

Date:

To: Board of Directors

From: Fishing Advisory Committee

Subject: Minutes of May 18 Meeting

The Fishing Advisory Committee (FAC) held a public meeting on Saturday, May 18, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the Ranch office. FAC members present were Tom Neel and Gordon Nelson. Board members present were Brian Pettet and Bob Jacobson. Tom Neel chaired the meeting. Eleven residents also attended (see attached list) as did George Doxy and Rick Carsten from the staff. The agenda for the meeting and the two handouts at the meeting are attached.

The Draft In-Stream Maintenance Philosophy was described. There was little discussion and no objection.

The 2009 Maintenance Program was described, including all aspects shown on the agenda. Ken Hudson asked if the suggestions sent to the FAC email address had been considered, and it was stated that they had been. There were no other questions about the proposed program and no objections to it.

The fishing budget was discussed. Mike Romanus asked if another increase in badge prices was expected. It was stated that a new long range financial plan would be developed this summer after we have a better idea of badge sale revenue generated by the new badge fee structure was known. At that time it will be clear whether current badge fees were adequate to fund the desired program. There were no other comments or objections.

Open Discussion

It was suggested that Bob O'Brien attend a future public FAC meeting and all agreed that is a good idea.

Mike Romanus asked if the sub-aquatic grass problem was caused by nutrient enrichment from the golf course and yards. He was directed the Roaring Fork Conservancy report on the website that directly refutes this.

Significant discussion took place on whether too much stream bank maintenance (mowing and removal of brush) was being done. Many felt strongly that we are “nuking” the banks to the detriment of bug life and fishing. Others felt equally strongly that the work was appropriate because it improved access and allowed fishing without walking up the streambed. Pettet said that this was a very pertinent topic, because the board was trying to decide the appropriate level of clearing and maintenance on the Ranch open spaces. It was suggested that a moratorium of stream bank mowing and clearance is appropriate while the board considers the broader issue. A straw vote was taken with 7 people wanting a complete moratorium and 7 disagreeing. It was suggested that the FAC get O’Brien’s opinion on whether our level of clearing was appropriate or excessive.

It was suggested by Arnie Goldblatt that access paths to the main river be cut through some of the very brushy areas. Most agreed that this was a good idea.

The question of stocking philosophy was brought up, specifically relating to the appropriate size of fish to be stocked. Tom Neel asked that this discussion be tabled until a fall meeting of the FAC when we would be developing stocking plans for 2010.

The possibility of letting the DOW do a shocking survey to determine our fish population and health was introduced. After much discussion, a straw vote showed that one was interested in doing this and 13 disagreed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Neel

Attachments:

Agenda

Draft In-Stream Maintenance Philosophy

2009 Fishing Budget

Attendee List