

Ridge to Rivers
2nd Quarter Partnership Meeting

MINUTES

February 3, 2015

Partners present: Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways, Doug Holloway and Dee Oldham, Boise City Department of Parks and Recreation, Stephaney Church and Megan Impson, Boise National Forest, Larry Ridenhour and Tate Fischer, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Steven Dempsey, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, David Gordon and Pete Ritter, Ridge to Rivers. Others present: Joshua Leonard, Boise City Legal and Tim Breuer, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV) and Kristine Smith, minutes recorder.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

- FY 15 2nd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

D. Gordon explained that there were a few changes from the first quarter Budget and Work Plan, the first expected change would go under salary and benefits, there was an increase in contribution from Boise City. The funding would be used to pay for the new Ridge to Rivers staff, Sam Roberts, and some additional funding would be available for temporary staff. S. Koberg questioned if it was known how much the increase in funding would be. D. Holloway responded that it would be in the range of approximately \$45,000. D. Gordon added that the final amount would be included on the next quarterly update.

The Heritage Trust Fund balances were reviewed, it was expected that the account balances would decrease for the 2015 Fiscal Year with a planned heavy trail maintenance contract. A grant had been applied for by staff, if it was received then it would be used to replenish some of the funds removed from the Heritage Trust Fund account—some of the funds in the account would be used to match other grants if received.

S. Koberg questioned how map sales compared to previous years. D. Gordon responded that the two years were very similar. Typically, during early spring staff would work with BLM to have the map updated so that they could be printed by late March. However, there had been a lot of proposed changes that would cause the map to become out of date very quickly, so it was decided to wait for the update. Once the Hillside to Hollow trails were signed and named, as well as the Daniel's Creek area, then the new map would be completed.

T. Fischer questioned what the status for sales through Avenza was. D. Gordon responded that there hadn't been a huge number of sales through the program, they were expecting their second payment from sales—combined the income would be equal to a few thousand dollars. It was a service requested by the public and the few that had purchased the map through Avenza were enjoying.

- City Meeting Requirements – Josh Leonard

J. Leonard explained that because quorum was required to transact business the Partnership Meeting was subject to Idaho's Open Meeting Laws—quorum is equal to half the number of members plus one. Two types of meeting notice is required, he recommended posting meeting notices a year in advance, with a notice posted at the Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, at a minimum, but also have notice posted at Boise City Hall as well. The second type of notice was an agenda notice, which needed to be posted at least five days prior to the meeting. It was not required that the meetings be recorded, but that there be a record of the topic of business discussed. There should also be a record for who was present at each meeting and an approval of the previous meeting's minutes.

If an onsite visit is held and there is quorum, law requires that the public be allowed the opportunity to attend, the public would not necessarily be given the opportunity to speak, but should be allowed to hear the information. If there was a public meeting in which public testimony was taken then they should be given a set period of time to provide their testimony—in the past three minutes per person to speak had been used for many groups.

D. Gordon explained that he worked to have the agenda posted on the Ridge to Rivers website approximately ten days in advance—meeting minutes were also posted on the Ridge to Rivers website. In the past, minutes were generally approved by email, but he would work to start acknowledging approval of the meeting minutes during each quarterly meeting. He added that it would be very rare to do a site visit with the entire group, it would usually just be him meeting with individual representatives at a site. J. Leonard responded that if quorum was not present then it would not need to be posted and minutes would not need to be recorded.

D. Gordon added that in the past it had been difficult for the group to schedule the meetings ahead of time. He would usually send out a few appointment options for the next quarterly meeting with the past meeting's minutes. J. Leonard responded that the meetings could continue to be scheduled that way, but he recommended having a meeting notice posted at least two weeks prior.

D. Gordon questioned if the group thought it would be easier to have all of the meetings scheduled a year in advance. S. Church responded that it would be difficult for her to agree to a meeting a year in advance. S. Koberg added that he thought the way that the meetings were being scheduled was working well. T. Fischer included that the current process allowed for a greater amount of flexibility. D. Gordon explained that he would continue to give the public at least two weeks' notice prior to every meeting, which he had been doing for the past year.

J. Leonard explained that it would always be possible to amend an agenda after it was posted as long as a good faith reason was stated for why it wasn't available when it was posted. It wouldn't be necessary to formally amend the agenda to pull items from the agenda, or to even reorganize the agenda, it would just need to be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

D. Holloway questioned if the Partnership should be following Robert's Rules of Order. J. Leonard responded that he thought it would be a good idea to adopt Robert's Rules of Order for an informal application. T. Fischer questioned if the group needed to start making motions. J. Leonard responded that he didn't think that it needed to go to that level, instead things could be done by questioning if there were any objections. If anyone had an objection to an item then it may be necessary to go into more detail with a motion and a vote, however, if all the partners agree on an item then the group could move forward on that item.

- City Open Space Manager Position status – Doug Holloway

D. Holloway informed the Partners that the City Open Space Manager position was posted, it would be posted on four or five different websites, including the National Recreation and Park Association website, the City's job posting site, the State Parks and Recreation website, as well as a few preservation/conservation type websites.

The City had consulted with a recruiting agency, however, it was likely that they would not move forward with the company—staff expected many great candidates would be brought to the table with the posting of the position. The position would be open for three weeks, he was anticipating a 90 day period to fill the position, he was hopeful that it would be filled by late April 2015. He would keep the Partnership posted on the status of the position.

Until the position could be filled the responsibilities would be split. Dee Oldham, Parks and Recreation Administration Manager, would be responsible for doing the Administrative duties, he explained that she could be contacted with questions and she could route people to the appropriate contacts—she would be filling in the position for upcoming meetings as well as constituency work. Roseanne Swain, Recreation Superintendent, would be responsible for handling the Foothills Learning Center programming portion of the position. Tom Governale, Parks Resources Superintendent, would be responsible for support of D. Gordon and his team.

- Winter Trail Conditions

D. Gordon explained that despite staff's best effort the trails were in poor condition. He explained that his entire staff had done a tremendous job working to complete daily Facebook posts giving the public trail condition reports which have included photos. He wasn't sure what other efforts could be made. Signs had been placed at every trail access point, and the temporary chain "gates" had been put back in place. The intention of the gate was not to close the trail, but to make users stop and decide if their use was appropriate or not. A new winter video production had been completed and was being shown in some of the downtown cinema theaters between showings. However, it was one of the first videos so he was unsure of how many people they were reaching. He had been on the trails with his staff to try and educate trail users.

D. Gordon explained that legally trail closures were not enforceable, even if it were legal, trails cross different access points and the different partner's properties. Ridge to Rivers had a very small staff, especially during the winter and it was not feasible to have staff access every trailhead to do an open and close sign. However, consideration was being made to host an

evening meeting to look for members of the public to adopt a trail access point—the meeting would be advertised to the public through Facebook and the website. Staff would develop simple signage that could be flipped either direction to open or close a trail. The advantage to having a specific individual assigned to a nearby trail is that they may have more knowledge of the trail condition. The broad information regarding trail condition would be provided by staff, creating a two way dialog between staff and volunteers regarding trail condition. The thought behind having each trailhead signed and manned by a volunteer is that the sign and gate could be more elaborate to really make users slow down. A challenge with the plan would be that even if the trail were signed as closed, there would be no legal way to enforce the message to make users turn around. When staff is on the trails to educate the public then often times users will turn around. Even with six thousand followers on the Ridge to Rivers Trail Condition Facebook page, there are still many trail users that aren't aware of the website or the Facebook page.

S. Dempsey questioned if the trail sign would be updated as trails freeze and thaw. D. Gordon explained that most trail would be frozen during the morning and thaw throughout the day, so it might be that the signs indicate the pattern. On days when it was known that the trails will be wet because of rain and temperatures above freezing, then it would be straightforward and trails would be signed as closed.

S. Koberg questioned how it would be signed, he asked if it would just state that the trail was closed and include the chains, similar to what was already in place. D. Gordon responded that the plan, if staff were to move forward, would be for a rigid gate and a sign. Instead of the chain it would be a closure sign, it would be taking the process in place to the next level. Discussions were just starting to occur about the possibility of having trailheads adopted. The purpose of the project would be involve the community to try and help educate the public on trail etiquette.

S. Koberg questioned if there was an opportunity to involve the Trail Smart group. D. Gordon responded that the Trail Smart group was more focused on their own program, there was some cross messaging as they made some efforts towards educating the public on muddy trails, but he would like to focus on additional resources rather than tapping into Trail Smart's.

T. Fisher questioned if Ridge to Rivers had ever tried to close the trail. D. Gordon responded that for three years in a row, starting four years ago, staff added signs to trails that explained that they were closed after 10:30 a.m. The first year of this program produced great compliance, but it became less and less after users realized that there wasn't any enforcement—it was possible that the same thing would occur with the proposed program. The last few winters the weather has been warmer and even if users were off the trails by 10:30 a.m., it wouldn't help with the existing trail conditions.

D. Holloway questioned how volunteers would be incorporated. D. Gordon responded that he would plan to start with a meeting to gauge the public's interest. Volunteers would have to sign up through the City's volunteer website and then once the winter weather hits staff would have to be in regular contact with the volunteers. Sam Roberts would take the lead for working with the volunteers and it would likely include a daily email with a condition report. It was expected that staff would reach out to the public in early fall so that they were ready when winter weather hit.

P. Ritter explained that he had noticed that even with the high number of Facebook followers, approximately a quarter of the face to face contacts he made last week were with people that were not aware that the Facebook page existed, so they were not getting the trail condition message.

T. Fischer suggested that trail maintenance responsibilities be posted on a sign in the area. D. Gordon explained that because there was already so much signage in the area it was likely that users wouldn't see it. P. Ritter explained that on days when trail users shouldn't be on the trails he would place a message on cars parked at trailheads directing them to the Facebook page to check trail condition reports.

S. Dempsey questioned if there had been consideration for a way to send out a message with trail conditions. D. Gordon explained that one of his previous positions, they would have a number that people could call in to get a report of conditions, however, with social media it became a less effective means for making information available to the public.

- R2R Winter Projects

D. Gordon explained that Ridge to Rivers staff had spent a portion of their winter working in the shop yard to improve functionality. Staff made 35 steel marker posts to be used for signage in the Daniel's Creek and Hillside to Hollow trail areas.

The City's Major Repair and Maintenance budget will pay for the replacement of a mini excavator. The existing excavator was still reliable, so it would continue to be used by staff on the trails, the second excavator that had been used was not reliable enough to use on the trails so it would be given to the Parks Infrastructure team.

For the same price as a traditional loading trailer, a dump trailer was purchased which could be used as a tie down and it would include a hydraulic lift, which would be a much more effective means to move materials and transport material up trails. The existing process was to use wheel barrows, and was extremely labor intensive.

Staff would start work on the nose of Chickadee Ridge, weather permitted. Steps would be added in an effort to mitigate erosion. It would likely be a two phase project with an expectation for the first phase would be completed before spring.

- New Full-time R2R Staff Member Sam Roberts

D. Gordon explained that the new Ridge to Rivers staff member, Sam Roberts, had worked for Ridge to Rivers for the past three years, part time. He had worked previously for a trail construction company and he had shown to be very skilled when working with volunteers. The plan would be for him to work a flexed schedule so that he would be available to work Saturday's and evenings with volunteer groups. It used to be that staff would work a full week and then come back in for weekend hours to work projects with volunteers—he would be the

primary contact for working with Ridge to River's Eagle Scout Projects and the Adopt a Trail programs.

- 2015 Grant Proposals

D. Gordon explained that the different grant proposals that were discussed during the first quarter Partnership meeting had been submitted. There were four grants, one was duplicative, the first was for the State Off-Road Motor Vehicle (ORMV) grant for maintenance of Trail 4 and Trail 6, and then at the suggestion from the State staff put in for a second grant for motorized trails. There were three grant proposals but the requests were for four different account funds.

For the maintenance grant, staff had talked to a few different contractors and the state's motorized trail coordinator, and it was figured that the work staff would like to have completed in the area would be equal to approximately \$2,000 per mile. The beginning of the contract had already been sent out as a maintenance contract, which was combined with another project. It was written in the contract that the project for the three trails was guaranteed, however, the work for Trail 4 and Trail 6 was grant dependent. It was a lot less paperwork than having to do two contracts, and if the funding wasn't received then it wouldn't apply.

Detail for the work needed on the trails was included in the maintenance grant proposal, but staff would mainly be looking to reestablish drainage, including possibly knocking off the outside edge to reestablish a downward slope and to fill in the erosion. It was hoped that there would be a number of contractors wanting to bid on the project. A number of contractors had been informed of the project and the contract had been posted on the Profession Trail Builders Association website.

A separate grant proposal was for Hillside to Hollow trail and access development. It would include the development of a trailhead that was identified during the planning process at Hillside Park. A trail would be built from this trailhead that would tie into the trails at Ussery Street. The development would include a piece of trail that would go from Hillside Park to a shared pathway of Quail Hollow Golf Course, it would be a short distance and funding would include purchasing netting material to address safety concerns during the shared portion of trail, the trail would continue on the far end of Hillside Junior High School property and tie into the single track trail system.

For all of the grants there had been great participation from other groups for fund matching. For the Hillside to Hollow grant the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV) was matching a significant amount. A memorial fund in memory of a local mountain biker Dee Jorgenson would also be used to match some grant funds. The Treasure Valley Trail Machine Association has put forward some matching funding for the motorized grants. SWIMBA would be putting in some matching funding for one of the trail maintenance grants as well as the trail construction grant. There was also a number of letters of support from some of the different groups throughout the area.

S. Koberg questioned what the total grant funding request between the four different proposals was. D. Gordon responded that he didn't have the total. The grant for Trail 4 and Trail 6 was for approximately of \$22,000, including the match. The Wildlife Management Area grant for trails, 11,12, and 13, would be equal to \$11,000 total cost. He didn't have the total cost for the Hillside to Hollow project available (it is \$29,100). The project would include approximately 1.2 miles of single track trail construction. The trail from Hillside Park that would cross the school property would be an all-weather trail, as it would be next to green space which would be watered regularly. This section of trail would be 60-inches wide with crush road mix, which would be more expensive than regular trail development and would need fencing.

D. Holloway added that working with the Boise School District they were waiting on the appraisal of 8.3 acres above the Hillside Junior High School property that abuts the Hillside to Hollow property. It was the intention of the City to use Foothills Levy funding to purchase the property once the appraisal was received. D. Gordon added that the City was another matching fund partner for the Hillside to Hollow grant.

- 2015 Spring/Summer Work Plan
 - Daniels Creek Trails **NEPA clearance?

D. Gordon explained that there was a lot of trail maintenance planned for spring 2015. The plan would be to have staff dedicated to trail maintenance until late May. Once the seasonal trail maintenance was completed, the plan would be to have Bart Johnson and a seasonal employee work on the Sweet Connie trail to improve the trail, add drainage structures and knock off the outside out berm in areas wherever possible—making the trail a more enjoyable experience than what was existing.

Will Taliaferro will be Ridge to River's lead on the two miles of trail on the Chuckar Butte Trail, which goes from Sweet Connie Trail and ties into the Hidden Springs area. The existing trail was a two track road that didn't offer a great experience for trail users and would be fairly difficult to maintain.

D. Gordon added that staff would look to Peggy's Trail, which would be from Sweet Connie's to the Polecat Gulch Trailhead. The trail was named after Peggy Grossman, by the Grossman family in honor of the great donation they had made. Two pieces of trail would need to be constructed, one would be approximately ¾-mile in length, which would be built by a contractor and funded by the City. The second would be approximately .5-mile in length and would be a much simpler trail to build. It would be constructed by volunteers from SWIMBA, who had expressed an interest in helping. Between the two pieces of trail being developed, and two Eagle Scout Projects to tie together loose ends, the expectation was that by August 1, 2015 the three trails would be complete.

- Hillside to Hollow Reserve

The Hillside to Hollow trails would require a lot of work by staff during the 2015 summer. The first project would be to place signage at all trail junctions, second would be to identify trails that were to be close, as identified by the approved Master Plan. A volunteer construction project is planned to take place on May 2, 2015 which would include constructing a half a mile of trail to connect two trails in the Harrison Hollow portion of the system. The project would include working closely with the LTTV and would include the use of many volunteers, as well as few different groups from the community. Signs had been received from Advanced Sign which would be used to identify the main trail access points and to identify trails that had been closed, requesting that users remain on the trail—there would also be signage to identify when a user was leaving public land.

S. Koberg questioned how the public engagement piece of the trail naming project worked. D. Gordon responded that there was still work to be done on the process—it was great idea and opportunity to engage the public. There were eleven total trails that needed names. Through the process of requesting trail name suggestions it was left out that it was Ridge to River’s practice to not name trails after people—but that information was not made clear to the public. The Department received approximately a large number of suggested names, with a small percentage of the names being for individuals. When voting started those names that were for people were left out and it was explained to the public that it was an oversight that the rules were not clearly explained. It resulted in letters and phone calls to the Mayor’s Office and the Parks and Recreation Department, so it was decided to wait on picking names until the Department’s Naming Policy could be updated. Since the process was put on hold there had been very little feedback from the public. When the Naming Policy is finalized staff will pick-up where they left off. D. Holloway explained that the Naming Policy would be reviewed by both the Boise City Parks and Recreation Commission and the Boise City Council, and it would address all the facilities on City owned property, not just the trails.

S. Koberg explained that he thought the process was innovative and he was interested to see how it worked out. D. Holloway explained that they had received a lot of great feedback and the program was used to engage a few groups of kids—the public appreciated what the Department was trying to engage the public.

T. Breuer explained that LTTV had trails without names and the group was supportive of what the City had proposed by engaging the public, but there ended up being a lot of emotion from the public as they were looking to memorialize their loved ones.

- Trail 16 Relocation

D. Gordon explained that he had flagged a proposed trail in the new Boulder Heights Development. The trail was a route that should be out of the way of future development. He was still waiting for the developer approval of the proposed route, but suspected that they wouldn’t have any concerns as it was similar to what was discussed during an on-site visit. The trail would include some technical rock work and would tie into the lower Tram Trail. Through the proposed trail development process a 200 yard piece of trail had been identified that had basically been walked in and could be used to make an easy connection and link for users. The

trail would need some work, but staff was comfortable with adding it into the system. It was expected that the trail development would be completed in the spring of 2015.

- Trail Contracts

The Trail Contracts agenda item was reviewed above.

- Maintenance Efforts/Needs

D. Gordon informed the partners that at six people on staff it was the largest the group had ever been. Having six members would allow teams to be broken down into three groups of two. It was expected that Sam Roberts would be responsible for leading trail maintenance on the upper trails, in the Shaffer Butte trail area. The City had provided additional funding for staff, so the funds wouldn't have to be used out of the Heritage Trust Account.

- Dry Creek Area Agreements with City, LTTV – David, Doug, Tim Breuer

D. Gordon explained that a group would meet later in the week to discuss the City's easement for the Dry Creek trail area. The LTTV entered into an agreement with the Grossman family to address habitat restorations and concerns related to habitat management, this would create an opportunity for the Partnership to work with the LTTV in the future. Ridge to Rivers wouldn't take on trial responsibilities in the area until 2016, as the work load for 2015 was already full. The delay in taking on the additional trail maintenance would create an opportunity to complete a stream analysis in the area—the Dry Creek Trail crosses the stream approximately 24 different times. When making consideration for trail management, the concern for staff is that they don't want to make the impact to the riparian area any worse, and instead the hope would be to try and improve it. The analysis would give staff the ability to note hot spots, with Ridge to River's goal being to provide a similar experience that exists on the trail, but at the same time if areas can be improved so that the trout habitat can be improved then an analysis would be a great resource which explains the reasons for change, making the public more likely to support the change.

T. Breuer added that it was a unique arrangement. He was excited to see the project advance. The agreement identified approximately 3,400 acres and listed wildlife habitat values, area stressors, and some of the mitigating measures. A large portion of the information focuses on sedimentation in the trails and along the roads. During fall 2014, a group completed a cribbing project on BLM property at one of the worst spots in the entire trail area—while the analysis was taking place some of the more straightforward projects could be completed.

D. Holloway explained that the City was committed to fund trail improvements in 2016. Waiting until 2016 would ensure that the project was included in the budget and would give Ridge to Rivers more time to allocate resources. It would also create the opportunity to work with LTTV to determine the best way to handle the project, including what type of public engagement and involvement should be done. He explained that it would be a great addition to the trail system.

S. Koberg questioned if the Idaho Department Fish and Game was engaged in the project. A few years ago he had worked on a project in the Dry Creek area through one of his former employers to collect some data on the red band trout population in the area. He wasn't sure if it would be helpful for their upcoming project. T. Breuer responded that he was working with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game fisheries staff as well as the College of Idaho—working to tag fish so that they could be tracked.

- City Open Space Reserves Planning Process – Doug Holloway

D. Holloway explained that it was expected that they would receive Boise County's signature for the City's Open Space Reserve Planning Process. Staff was working with Agnew-Beck to complete a presentation to Boise City Council before the plan could be adopted. A team met with Agnew-Beck to review the drafted plan, there would be a few adjustments to the draft. It was expected to have a completed plan by April 2015.

- Ada County Highway District (ACHD) Federal Land Access Program.

S. Church reminded the Partners that a few years ago there had been a lot of discussion for the need of a trail head along Bogus Basin Road. With the purchase of the Stack Rock property it became even more critical to try and make the trailhead possible. She recently met with ACHD and was informed that they were working to secure Federal Land Access Program funding for improvements and maintenance on Bogus Basin Road from mile marker nine to mile marker sixteen. ACHD already had an approved plan and funding for the lower portion of Bogus Basin Road located in Ada County. ACHD has a maintenance agreement for the upper portion of the road located in Boise County, so it would fall onto the responsibility of ACHD. As part of ACHD's application process and project they can build facilities and parking lots so it was requested that they include a trailhead along the road between those mile markers. Staff would plan to take advantage of the work done in 2010 before grant funding was lost. A final decision on location would not be made until the funding was received, which would be in 2018. The application was due April 3, 2015. She explained that she thought it would be one of the best opportunities for the Forest Service to build the trailhead. She requested letters of support from the partners.

She explained that they would get numbers from Bogus Basin for winter access, but they were hoping to get some type of estimate for summer usage, so she requested that if anyone had an data that they provide the information to her. In addition, from BLM she would need the GIS files on all the trails, plus all of the Daniel's Creek trails to be included in the application, so that it could be displayed what the road services.

ACHD would be responsible for the track studies so that it could be ensured that wherever the trailhead was put in it would meet the necessary trail standards, the Forest Service did not have that expertise in house, so it would have to be contracted out anyways. ACHD would also be responsible for building the access point. The last thing that would need to be figured out would

be determining who would maintain it into the future. She explained that the Forest Service's trail budget was at a \$50,000 deficit.

T. Breuer questioned what the scope of the project that ACHD was working on, he questioned if the grant was part of a bigger project. S. Church responded that the grant was for safety improvements and maintenance on Bogus Basin Road. It was a 3.2 million dollar project that would include better drainage to reduce the build-up of black ice, as well as some railing and resurfacing of the road. Other facilities would include additional pull-outs specific to the area between mile marker nine and mile marker sixteen.

D. Holloway questioned how close Stack Rock was to the indicated mile markers. D. Gordon responded that it was well within the mile markers.

- Trail Ranger Program Review – Pete

P. Ritter reviewed the volunteer ranger information for the 2014 summer. He explained that monthly he provides a list to D. Gordon of recurring themes. The most consistent recurring themes were people are not picking up after their dog and trail users not staying on the designated trail—this was especially true in the Shane's Trail area as many social trails developed, most created by horses. From April to the end of October 2014 1,055 patrols were completed. At the start of the year there were fifteen rangers, by the end of the season there were thirteen. The total number of reported volunteer hours was 1,199 hours.

The rangers contacted 26,619 users and approximately 5,000 dogs. The biggest two users groups were mountain bikers with counts at approximately 11,500 and pedestrians with counts at approximately 15,000 there were 89 motor vehicle users counted and 31 horse user contacts. He explained that he could correlate the patrols and user counts for the Shaffer Butte trail area and provide the information to Federal Land Access grant application.

Camel's Back and the Hulls Gulch trails areas received the greatest number of contacts with trail rangers, followed by Military Reserve. The 2014 ranger patrol season was the first year that trail rangers added the Hillside to Hollow trail areas. He explained that each year the numbers will vary because the trail rangers will patrol different areas—volunteers are not directed where to patrol it is their choice to patrol whichever areas they like.

S. Dempsey informed the partners that they have trail counters out, which they were working on to get a more accurate count. The counters had been in place since 2008, the type of device that they were using counted temperature spikes in the summer, so if vegetation is not cleared the numbers were significantly different from actuals. D. Gordon added that he had used trail counters that were put in place last year, but that they would plan to have them moved.

P. Ritter explained that he had interviewed some of the replacement rangers. It was expected that there would be sixteen replacement rangers for the 2015 patrol season, ten would be returning. A kick-off meeting would be held in March.

S. Koberg provided a copy of the newsletter which had included a photo contest for the last issue. A number of photos from the Ridge to Rivers property were provided, including the photo on the cover of the newsletter. The contest was reported by Boise State Public Radio and provided some good publicity for Ridge to Rivers. He added that it seemed that the public didn't really care who was maintaining a specific area in the parks or along the trails, just that they were being managed. There were a lot of submission from city and state parks, so they were included in a separate category, the best of the best. He didn't want to discourage anyone in the public from using those areas.

The unfinished portion of the trail at the Eagle Bike Park had been contracted out with Alpine Bike Parks. A public meeting would be held on February 9, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Ada County Courthouse, they would have a preconstruction meeting with the project manager. It was expected that the feature would be completed by the end of March 2015.

D. Gordon questioned if a design had already been submitted. S. Koberg explained that he had components of the design submitted. He was working through Ada County's Development Services Department to get the necessary permits. They were working on different aspects of the railing, so there had been components that had been designed, but there would be modifications throughout the process. He explained that the different user groups had been engaged throughout the process, and they seemed to be encouraged by what was being done.

When the management agreement for the property went away S. Koberg approached D. Gordon looking for recommendation of what type of tools would be needed at the site—it was known that Ridge to Rivers wasn't going to manage the property. He recently received approval from Ada County Commissioners to get all of the needed equipment recommended by D. Gordon. After the on-site meeting with SWIMBA they re-adopted four trails.

D. Gordon questioned what the status for the NEPA was in the Dry Creek area. T. Fischer explained that L. Ridenhour was working on the project to figure out what the best category would. D. Gordon questioned if June 1, 2015 seemed reasonable to start maintenance on Sweet Connie. S. Church explained that in their old planning documents from 2006 the trail was listed, so there wouldn't be the need for the archeological clearance. L. Ridenhour explained that one of the CX files listed the trail, so he suspected that it would be a fairly easy NEPA. S. Church explained that it would be supplemental information to go with the Environmental Analysis.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.