

Minutes
Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
November 21, 2024

In attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Janette Shaffer, Jim Deshler, Mark Martin, Susan McDowell and Greg Rouleau

1. **Call to Order:** 5:38 pm
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** Open Meeting Law Rules requiring a physical location option for Meetings and discussion on pros and Cons of Task Force Vs Committee if time allows (Chris).
3. **Agenda Items:**

Communication Agreement & Mission Statement – Reading

Approval of Minutes- October 3, 2024. Motion to approve -Greg, Seconded - Jim. All in favor motion passes.

City Council Request- An Appearance before Council to present the Committee's charge was requested. Committee reviewed and approved the submittal of the existing Committee Mission and Vision statement. At the Council Meeting the Committee representatives will also bring to the Councils attention the Cow Pasture Management Plan and progress made on Plan recommendations. Chris will reach out to Council to schedule an appearance.

Sno-Bee Agreement: Greg will schedule an appearance before Council for approval of their Landowner Permission Form. It will include the attachment that describes additional terms and conditions (Updated November 2021). Greg will ensure that the gate is opened and secured, and all agreed upon signage identified in the attachment is installed and removed at the end of the season and gate closed.

Recreation Trails Grant 2025: The Committee will not pursue this Grant for 2025. Finalizing the ERSA Grant and associated Trail Assessment will be a priority for 2025. The Trail Assessment will include numerous trail improvement recommendations, and it will be used to justify the need for future trail work. The goal is to apply for a Grant for work to be completed in 2026.

ERSA Update and Decisions:

Trail Assessment: The ERSA Sub-Committee reviewed the incomplete draft and provided Zac with needed revisions and comments on 11-6-2024. When completed by Zac completed draft will be reviewed by the sub-committee and shared with the full Committee for their review/comments/recommendations and approval.

Trail Work: The two remaining trail projects that were to be completed by Apex Trailworks were completed November 21st.

Routes, Signs and Trail names: The Committee will revisit discussions from the October 3rd Meeting at the Committees January 16, 2025 meeting.

Reporting to State: Jim confirmed that Janet has been and will continue to provide the State with required documents for reimbursement.

Budget: Janet Shatney has been tracking expenditures and provided the sub-committee with a copy which does not include the 11-21-24 Invoice from Apex Trailworks. She has been in correspondence with the Public Works Department regarding their in-kind work and removal of the Hazardous trees along the M4-1 trail that had been budgeted separately.

In-Kind City Work: The Public Works Department was quick to respond to a request for a site visit and completed all in-kind work that included the removal of hazardous trees along the M4-1 trail.

Tool Purchase: Some trail tools budgeted for in the Grant have been purchased. Motion (Greg): To allow Jim to purchase additional tools, not to exceed \$800. Seconded: Janette. All in favor. Motion passes.

Advisory Groups:

Invasive Plant Control: Susan provided an update on two initiatives.

- 1) October 12th event to cut and wrap buckthorns resulted in a significant number of shrubs being either dug out or cut and stumps wrapped. A large brush pile with seedheads will be burned this winter as

per conditions outlined by the City Fire Department. Five members and two volunteers worked for 3 hours for a total of 21 hours. The pile will be covered to keep the pile dry.

2) Several Committee Members made a pledge to remove invasives. All pledges have been fulfilled.

Conservation & Access: Not discussed as a result of Zoom link disconnect.

Committee Membership and Member Recruitment (1): Not discussed as a result of Zoom link disconnect.

Open Meeting Law Rules requiring a physical location option for Meetings and discussion on pros and Cons of Task Force Vs Committee: Not discussed as a result of Zoom link disconnect.

4. **Adjourn:** Chris adjourned the Meeting by email at 6:35 because of an abrupt disconnect from the Zoom platform and inability to reconnect. Jannette will follow up with City staff.