

The Town of
Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming
NATURAL RESOURCE BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Present: Greg Greenhoe – Chairman
Victor Padilla – Member
Paul Bordwell – Member
Ruzena Rok – Member
Deb Adler – Alternate Member (by phone)
Craig Adler – Chair, Trails Committee/Trail Crew
Shirley Greenhoe, Chair, Parks and Landscaping Committee

Absent: Deborah Bohannon – Member
Don Baillie – TSVR NRB Council Liaison

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** Chairman G. Greenhoe called the meeting to order at 4:08pm. Deborah Bohannon (a new member) will be introduced next time as she is out sick today.
2. **Review and Approval of Prior NRB Meeting Minutes.** P. Bordwell motioned to approve the final minutes as written from the May 31, 2022 NRB Meeting. R. Rok seconded and the motion passed unanimously. [*Note: See Paragraph 3 for additional discussion regarding the NRB May Meeting Minutes.*]
3. **NRB Donation Account Report.** V. Padilla presented the account report. Since the last NRB meeting in May, for the General Fund Account there have been expenditures in the amount of \$155.78. Donations of \$1,215 for Arbor Day and \$80 for community garden water were also received. Additionally, a Wyoming Hunger Initiative Grant in the amount of \$1,356.92 was deposited bringing the General Fund balance to \$4,995.52. For the Trails Account, receipts included donations of \$325, \$20 for the sale of two trail books, and a garage sale amount of \$305. There were no expenditures for the Trails Account bringing the balance to \$5,853.84. The total for both accounts is currently \$10,849.36.

There was discussion among the members that the Trails Account balance just reported might be incorrect based on the fund balance for Trails reported in the May NRB meeting minutes. After further review it was discovered that the Trails Account balance reported in the May meeting minutes was recorded incorrectly. A correction to the May minutes will be issued. Subsequently, P. Bordwell amended his prior motion (*see Paragraph 2*) to approve the May meeting minutes to include a correction to the May accounts report. D. Adler seconded. The amended motion passed unanimously. To close out discussion of the June NRB Donation Account Report, R. Rok motioned to approve the account report with a second from V. Padilla. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **2022 NRB Budget.** V. Padilla provided a review of the 2022 NRB budget of \$21,175. To date, a total of \$13,986 or 66% of the budget has been expended leaving a current budget balance of \$7,729.

- 5. Trails Committee/Trail Crew Report.** C. Adler presented the Trails Committee report. During the month of June there has been extensive downed tree removal on Cedar Creek Trail and Vista-Prater Trail. The big news is that subsequent to the 13 June meeting with the Forest Service approval was received for the Prater Canyon trail. That means the Prater Canyon project is a “Go” and work has already started to reroute the trail to get rid of the scree chute access. Fencing and signage have also already been purchased, however, gabion baskets, et al will still need to be procured. Additionally, during the 13 June Forest Service meeting G. Greenhoe and C. Adler discussed winter parking at Prater Canyon with Marinda and Ranger Justin Laycock. The Forest Service seemed receptive to possibly allowing a parking area about 25 yards up from the entrance of the trail where there is already a disturbed area. This would help alleviate some parking issues but would not address large trailer turnaround. The Town could potentially plow this area in the winter, but that would require further coordination with the Town. Another option to consider would be to have trailers park across from Town Hall and then snow-machines could be ridden from there up to the trailhead. G. Greenhoe mentioned there might be opportunity to apply for a grant to pay for the Town’s work to creak the new parking area. The participants discussed installing additional signage to warn snowmobilers that Prater Canyon is for advanced snow machine riders only. The latter would have to be proposed to the Town Council as it would require coordination with the Town and the Forest Service. C. Adler relayed other June activities and items to include the SilverStar/Friends of the Bridger Teton project on 15 June, a spruce tree that was recently removed from the spruce grove (possibly by an outfitter), and the “Cargo Crossing” dedication to be held on 18 or 19 August followed by a small gathering with the family. D. Adler was able to contact Mehta and 1,500 trail books have been ordered. The cost for NRB is \$8 each so the new sales price will be \$15. Previously NRB only paid \$5 per book and sold them for \$10. NRB will also use the new \$15 price for any remaining trail books. The participants discussed how many trail books to buy and decided on a quantity of 300 (at a cost of \$2,400). NRB will need to get an invoice from Mehta so that a check can be issued from the Trails fund. P. Bordwell made a motion to buy 300 trail books and D. Adler seconded. The motion was approved. The funds will come out of the Trails budget. [See **Appendix I** for the full Trails Committee report.]
- 6. Parks & Landscaping Committee.** S. Greenhoe presented the Parks & Landscaping Committee report. Arbor Day was a success with 3 fruit trees, 10 aspen trees and 1 fir tree planted. S. Greenhoe noted that three aspen trees planted several years ago appear to be dying, however, the cause has not been identified. The participants discussed possibly having trees sprayed in future to deter fungal-type infections. S. Greenhoe relayed that the Wyoming Hunger Initiative Grant of \$1,356.92 was received and will be used to pay for additional oval tanks in the alley. Gardeners at Crop Circles have also now been informed of StarValleyWeather.com which will enable them to see a weather forecast adjacent to the Crop Circles Garden. The participants discussed bumping up the remaining Parks & Landscaping budget to an even \$2,000 for use on the Community Garden (i.e., adding another \$643.08 to the Hunger Initiative Grant funding). P. Bordwell motioned for the additional funding, Ru seconded and the motion was approved. The final item on the Parks & Landscaping report was the need to start watering trees and coordinating with the Town to get tank and truck to use. [See **Appendix II** for the full Landscaping Committee report.]

7. **War-on-Weeds.** G. Greenhoe provided a recap of War-on-Weeds Day. Six crews from Lincoln County Weed and Pest were on site and provided assessment and spraying of weeds as requested by Town residents. Crews also hit weed hotspots to include some vacant lots along Last Chance Drive and other areas. Spraying also occurred on Spruce Drive along the utility pathway that cuts through from the top of Spruce Drive down to the top of Evergreen Drive. Roadside spraying was accomplished on the Tuesday and Wednesday prior to War-on-Weeds Day. Spraying of the two orphan rights-of-way in Plat 4 that "T" over to the Stewarts and behind the barn was also accomplished. G. Greenhoe will be meeting with the Men's Golf Association next week and will look at the Weed Bounty Program sometime toward the end of July.
8. **Arbor Day Recap.** G. Greenhoe referred the meeting participants to the recap of Arbor Day already provided during the meeting as part of the Parks & Landscaping report.
9. **Firewise & Public Safety Day, July 9th.** G. Greenhoe stated the NRB needs to have a presence at Public Safety Day which will occur at the First Response Center from 10am to 1pm. The aim will be to hand out information, sell books, hats, etc., and to answer any questions on the revamped Firewise program.
10. **New Business.** P. Bordwell asked about ownership of land near the Town Maintenance Yard and Crop Circles as a possible area for pickle ball courts. After discussion the members determined that area is not really feasible for adding pickle ball courts. R. Rok asked about possibly incorporating a Spring Clean Up day in 2023 maybe in concert with Arbor Day. The members discussed possibly having a Clean Up Day in 2023 in coordination with Firewise.
11. **Next Meeting & Adjournment.** The next NRB meeting is planned for 2:00pm, Thursday, July 28, 2022 at the TSVR Town Hall. P. Bordwell motioned for the meeting to adjourn with a second from R. Rok. The NRB meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

APPENDIX I

Trails Committee Report - 28 June, 2022

The month of June was characterized by extensive Downed Tree Removal from our trails, the addition of 39 section of Buck and Pole fencing at Cedar Trailhead & Fox Run Park, 50% of routine trail maintenance completed, and approval by the Forest Service of our Prater Canyon trailhead project.

- **1 June / One Large Aspen tree removal & clean-up**
 - Large downed aspen tree cut back and cleaned off the Vista-Prater trail, Short Spur

- **2 June / Maple Trail maintenance completed - Started Valley View maintenance**
 - One large tree removed just prior to the S turn
 - Medium trail maintenance, trimming and tread work

- **3 June / North End Vista-Prater Trail maintenance**
 - Heavy trail maintenance, trimming, tread repair
 - Add 3 x logs to stabilize Trail Tread along retaining wall section
 - Extensive limbing to open up trail around dense trees

- **4 June / Fox Run Park - Initial Buck and Pole Fence construction**
 - Eleven sections of Buck and Pole fence installed along Hardman road

- **5 June / Cedar Creek Trailhead repairs**
 - One Broken Pole repair
 - Filled Mutt Mitt dispenser

APPENDIX I (continued)

- **8 June / Cedar Creek Trail - Tree Removal**
 - Removed 5 large downed Fir Trees & re-routed around a 6th Very Large tree

- **9 June / Fox Run Park - Buck and Pole Fence construction**
 - Completed another 12 sections of Buck and Pole fencing

- **10 June / Vista-Prater north end trail maintenance completed to Valley View Intx.**
 - Heavy tread maintenance, trimming and limbing
 - Installed 6 x Re-Bar at retaining logs, Retaining wall section of trail

- **12 June / Cedar Creek Trail - Tree Removal**
 - 3 Large Fir trees removed, Tread cleared

- **13 June / Met with Forest Service, Prater Canyon Trailhead and Winter Parking**
 - Site Survey at Prater Canyon entrance, discussed winter parking options
 - Site visit to Vista Prater Trailhead @ Prater to view trailhead and trail work
 - Site Survey at Prater turnaround, Approval for trailhead design

- **15 June / Silverstar & FOTBT Project at Cedar Trailhead and Fox Run Park**
 - Removed existing steel fence posts and barbed wire along National Forest boundary
 - Installed 8 sections Buck and Pole fence, Cedar Trailhead, project complete
 - Installed 8 sections Buck and Pole fence, Fox Run Park, along Hardman Road

- **16 June / Valley View trail maintenance / Memorial Rocks - Cedar**
 - Completed heavy trail maintenance from Green Canyon Road to the Rock Feature
 - Retrieved 3 x River Rock for the Cargo Crossing Cairn

APPENDIX I (continued)

- **17 June / Vista Prater trail maintenance from Green Canyon north**
 - Extensive trimming, limbing from Green Canyon to first bench
 - Tread repair and widening

- **24 June / Prater Trailhead Design & Initial Trail Re-route**
 - Design layout for the new Prater Trailhead
 - Completed 30 yards of the trail access re-route

- **25 June / Valley View trail maintenance**
 - Heavy trail maintenance from Rock Feature to below VV Bench
 - Tread widening in steeper trail sections

- **26 June / Cedar Creek trail - Tree Removal**
 - Removed 10 medium to large Fir trees from the trail [mile 2.0 to mile 4.0]
 - Tread maintenance, root removal, limb removal [mile 2.0 to mile 4.0]

The month of July will focus on finishing the Fox Run Park fencing, finishing the Green Canyon complex trail maintenance, and beginning heavy maintenance on the Cedar and Prater trails.

APPENDIX II**Parks and Landscaping Comm.****Report****June 28, 2022**

Successful Arbor Day celebration held in the parking area of Crop Circles. Trees planted on that day and during the preceding week. Three fruit trees planted, 2 varieties of apple and a peach. Ten aspen and one fir planted along the west side of Canine Commons.

Sadly, 3 aspens appear to be dead or nearly dead. Have looked into fungus and bug kill for aspen, but no obvious cause to these untrained eyes. Perhaps we need an arborist to diagnose the problem.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative, Infrastructure Grant awarded to Crop Circles, 1356.92\$. This will pay for a few more oval tanks and soil to install in the alley. Produce raised can be shared with our gardeners and importantly with the Thayne Food Bank per the Hunger Initiative program "Grow a Little More"

Crop Circles are all 24 garden tanks are assigned a few have yet to be planted. Likely not much of a hinderance given the rough cold weather we have had this spring. Fingers crossed for a late frost this fall.