

Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA)
Joint Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Agenda

- Convene @ 6:00 PM- Daniel Chaplin Building Conference Room at 1001 4th street

- Committee Members: Forrest Warren, Ian Caldwell, JB Brock, Elaine La Rochelle, Bill Gerst, Sean Leaner, Chris Evans, Tyler Brooks, Eric Johnson, Jon Paustian(online).

Staff: Josh Ford

- Attendees: Ed Mosiman, Jerry and Jesse Reed (online)

Public comment- (3 minutes per individual)

- None

- Approve Minutes of last meeting Nov 7, 2023 Elaine made motion to approve. Eric second. All in favor.

Topics

Logging Update- Josh Ford - Informational: Have 5 loads that are decked and need to be moved, but can't due to the warm winter weather, creating soft soil conditions. Will apply for permit with SHPO to move remaining logs. Have stopped logging for the season. Got about half about what was left this winter. Might look at getting rest with another timber sale.

Dead Bull Trail #306 – Josh Ford. About 200 yards to finish motorcycle trail loop that circles motorized trail area. Will use Mini-excavator Cat 300.9. Tyler Motion to proceed. Sean Second. All in favor

Bridge Maintenance – Josh Ford. Need to look at standards for bridge decking and hand railings and do some work to upgrade a few bridges.

Skill Building Area Phase 1 – Tyler Brooks. Want to build a skills area close to Owsley Trailhead in the Red Apple and Soggy Bottom Areas for that riders to practice on more difficult terrain. Want jumps, drops, skinnies, bridges, berm trails. Phase 1 would be intermediate jump line with Table tops (no gaps) located near Apple Drop Trail. BMSTC Club would do the work and come back to the committee for additional phases. Will stop before Parent Trap. Motion by Chris to begin flagging of trail to be reviewed by committee for future building. Sean Second. All in favor.

Use of Igo Lane for 2 events – Sean Lerner. Last year used side-by-sides to run shuttles for Mt Bike Race. Asking for permission to use a pick-up truck to shuttle people to carry more passengers, reduce trips and reduce sound from vehicles. About ½ mile of trail. About 15 trips. Rocked Road is currently open to Side-by-side use. Downhill race. About 3 hours. There is a \$200 refundable deposit for event. About 30 people. Thursday evening from 5-8pm. Race is already approved. Concerns about setting precedent. Should clearly state reasons for allowing the activity. Question about liability. The event has liability insurance. Josh will give outline of when, where and how activity will occur. First Thursday of April and May. Motion by Tyler to allow use of a truck for shuttles, Second by Chris. All in favor.

Master Plan amendments – Josh Ford. Will be working on Fire and Forestry plans.

Electing MAC Chair – Forest is open to continue serving. Tyler nominated Forest as Chair. Second by Sean. All in favor.

Parking Fee Committee – Looking at first year be voluntary program. County has \$40,000 for signs and fee collection materials. Program is working well for Hood River County Forestry. \$5 a day and \$30 per month. Hope to have more information at next meeting. Hope to start in 2025.

Next Meeting May 7th

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm