

**Town of Star Valley Ranch
Natural Resource Board**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 20, 2023 – 2:00 PM, Town Hall

Present: Victor Padilla – Chairman
Paul Bordwell – Member
Craig Adler – Chair, Trails Committee/Trail Crew
Deb Adler – Alternate Member
Debbie LaJeunesse – Member
Joanne Leeper – Member
Ruzena Rok – Town Council Liaison

Absent: Deborah Johnson – Chair, Parks and Landscaping Committee

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** Chairman Victor Padilla called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. There was a quorum.
2. **Review and Approve Minutes from the March 23, 2023, NRB Meeting.** Discussion of some changes made yesterday. A motion to accept revised minutes made by Paul B, second by Deb Adler, motion passed unanimously.
3. **NRB Donation Account Report – Victor.** No new donations during the past month.
4. **2023 NRB Budget.** Victor presented the report, which is the same as presented in the last meeting. There is \$8,658.73 on the General side, and Trails total of \$9,920.92 which brings a NRB total of \$18,579.65. Motion to approve by Paul B, second by Debbie L, and the motion passed unanimously.

No money has been spent yet, but there will be repairs made soon, replacement trees will be ordered, replacement signs, etc. and the monies for these items will come out of the NRB budget. Ru will discuss the signpost (still buried by snow) and bent by Town plowing. The kiosk/plexiglass needs to be repaired/replaced. Estimated cost approximately \$100.

There had been discussion with the town about installing posts to delineate roads and parking areas but none of that happened. Discussion of snowmobiles around and over signs because of all the snowpack, if this trend continues, snow pole might need to be even taller.

5. Trails Committee/Trail Crew Report – Craig.

*Craig shared that tools have been collected and are being sharpened.

Craig discussed the Town website with Kristin and the Forest Service Link now connects to the Bridger-Teton National Forest site.

*Also, there is an NRB link and a separate Parks and Recs link but we should consider combining them to avoid confusion.

*Volunteers: one new volunteer and John Blakely (previous volunteer) was grading and keeping an eye on the trailhead, and he would be willing to do that again.

*Spring flooding potential, see April 10 memo: the potential is very high this year due to snow depths and could last between 6 to 8 weeks. Victor was in touch with the mayor about flooding and culverts around town. Concern about the road between East Forest and Cedar because there hasn't been any type of prevention work, also with Muddy String Road at Prater Canyon - the culvert is clogged with silt and logs, but this is a County Road problem, but the Town can stress the potential risks. This also applies to where the concrete spillway was on Cedar Drive.

*The culvert on Prater Canyon access road (B-T National Forest) was clogged and cleaned out in 2021 following a flash flood. 2022 flooding completely clogged the culvert again and it may cause problems with the anticipated spring snow melt. Sandbags, sand and shovels have been delivered by the County and are available for all county residents, not just SVR. Other potential flooding areas could be Hardman areas, also Wickel Easement (on private land). Craig was also going to attend the Association meeting to discuss flooding potential.

*Craig met with Miranda / USFS about the Non-Funded Challenge Cost Share Agreement. Previously, Greg Greenhoe was the Program Contact and Greg Wilkes was the Administrative Contact. Victor Padilla will be the new Program Contact and Kristin Gray will be the new Administrative Contact. The agreement should also include an Annual Operating Plan outlining our Plan of Work.

*Arbor Day flyers are posted. The Trail Crew has been working on Cedar Creek & Vista-Prater trails for show shoe activity and to keep signs, Mutt Mitt dispensers, and bridges open - - and visible to snow machines.

*Discussed Fox Run Park and Tool shed.

*Prater Canyon Parking – There were 5 vehicles on a Saturday. The No Parking signs weren't up and it's a new system. Hopefully next year, there will be a real parking area with room for snow/heavy equipment to turn around on the National Forest. There might also be new construction of a private home in the area which would also cause more congestion.

*Cedar Trailhead and Bridge, they were pretty unsafe with all the snow piled up so steps were carved into snow to make a safer crossing.

6. Parks & Landscaping Committee - Community Garden Update, other. Deborah J was still in Germany but Deb Adler will fill in for her next Thursday, from 1 to 2 p.m. to get people signed up for garden tanks and pay their \$10 water bill.

Discussed ordering Aspen trees from MD Nursery to replace damaged trees, a little Christmas tree, and new trees by dog park. There will be another Arbor Day notice in the newsletter asking for donations,

and brass plaques will be ordered. Need to budget for another kiosk for next year as the current one is getting beat up. Arbor Day celebration will be June 10th.

Also, some things need to be moved to the storage shed, like spray bottles, backpacks, chemicals, etc.

7. Old Business. Ron Denney, Town Council called to discuss Firewise program.

The Economic Development Board was canceled per Paul due to lack of interest, but this board is going to morph into a new Board. Potential ideas were some kind of commercial such as where the red barn is (owned by private owner), or on other Town property (ideas included a fire/EMT station, small market/liquor store, etc.).

Discussion of board members and their terms - so we will need new Board members and/or alternate members.

8. New Business. Association hours have been 8/9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, but they are going to hire a part-time person to work later hours on Thursdays, and short-term hours on Fridays and Saturdays.

Star Valley Independent summer magazine – submissions must be made by April 25th so we should have a submission ready for next year, about the trails, parking, trail heads etc. Not much money for a quarter page and good exposure for out-of-town people.

Sign update from Ru, Town Council – new ordinance did pass the third reading which eliminated the exemption for political signs and state signs in the Town's right of way, all other parts of the ordinance are the same.

Discussed one main sign directing folks to different trails.

Audubon Society, Rocky Mtn Division out of Colorado will do presentations about preventing birds from colliding with windows, which could be a nice addition to the Arbor Day celebration.

9. Next Meeting. May 16, 2023 @ 2:00 PM, Town Hall.

Paul made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Deb A, which passed. The NRB meeting adjourned at 3:18.