



**Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes**
March 15, 2011–6 p.m.
McCall Library
218 East Park Street, McCall, ID 83638



COMMITTEE MEETING – Begins at 6 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

John Rygh, Lindsey Truxel, Claire Remsberg, Burket Kniveton, Anika and Cindy Miller were present.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- February 15, 2011 the minutes were approved.

3. CITY OF MCCALL FLEET MANANGEMENT- Public Works Director

Michelle introduced the subject. Peter introduced the issue of fleet management at the City of McCall. Peter passed out a sheet with the inventory of City vehicles. Most of the vehicles that leave the City limits are the ones that go home with people or ones that travel to Boise for conferences and meeting. Most of the inventory is quite old but it very expensive to obtain new equipment. There is balancing act between maintaining streets and purchasing new equipment.

There is not hybrid for snow removal or not a good source for biodiesel. There is also a concern about disposal of batteries. Some of the electric vehicles have improved. There was discussion about the balancing the needs of the PW department with snow and street maintenance equipment. Peter explained snow gates and the cost associated with the equipment.

Peter explained at some point old vehicles need to be replaced because of lost efficiency, maintenance costs, fuel, etc. John asked about installing performance chips and Peter brought up that this can void a warranty and does not apply to older equipment. Peter said the best option is to slowly replace the oldest equipment. Burket asked if there is anything the EAC can do to assist in the effort. Peter said there not but they want to use less fuel each year but snow removal (\$80,000-\$90,000) but this will go up significantly. They plow when there is 3 inches during the week and 4 inches during the weekend. The biggest challenge is to meet public expectation. There was a question about downsizing the vehicles. Burket said the Forest Service diversifies the fleet so field people use larger vehicles and higher efficiency of vehicles. There are also other options than hybrids. The Parks Department purchased mules to replace pick-up to carry crews. Cindy asked about the step resulting from snow plowing. Peter explained the step is needed to preserve the street and also it is safety issue. Lindsey said she will be interested in the info learned from the snow removal trade show.

Peter asked the group about using de-icer next winter and wanted to see what the group thought about magnesium chloride. Peter said they are going to take a look at the affect on cars, environment, etc. John asked about the balance between mag. chloride and using gravel. Peter said they need to experiment to see if it makes sense. There needs to be awareness campaign if they can find an environmental

friendly product. There was some discussion about mag. chloride for dust abatement. John will pull out information on affects of magnesium chloride. Peter said he will come back to EAC to report on some of the findings before June.

4. WEED MANAGEMENT- Parks and Recreation Director

Dennis said he talked to EAC last year but did not know a lot about the noxious weed program. Dennis passed out the plan and asked the EAC to review the plan and get him comments. The Plan is going to the City Council on March 24 meeting. Four years ago the City used weevils but the program was not monitored. This year weevils will be used and released at the City parcel (approach to airport.) The weevil only eats in knapweed. Burket said he has been involved in some releases in the Salmon River canyon and there have been some issues with the cold killing off weevils.

Dennis said they are going with 4 applicators and spray by middle of July and in September. The City is responsible for the right of ways (ROW) and pathways. There will be some mechanical control near City Hall. Dennis said they are going to compare the different techniques. They will set up monitoring points and Garrett Mapp, GIS Analyst, is working on this project. Spraying is specific to the plant and is tightly regulated- wind, moisture, etc. The City uses a blue dye to identify the area. The County was able to map certain parts in McCall. Cindy said there was a project in Utah that was hand pulling project that was pretty effective. Dennis said they have to balance to the cost and effectiveness. Dennis said the policy is to notify the private property and if property owner does not take care of it then the County can spray or site the property owners.

John asked if there is an option for residents to opt out if they do not the ROW sprayed. Lindsey said last year the EAC did an educational piece in The Star News. There was some discussion about the weevil project. John asked if Dennis would be interested in bio-control workshop. There is some commitment from the School District to help with building the weevil boxes.

There some discussion about re-seeding and the opportunity within the City. John suggested that maybe the reseeding be limited to natives. This would involve some research. Lindsey will coordinate the 3rd grade class weevil project with Dennis at the Airport approach zone. Lindsey suggested a sign for the project site.

5. RIVERFRONT PARK

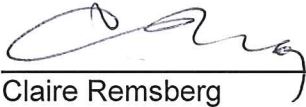
There is a five year plan for the National Park Service. Last year there was some clean up. The City will work with Leslie from DEQ. The City will apply for a grant to restore the river bank that includes plant restoration and public access. The school would like to help with providing some volunteers. The City owns all the land but public works stores materials in this location.

Dennis told the EAC about the Deinhard Lane pathway on the north side of the street.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Attest:



Claire Remsberg
EAC Chair



Michelle Groenevelt
Community Development Director

