

CRCPRA Management Committee Meeting Minutes
7 June 2021, 7:00 PM

In attendance:

Kathy
Lee
Paul
Keith
LeAnn
Mark

1. Fish Shocking report (unavailable)
2. Minutes (tabled)
3. Financial report
 - a. Spraying charge by Lee Chambeau does not appear on this month's report
 - b. Concern about cost of prairie restoration on the east side of property would consume our entire budget (currently \$67,824.45). Therefore a need to pursue State, Federal and other funding. USFWS grants require a management plan for the property. Keith would be willing to help put together a plan to have when we apply.
4. Open house: 5 June 2021
 - a. Despite the light attendance, we felt the open house was valuable for those who did attend. Two free will donations were accepted.
 - b. Having all the brochures prepared for the event will be valuable in the future.
 - c. It was suggested that we create a weatherproof box for the brochures and attach to kiosk for use by the public
5. Benches and plaques:
 - a. We all liked the bench design, comfort, and durability. Thanks to Sid.
 - b. Plaque ideas are being investigated. Blue Ribbon Awards make them and are inexpensive. School is always an option (when in session). Contact Jamie Bucholz
 - c. Mark, Kathy, and Lee will place 2 existing benches. One overlooking the pond and the other overlooking the river. Paul suggested pinning the locations so they appear on our trail map.
6. Bike racks:
 - a. LeAnn came up with the idea of placing bike racks at CRCPRA
 - b. We discussed location and material. Maybe Anderson Bridge could create a version that would match the existing gates (rusted steel)
 - c. Will discuss at the next meeting.

7. Property boundaries:

- a. Kathy has been in contact with Orvil Larson regarding an adjacent parcel his hunting party owns. No interest in transfer of this piece to CRCPRA
- b. Kathy is working to find a contact from Excel energy regarding the parcel they own regarding potential transfer to CRCPRA
- c. Can our access road into the property be considered a town road? If so funding would be available for mowing and plowing. Rite of way on either side of the centerline would extend beyond the neighboring property owner's fence (which is currently pinching our access at the culvert)
- d. Is there anything in the Knowles-Nelson guidelines regarding paved roads/access, etc?
- e. The question will be asked at the next Town of Colfax board meeting.

8. Invasive species:

- a. We have an unfortunate abundance of them on the property and they remain on the top of our 'to do' list.
- b. Keith and Kathy want to treat the poison ivy near the trailhead near the entrance.
- c. A need to advertise for volunteers to help with our projects. Most of the work on removal of buckthorn, honeysuckle, etc. can be done with hand tools. Chainsaw work should be left to those trained (management committee members) and done on different work days.

9. Tree removal on eastern project area:

- a. Lee touched base with Bill Michaels. He does not want to leave his equipment Unattended on the property. Therefore he is not interested in this project.
- b. While we want the project to be done, we agreed there is time.
- c. Minimal disturbance of area is important. Flush cutting and piling seems Preferred.
- d. Maybe we have work day(s) in late summer/early Fall to get a start?
- e. Grant Paulus can do this type of work but summer is his busy time.
- f. Rob Strand is willing to walk the property to give input.

10. Tube/Kayak/Canoe launch:

- a. With the summer-like weather here, more folks are using the river to recreate.
- b. The need for a user-friendly launch site on CRCPRA is a high priority.
- c. Paul assessed the site that people are currently using to launch for potential Improvement (a design used on the Brule River was suggested)
- d. He will continue to investigate.

11. Summer Activities:

- a. Potential August workday to create picnic areas in the pines along the pond.
- b. Rock Activity by the Ferry family may be the next activity offered at CRCPRA
- c. Other groups can use the property without management committee directly involved (Colfax Library, United Way, others)
- d. Bioblitz? Inventory of biodiversity on the property. Is there value?
- e. Plan ahead to invite specialists in their field to conduct activities seasonally. (birds, aquatic invertebrates, dragonflies, winter ecology)
- f. Continue to plan for the use of the property by physically challenged (tracked wheelchairs, fishing pier)