

Madison River Foundation

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 06/01/2016

Location: Lone Elk Mall Board Room

Board Members in Attendance:

J. Dilschneider

B. Richards

B. Barker

J. Montag

N. DiMeola

J. Mathews

R. Clark (via phone)

Others Present:

Liz Davis – ED

Beth Hageman

Jim Dawson

Minutes

This was a special meeting to discuss the possibility of pursuing design, funding, and installation of a fish screen at the head of the main ditch flowing through the Golf Course and Valley Garden Ranch.

There were no Minutes or Treasurer's Reports under consideration at this meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Liz Davis reported on the research done thus far on fish screens in the area. Liz and Jackie Mathews traveled to Salmon, Idaho to observe the screens at the Salmon Screen Shop. They were showed two screens (for 100 cfs) which effectively keep fish in the river as well as other smaller screens. These drum screens cost from \$4000 to \$5000 per cfs for a total cost of \$500,000. Maintenance of the drum screens will ensure proper function. The Salmon Screen Shop budgets \$5000 to \$10,000 yearly average for maintenance but said there are many years where the maintenance is zero.

FWP's Future Fisheries state that a Farmer's screen can accommodate 100 cfs and these may not be as expensive as the drum screens. Future Fisheries has worked with Morrison Maierle and would trust the recommendations made in the feasibility study.

Discussion

The meeting centered on whether or not to proceed with a “feasibility study” to look into this project as something the MRF should promote. Jackie Mathews believes this would be a “big project” that would give the Foundation visibility and credibility. Questions were raised about the scope of the feasibility study: would it involve only preliminary engineering and cost analysis, or would there be a more comprehensive examination of the costs and benefits, as well as the likelihood of obtaining grants or public funding, in addition to the necessity of a private funding campaign? “Back of the envelope” cost estimates place the budget in excess of \$500,000.

Early indications as to the benefits of this screen were not encouraging. Trout Unlimited declined to participate, citing marginal benefits. FWP responded to questions from MRF by saying although they believe in helping with entrainment, there would be little or no impact to trout populations in the Madison. In addition, they would not fund the project in any significant way. The Directors agreed the fish screen would be received positively by our membership, but are the benefits worth the cost? Can we mount an effective campaign to raise money for this project without demonstrating a science-based, measureable improvement to the river?

It was decided that Kirby Alton should be approached with the screen proposal before giving Morrison Maierle the go ahead to do the feasibility study. Once K. Alton is informed and on board, the feasibility study will be done by Morrison Maierle. The Board requested the feasibility study should be broadened to include – in addition to engineering and cost analysis -- an estimate of benefits, as well as research into the sources and likelihood of obtaining grants and public funding. The board will then review the study and make their decision.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED