

Trail Runs Through It Steering Committee, April 17, draft minutes

Attendance: Nick Palmer, Steve Thompson, Andy Feury, Marshall Friedman

Guest: Dan Weinberg

Discussion about potential land exchange and the potential to acquire lands that will facilitate the connectivity of the trail system. General discussion about criteria that could help identify which lands are priorities for acquisition, although no formal action taken. Criteria mentioned for lands to be acquired, based on providing value for the community, the trust and the state include:

- Lands acquired are in the same general area as state lands to be traded
- Exchange for land preferable to exchange for money
- Prefer to acquire lands at risk of losing recreation or conservation, not lands that already are protected
- Priority for lands that have high existing or potential recreational value
- Priority for lands connected to other state lands or other public lands
- Priority for lands that have high watershed, wildlife and/or other conservation values
- Lands with high forest productivity are preferred to lands that have low productivity

The committee asks Steve to pass along to Kate our request for a detailed assessment of the viability of the various options on the north side of the lake, including options A, B and C and any others that might be developed. This should include a map that precisely shows land ownership in the general area and their relation to potential trail locations for each of the options, including the Del Rey Road right of way. This should also include a detailed discussion about environmental values and constraints, topography, and any other issues that may affect the viability of the various alternatives. We don't expect Kate to determine if landowners are willing sellers of trail easements, but we do want these landowners and their addresses depicted on a map and an idea of the easement locations that might be required. This information should be provided by May 1.

Steve will contact Flathead Land Trust re: What are the terms of the conservation easement on the former Peschel property? Any constraints on including trail? If so, can these terms be modified.

Andy moves that we propose a transaction option that is based upon a Trail System Management Agreement between DNRC and a community-based trail manager. The trail management agreement would encompass the network of trails on state lands (including each of the sub-areas of the Whitefish State Lands Neighborhood Plan), public education, co-management of commercial opportunities, and strategies to ensure that the greatest possible number of trail users purchase a Recreational Use Permit. Steve seconds. Approved unanimously.

Steve will draft language to this affect that can be incorporated into the draft DNRC submission that Kate is working on.

Steve moves that we ask the City Council for \$5,000 to support the TRTI project. Nick seconds. Approved unanimously.

Adjourn