

DRAFT Minutes, not yet approved by MERA Advisory Committee
Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA)
Joint Advisory Committee Meeting
November 2, 2021

AGENDA

- Convene on Zoom @ **6:00 PM**
- **Attendance/ Introductions:** Forrest Warren, Scott Wilson, Jon Paustian, Katrina Gaines, Mark Barber, Ian Caldwell, Sean Chambers, Bill Gamble, Chris Evans, Meg Cooke.
- **Public:** Sean Learner, Tyler Brooks, Chuck Sarrett.
- **Public Comment** (10 Minutes): none
- **Minutes** of Last Meeting **August-3-2021 Motion by Scott to approve. Second by Mark. All in favor.**

TOPICS

- **Projects Update-** Sean Chambers has a running list of projects to work on.
BMSTC- Sean Lerner Had a volunteer day in May and had 33 people show up. Held a Monday night, short track Mt Bike race from June – July which averaged about 40 riders and 20 spectators. Annual Shuttle day bike race in July with about 20 people. Sasquatch Challenge with 17 racers in October. Pretty good year for events. Trail projects. Had 34 people adopt most of the trails. Everyone went out at least once to cut back the grass. Finished top half of Dirt Circus, which is a downhill only trail. Rebuilt jumps on Skills and berms on Peebles. Wrapped up Red Ledge Trail today, which is about 2 miles, from Conley Connector. Still soft, so will not open until next year. First part was cut by hand and second part with excavator. Caffeine improvements will be broken down into small projects and work with Sean Chambers.
EOATV- Firebreak clean-up – recently did massification near the snag trail. Were able to keep most of the debris off the trails. Waiting to burn with proper weather conditions. Have sold some permits for firewood. Dead bull – volunteers have been working on connecting perimeter trail. Almost done, have a short section to finish up. North Knob – Thick with ceanothus. Got a Kubota U17 excavator from State Parks to cut in trail.
Other- Motocross area needs signage. Working on the kids track.
- **Camping Ordinance-** Have created 2 ordinances to address problems with camping. 5-night stay and must maintain clean and orderly site.
- **ATVs on County Road Ordinance –** Have not had any problems with ATVs on roads and is working well.
- **Winter Recreation-**

- Mt Emily Road- Signed and bermed once conditions allow, road is controlled by Union County Public Works. Need about 1 foot of snow to build berm. Road is still open to motorized use, but blocked to keep most wheeled vehicles off the road so they don't get stuck.
 - **BMSTC-** Snow grooming season plans. One of the board members got new snowmobiles and offered to let the club use one of their older machines to help groom the road section to the shelter. There is a steep section, which can't use smaller snow groomer. Would make 5 mile out and back trail. Seeing a lot of people walking on the groomed trails. Question about logging over the winter. Will need to use Archer Lane and Igo Lane, which may impact winter trail use.

- **Forest Management Update-**
 - Mainline Firebreak
Completed in July. Slash burning this fall/winter. Open to public for firewood salvage by permit through November 30, 2021. Might need to bring machine back in to tighten up piles for burning.
 - 3120 Firebreak
Completed October, burn slash early winter. Still funds available to work on about 10 acres of land.
 - Red Apple Forest Improvement Project
Looking to get a "forwarder" to do the work, but having trouble finding a contractor with one available. A forwarder would cut and limb the trail in place. Looking at more traditional logging with skidder over the top of the snow. Looking to go out to RFP soon. Bid due late November, Commission approval early December and work done mid-December. Would start in the Igo area and work towards Owsley canyon. Had field review last season. Looking at another field review on Wednesday November 10th this month. Question? How are trails getting repaired? Probably have volunteers work on opening trail back up. Will identify trails to protect them. Last year work on a buffer on Red Apple and Lower Hotshot to protect some of the trails. Chuck joined meeting. Making provisions to protect trails. Will flag the 2 primary trails, Red Apple and Rock Garden, and try to minimize impacts. Will walk the trail ahead of time with operator and work on laying trees away from trails. Will also flag structures such as bridges or berms. Secondary trails will still try to minimize impacts. Will be harvesting over the snow or frozen ground to minimize impacts. Question about taking trees out of area near the fence line near the Shaw's that has few trees. Can't remember certain area but also working on getting diseased trees out of area. Need to look at on the ground, field review will be a great opportunity to view trees in question. Think about 30% of the trees were marked. Might be mistletoe trees.

- Date of Next Meeting: February 1 at 6PM
Meeting Schedule; First Tuesday of February, May, August, November

- Public Comment (10 minutes): Tyler Brooks: Are there open positions? Sean...non-motorized is full. Motorized has some vacancies.
- **Other Business-**
- Question about sunscreen station? Sean... worked well last year. Will look for a summary. One person complained that they thought it was for hand sanitizer. Will add sign. Overall seemed to work well.
- Adjourn **7:02 PM**