

**MINUTES**  
Blaine County Levy Advisory Board  
Regular Meeting  
May 13, 2020  
Old County Courthouse  
206 S 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
Hailey Idaho  
&  
GoTo Meeting Remote

I. Call to Order and Quorum Determination

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jim Phillips, at 6:03pm.

The members of the Levy Advisory Board (LAB) were present at the Old County Courthouse and participating in the GoToMeeting as follows: LAB Chairman Jim Phillips and Denise Ford, The members of the LAB participating remotely in the GoToMeeting were present as follows: Alan Reynolds, Lili Simpson, Nancy Linscott, Abby Rivin, Kurt Eggers, Rob Santa, and Jay Sevy Also Present at the Old County Courthouse and participating in the GoToMeeting: Tom Bergin, Blaine County Land Use Department Director, Wendy Pabich, Land, Water, and Wildlife Program (LWWP) Administrator, and, representing the applicant Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) Stewardship & Outreach AmeriCorps member Mikie McDonnell , and WRLT Lands Program Manager Keri York

II. Review of Wood River Land Trust's Colorado Gulch Preserve Pollinator Project Funding Request

LAB Chairman Jim Phillips introduced the project and noted Staff's recommendation that the LAB review the application through the Expedited Review Process.

LAB-member Linscott disclosed her involvement as a volunteer for the WRLT Student Conservation Council as a representative of The Sage School, a project partner. She stated that this role does not affect her ability to objectively review the application.

Mike McDonnell, WRLT Stewardship & Outreach AmeriCorps member and representing the applicant, presented the project. She described the global and local factors that contribute to the decline of pollinator populations, which include global climate change. She noted that the replacement of native species with ornamental plants has resulted in the loss of their food source locally. McDonnell emphasized the importance of native plants in their ability to mitigate pollinator population decline. She explained this relationship is reciprocal as pollinators increase the genetic diversity of native plants, which is crucial for the sustainability of local farms and gardens that contribute to the Wood River Valley.

McDonnell presented maps of the 12-acre Meadow Area within the WRLT Colorado Gulch Preserve and the Hailey Greenway.

McDonnell highlighted the project conservation goals that meet the objectives of the Land, Water, and Wildlife Project (LWWP), including habitat restoration for the Morrisons Bumblebee, Suckleys Bumblebee, Western Bumblebee, and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

McDonnell detailed the plans and specifications for the construction of the pollinator islands, including their placement and associated treatments. She explained the process of transplanting and listed the native seeds sourced from Thorn Creek Native Seed Farm used for the islands. She also listed the native plants growing within The Sage School Greenhouse that will be transplanted within the islands.

McDonnell explained the project's monitoring plan for the native vegetation and pollinator population.

McDonnell noted the partners associated with the project, including The Sage School. She presented the budget for the first year of the project and noted grants attained through Idaho Gives and Project Wow. McDonnell concluded her presentation by presenting the proposed budget for the second and third years of the project and the applicant's funding request from the LWWP.

LAB-member Ford asked the applicant to explain the proposed changes to the budget and funding request. McDonnell explained the costs associated with the project, including the budget proposed for seeds, island construction, weed treatments, and wildlife abatement fencing. LAB-member Ford asked the applicant to explain the funding request change that increased from \$3,000 specified in the application and Staff Report to \$8,392.66 presented at the meeting.

LAB-Chair Jim Phillips asked if Staff had the opportunity to review the updated budget to assess whether associated costs are eligible for LWWP funds. LWWP Administrator Wendy Pabich responded that Staff hadn't had the chance to review the updated budget presented by the applicant at the meeting.

LAB-member Lili Simpson noted that the Expedited Process Guidelines state that the Board of County Commissioner's ("Board") direction should be considered in the LAB's decision to activate an Expedited Process. Simpson asked if the Board should review the project for their consideration as an Expedited Process prior to the LAB's final review of the application.

Pabich responded that Staff had considered requesting input from the Board regarding initiating the Expedited Process for this project. She explained that Staff decided to take the application directly to the LAB for their consideration as the project aligned with LWWP goals and the applicant requested a small amount of funding in their application. She noted that the

proposed change to the budget presented at the meeting increasing the funding request affects Staff's recommendation to activate the Expedited Process.

The LAB discussed the budget as proposed in the application and referenced in the Staff Report compared with the increased funding request presented at the meeting.

WRLT Lands Program Manager York asked the LAB and Staff about the additional steps required to move the project through the Expedited Process instead of the Full Application.

Blaine County Land Use Department Director Tom Bergin explained that the Expedited Process was created for projects with smaller funding requests approximately less than \$15,000 to accelerate the review process. He noted that the Expedited Process advances a project directly to Full Application waiving the LAB's review of the Pre-Application.

LAB-Chair Phillips clarified that the LAB may also initiate the Expedited Process in their review of Pre-Application waiving the Full Application requirement. He noted that the LAB must determine whether to consider this project for an Expedited Process or as a Pre-Application. Phillips stated the challenge to initiating the Expedited Process for this project was the updated budget presented at the meeting and whether adequate time was given for Staff and LAB review of the updated funding request.

Pabich clarified the LAB's options for moving the project forward through the review process were: (1) to activate the Expedited Process for the funding request as originally presented in the application, (2) to consider the project as a Pre-Application, or (3) consider initiating the Expedited Process for the increased funding request presented at the meeting.

LAB-member Linscott asked if projects qualifying for the Expedited Process were eligible based on the funding request or the total project cost. Bergin responded that prior projects reviewed through the Expedited Process were determined eligible based on the total funding request from the LWWP.

LAB-member Linscott expressed her support for the project and proposed structuring a funding arrangement with the applicant to allocate annual payments of the total funding request over the three-year project timeline contingent on LAB's annual review. LAB-members Santa and Simpson expressed support for Linscott's suggestion.

LAB-Vice-Chair Reynolds stated that while he supported streamlining the review process, the applicant's increased funding request needed to be assessed more thoroughly before the LAB's final review of the project.

The LAB, Staff, and applicant discussed options for the advancing the review process and funding the project.

The applicant asked about additional materials that would be required to supplement the proposal through the Full Application process. Pabich responded the material submitted with the Pre-Application would be sufficient. She stated that the LAB would need to review the updated budget and funding request.

The LAB, Staff, and applicant continued to discuss how to move the project forward considering the increased funding request presented at the meeting from the proposed budget as outlined in the application and referenced in the Staff Report.

Vice-Chair Reynolds moved to continue review of the project to provide adequate time for Staff and the LAB to review the updated budget and increased funding request. LAB-member Simpson seconded the motion.

The LAB discussed the motion.

LAB-member Eggers thanked the applicant for the presentation. He asked the applicant if the wildlife depredation fencing was proposed to be a temporary or permanent feature of the islands. McDonnell explained that the wildlife fencing would be installed temporarily to allow the native plant material to grow and become more resilient.

LAB-member Eggers expressed support for moving the project forward to Full Application with the proposal as presented without requiring the applicant to submit updated or supplementary material except for the amended budget.

The LAB discussed their support for advancing the project without requiring the applicant to submit supplementary material except for the revised budget presented at the meeting. LAB-Chair Phillips noted that Staff would need to assess whether the updated budget is eligible for LWWP funding.

Vice-Chair Reynolds withdrew his motion to continue review of the application. LAB-member Simpson seconded the withdrawal of the motion.

LAB-member Abby Rivin thanked the applicant for the presentation and expressed her support for the project. She suggested considering the proposal reviewed at the meeting as a Pre-Application and advancing the project to Full Application for final LAB review of the amended budget. Rivin moved to invite the applicant to submit a Full Application finding the Colorado Gulch Pollinator Project meets the goals and objectives of the LWWP. LAB-member Simpson seconded the motion.

All LAB-members voted in favor of the motion. None opposed. The LAB motion carried unanimously.

The applicant asked the LAB to clarify expectations for the Full Application. The LAB explained the proposal as submitted with the Pre-Application would be sufficient for the Full Application with the addition of the amended budget and revised funding request.

LAB-member Linscott moved to amend the motion to clarify that the proposal as submitted with the Pre-Application with the addition of the amended budget and revised funding request is sufficient and the applicant is not required to submit supplementary material for the Full Application. LAB-member Rivin seconded the motion. All LAB-members voted in favor of the motion. None opposed. The LAB motion carried unanimously.

### III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present to give comment.

### IV. Review and Approval of the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes

LWWP Program Administrator Wendy Pabich suggested a revision to clarify Bergin's introductory comment pertaining to LAB funding of completed projects. The LAB agreed to delete a phrase to clarify that while the Big Wood SNRA Big Wood Travel Management Plan is complete, the associated projects specified in the plan and included in the Pre-Application have yet to be complete.

### V. New Business

LAB-member Linscott noted that she had prepared an outline for an outreach project to inspire riparian stewardship and habitat restoration principles that she will send to the LAB for review and comment.

Bergin note that Cardon's Big Wood River Study is available online for review and comment.

### VI. Adjourn

LAB-member Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. LAB-member Linscott seconded the motion. All LAB-members voted in favor of the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.