

MINUTES
Blaine County Levy Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
May 27, 2020
Old County Courthouse
206 S 1st Avenue, 3rd 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 6:05pm.

The members of the Levy Advisory Board (LAB) were present at the Old County Courthouse and participating in the GoToMeeting as follows: Jim Phillips, Kurt Eggers, Alan Reynolds, and Denise Ford

The members of the LAB participating remotely in the GoToMeeting were present as follows: Lili Simpson and Abby Rivin

LAB-members absent from the meeting were: Nancy Linscott, 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 and two applicant representatives from the Wood River Land Trust (WRLT)—Stewardship & Outreach AmeriCorps member Mikie McDonnell and Lands Program Manager Keri York

Also participating remotely in the GoToMeeting: Wendy Pabich, Land, Water, and Wildlife Program (LWWP) Administrator

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

Mikie McDonnell, WRLT Stewardship & Outreach AmeriCorps member representing the applicant, presented the amended budget for the project. She explained that the scope of work expanded as the number of proposed pollinator islands increased from 4 to 8 and the project duration was extended to 3 years.

LWWP Program Administrator Wendy Pabich asked the applicant to explain the addition of staff time for project planning to the revised budget. McDonnell responded that due to the coronavirus pandemic work that was anticipated to be done by volunteers was instead undertaken by staff. She explained that the revised budget included the cost of hours that staff spent working on the project. McDonnell explained that volunteer programming will still be included in the project's scope. She noted that the project has been enthusiastically welcomed by volunteer partner organizations, including Project Wow and The Sage School.

Pabich thanked the applicant for the project and McDonnell for her summary of proposed changes.

LAB-member Ford asked the applicant about project monitoring. Keri York, WRLT Lands Program Manager, responded that the pollinator project is included within the management plan for the Colorado Gulch Preserve, which will be reevaluated every 5 years.

LAB-Chair Phillips read the questions raised in the Staff Report—How would lasting conservation value be sought? How would restoration activities be managed for perpetual benefit? What legal mechanisms would be in place to guarantee lasting benefit?

York responded that the proposal meets LWWP program criteria as the project protects pollinator species and protects the Big Wood River by enhancing biodiversity, improving floodplain functionality, and restoring the wet meadow habitat. She stated that the project has secured matching funds, including a grant acquired from Project Wow and WRLT private fundraising. She explained that lasting conservation outcomes are ensured as the pollinator project is incorporated in the management plan for the Colorado Gulch Preserve, which will be reevaluated by the WRLT every 5 years. She noted that the property is held under a conservation easement by the City of Hailey.

LAB-member Ford asked if the Expedited Process should be activated for the project. LAB-Chair Phillips responded that the Expedited Process had not been activated as the LAB moved to advance the project to a Full Application during their review of the Pre-application at the May 13th meeting. LAB-Member Ford asked Staff if there was any additional material missing from the proposal that would normally be required for a Full Application. Pabich responded that the proposal satisfies the LWWP project evaluation checklist criteria as outlined in the Staff Report. The LAB discussed reviewing the project as a Full Application or through the Expedited Process. LAB-member Ford stated that she was prepared to recommend that the project be funded through the Expedited Process. She noted that the proposal meets the qualifications specified within the LAB Expedited Process Guidelines and the applicant had addressed all questions raised by Staff and the LAB.

Phillips asked the LAB about conditions to consider including as requirements for the project. LAB-member Simpson noted that the LAB had considered requiring an annual review of the project at the previous meeting. LAB-member Eggers asked if the LAB was going to require that the applicant return to request additional funding for each year of the project. LAB-member Ford stated that her understanding was that the project would be tracked by the LWWP Administrator and that Staff's monitoring of the project would be specified within the grant agreement for the project.

Vice Chair Reynolds asked the applicant about proposed signage. York responded that signage that recognizes the project's partners will be installed on the property.

LAB-member Ford moved to recommend that the Board of County Commissioner fund the Wood River Land Trust's Colorado Gulch Preserve Pollinator Project through the Expedited Process at the requested amount of \$7,521 or 22% of the total project cost, whichever is less. Vice Chair Reynolds seconded the motion. All LAB members voted in favor of the motion and none opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Ford thanked the applicant for the presentation and the clarifications to questions raised by Staff and the LAB.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present at the meeting to give comment.

IV. Review and Approval of the May 13th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Reynolds moved to approve the minutes from the May 13th LAB Meeting. LAB-member Simpson seconded the motion. All LAB members voted in favor of the motion and none opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

LWWP Administrator Pabich suggested that the LAB schedule time to consider changes to the Pre-Application process at an upcoming meeting. The LAB agreed with Pabich's suggestion. LAB-Chair Phillips noted that LAB-member Linscott's riparian stewardship proposal should also be added to an upcoming LAB meeting agenda.

LAB-Chair Phillips asked Staff about upcoming projects and anticipated applications. Pabich responded that the Sawtooth National Recreation Area is working on finalizing their Full-Application for the Big Wood Travel Management Plan Implementation Project.

Bergin noted that an update on the pronghorn study from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game would also be scheduled on an upcoming meeting agenda.

VI. Adjourn

LAB-member Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting. LAB-member Ford seconded the motion. All LAB members voted in favor of the motion and none opposed. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.