered tomorrow (April 9th). Work days for Crop Circles will be scheduled in May; the tentative window for adding new tanks to Crop Circles is 9 to 21 May.

Once this season's work is completed, the interior of Crop Circles will have a total of 24 tanks (with the addition of 9 this year). The Wyoming Hunger Initiative is now accepting infrastructure grants. There was discussion by the members on whether another grant should be sought at this time, however, the members did not come to a decision during the meeting. [See **Appendix II** for the full Landscaping Committee report.]

[Note: Subsequent to the meeting the members decided to apply for the Wyoming Hunger Initiative grant to try and obtain funding for the four (4) garden tanks that had to be cut out of the budget due to increased costs. To purchase these 4 - 6'x2'x2' raised bed tanks (to include the soil to fill them) will cost around \$1,350.]

7. **Firewise Program Revamp.** Prior to last year, to be part of the Firewise Program, residents would come to Town Hall and pick up an application in order to sign up. When new applications were received, Patty Pringle (from Lincoln County) would be called and she would arrange for a property inspection. Recently the grant that funded Patty at Lincoln County expired; thus, there is no longer a County Firewise POC. During her tenure Patty maintained a database of Firewise participants, however, the last update to the database appears to have been made in 2017. This makes it impossible to determine which TSVR residents were part of the original program. Therefore, G. Greenhoe proposed going forward that the NRB continues to promote Firewise and have residents put their brush out for annual pick-up. Property inspections can still occur on an ad-hoc basis as may be requested by residents. The new approach can be called "Firewise for All" and will still be conducted in concert with Safety Day. Councilman Baillie will bring up this new approach with the Town at the next Council workshop.
8. **War-on-Weeds.** G. Greenhoe relayed that Lincoln County cannot support a War-on-Weeds Day that occurs on a Saturday this year. They can, however, support this effort on a weekday. Therefore, War-on-Weeds Day will be rescheduled to occur on Thursday, 16 June when the Lincoln County Weed and Pest crews can be available to support the event.
9. **Arbor Day.** G. Greenhoe said a gardener suggested that on the north side of the community garden (between the fence for the garden and the walking path) fruit trees should be planted. Arbor Day donations are currently at about \$1,200-\$1,400 with another few hundred expected. The NRB members agreed with buying fruit trees for planting this year.
10. **Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance and Information Packet Update.** R. Rok provided an update on the Town's STR ordinance effort. The ordinance was finally approved during the 16 March Town Council meeting. Applications are now available for STR property owners to pick up as part of the permitting process. Additionally, a TSVR Information Binder and Poster have also been developed that STR property owners will place in their rental units. The binder along with the poster provide information to renters on Town rules, regulations and activities.
11. **Updated Final Calendar of Events 2022.** G. Greenhoe distributed the most recent update to the 2022 NRB Events & Activities calendar [see **Appendix III**].

12. **Deer Feeding & Carcass Removal.** G. Greenhoe reviewed this topic for the NRB members present. The Wyoming Game & Fish department no longer picks up deer carcasses. TSVR residents that find a dead deer on their property now have two options. Option one is to move the deer to a wild and undeveloped portion of the property and allow nature to take its course. The carcass will be rapidly consumed by birds and other animals. The second option is for the resident to transport the carcass to the Thayne Landfill (at 945 Strawberry Creek Road south of Thayne) where the carcass will be disposed of in the landfill.
13. **May Newsletter Articles.** G. Greenhoe noted a newsletter will be published in May and that efforts to promote Arbor Day will be front and center. The NRB will also plan an article for the newsletter about the STR Ordinance.
14. **New Business.** There was a brief discussion by the meeting participants about E-bikes and whether or not they are allowed on mountain bike trails. E-bikes come in Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3; Class 3 has a throttle and can be ridden on the road. By rule, local Bridger-Teton National Forest could make their own decision to allow Class 1 or 2 E-bikes on trails; but for now, nothing has been decided for the state of Wyoming. As E-bikes have already been seen on our local trails, some signage update about these types of bikes may be necessary in future – especially on Cedar Creek Trail.
15. **Next Meeting & Adjournment.** The next NRB meeting is planned for 2:00pm, Tuesday, May 31st 2022 at the TSVR Town Hall. V. Padilla motioned for the meeting to adjourn with a second from P. Bordwell. The NRB meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

APPENDIX I**Trails Committee Report - 7 April, 2022**

- **11-12 March / Buck and Pole Fencing Pick-Up for 2022 Projects**
 - Finish Cedar Trailhead Fence (Along Golf Tee-National Forest Boundary)
 - Fox Run Park Fence
 - Prater Trailhead Project
 - 2 Round Trips to Pinedale - Pickeroon Timber Products
 - Used Town Truck & Trailer
 - 88 Bucks & 348 Poles, Transported - Unloaded at Town Maintenance Yard

- **10 January / Initial Clearing of Downed Fir Tree at Prater Entrance**
 - Large tree down at entrance to National Forest - Prater Canyon
 - Limbed and Cut top of tree which was blocking the access road
 - Tree next to / on top of Town Water system box
 - Additional clearing and removal of branches / limbs required this spring

- **February - Trail tools sharpened for 2022 season**
 - Moved all Fiskar Pruners, Loppers, Super Loppers, and 4 Hoes to Victor Padilla's shop
 - Victor sharpened all tools - ready for Spring 2022 Trail Crew work (Thanks Victor!)

- **7 - 8 March - Wet Slide Avalanche Closure, Vista-Prater Trail, North End**
 - 4 Hours - 2 Days effort to re-open the trail for hiking/snow shoes
 - Some downed tree limbs & debris will require removal after spring melt

APPENDIX I (continued)

- **12 March - Parking Congestion - Cedar Drive-Prater Canyon National Forest Access**
 - Weekend snow machine use spiked in March 2022
 - Ten vehicles parked on Cedar Drive from Forest boundary west for 150 yards
 - Five large pick-ups with large snow machine trailers
 - Pick-ups/trailers required to back down west on Cedar and turn around on private drives

- **23 February - Meeting with Marinda Vechnak, US Forest Service, Greys River Ranger District**
 - Primary discussion - Prater Trailhead project for late summer 2022
 - Tentative approval, positive feedback, pending walk-thru of site before construction
 - Received final **Trail #'s** for Green Canyon complex trails and Cedar Creek trail
 - Trail Number signs ordered - install this summer
 - Asked about "North Star" trail
 - Discussed trail accuracy on USFS maps, will forward updated GPS tracking data

- **15 June 2022 (9am-3:30pm) - TOSVR Trail Crew, Friends of the Bridger Teton, and Silverstar Volunteers - Partnership / Project at Cedar Creek Trailhead**
 - Silverstar offered to volunteer for a community project
 - Coordinated this resource to help complete the fencing project at Cedar Creek TH
 - Project will involve removing existing steel fence posts and constructing Buck and Pole
 - Approximately 5 Silverstar volunteers & 2-3 Trail Crew (fence building experience)

- **4 April - Damage to Fox Run Park by winter plowing**
 - Survey of Fox Run park showed several areas of damage/debris from winter plowing
 - Need to approach TOSVR with better options for winter snow removal to avoid damage
 - Will possibly use trails funds to purchase tall markers to identify boundaries

APPENDIX I (continued)



APPENDIX I (continued)



APPENDIX I (continued)



APPENDIX I (continued)



APPENDIX II**NRB Meeting April 7, 2022****Parks and Landscaping Committee Report****CROP CIRCLES:**

Price of gravel, road base and washed gravel, has stayed much the same as last time we ordered. Delivery fee also close to the same. This year's order will be 15 ton road base and 8 ton gravel.

Ordered and will be delivered tomorrow, Friday, in the morning.

Price of top soil and grower mix has doubled since our last order. Delivery fee has also doubled. Order will be 8 cubic yards top soil and 5 cubic yards Grow mix.

We have new gardeners and return gardeners. Fewer gardeners than our now 24 garden tanks so a drawing determined who would get and second tank to garden.

Inquiries about the community garden continue to arrive. These folks will be included in the garden tank assignments for next growing season (2023).

- Hunger Initiative Infrastructure Grant cycle is open now must apply by 8:pm Monday April 18.

APPENDIX III

Town of Star Valley Ranch Natural Resource Board

NRB Events & Activities - 2022

Thursday, May 5 th	Green Canyon Trailhead Maintenance
Thursday, May 12 th	Cedar Creek Trailhead Maintenance
Monday May 9 th thru Saturday, May 21 st	Community Garden Construction
Thursday, May 27 th thru Sat., Aug 6 th	Trail Maintenance (Thurs, Fri, Sat)
Saturday, May 28 th	Town Entrance Cleanup
Saturday, June 4 th	Fox Run Park Cleanup
Saturday, June 11 th	Arbor Day
Thursday, June 16 th	War-on-Weeds Day
Saturday, July 9 th	Firewise and Public Safety Day*
Monday July 25 th to Friday, July 29 th	Firewise Pickup
Friday & Saturday, August 19 th & 20 th	Garage Sale for Trails & Parks
Saturday, October 22 nd	Town Entrance Fall Cleanup

*The Natural Resource Board will participate in the Firewise & Public Safety Day but the NRB is not the lead for this event. Event lead is Councilman Denney and SMO Rodgers.