

Canyon Ferry Working Group Recreation and Operations

May 4, 2004

17 Attendees

Introduction and welcome by Craig Trinkle

Paul Backlund spoke of recent projects around Canyon Ferry

- Broadwater County developed the bay and completed the boat ramp
- Goose Bay boat ramp extension 48 feet
- New Office building being constructed
- Repair of stilling basin at base of Dam to be complete around November
- Design phase for rehabilitation of Court Sheriff initiated
- Low dissolved oxygen issue

Craig Trinkle reviewed last minutes from previous Recreation and Operations meetings

- Note Agenda

Craig Trinkle opened the discussion as to the need for the selection of a Committee Chairperson and Reporter

- No volunteers; no selections were made

Group Participation Issues:

Court Sheriff Campground Design Phase Initiated by BOR; Considerations included:

- Asphaltting of roads and parking sites
- Minimal damage to existing vegetation
- Current campsite placement/spacing will be much the same
- Federal requirement that a minimum of 5% of the sites be ADA
- Facilities must comply with ADA standards

Public Input on Court Sheriff

- Some attendees wanted gravel roads; others wanted asphalt; most agreed to some form of road improvement
- Some felt the need for extending length of camping spaces; others felt it was not necessary
- Some thought flush toilets would be a good addition; others did not see the need or desire for them
- Some thought shower facilities would be a good addition; others did not see the need or desire for them
- One mentioned the possible need for a boat ramp; five boat ramps exist within 2 miles; most disagreed
- Some felt there was a need for an area to park boat trailers

- All wanted campground layout to be similar to current design
- All agreed that there was no need for full RV hook-ups (water, electrical, sewer)
- All agreed to no group area due to confined size of campground
- All agreed that campsites should not be any closer together; no “packing” together
- All agreed that they didn’t want the design to look like a structured city park; example used was BLM’s Devil’s Elbow Campground
- All agreed to the desire to keep all existing natural vegetation

Other Court Sheriff Campground discussions included:

- Use of the beach area below high water line; reminded that vehicles are not allowed on beaches or shoreline; need for better restriction of vehicles on shoreline
- Multiple vehicles parked at one site; need for regulation

Restrooms at Cemetery Island and Mahogany Cove :

- Restrooms at Cemetery Island and Mahogany Cove need to be checked more often and possibly pumped; difficulty here is that these restrooms are accessible by boat only
- Strong public interest in keeping the restroom facilities at Cemetery Island and Mahogany Cove

Lake Levels:

- Lake levels are a serious concern:
 - Boat ramps are not deep enough for launching of watercraft
 - Some marina facilities not able to be utilized
 - Runoff is currently 47% of normal
 - Lake levels dropped last week
 - Inflows have dropped

Boating/Water Safety

- Education is the best remedy
- Providing/enforcing no wake zones
- Diver down signs; placed on BOR kiosks; replacements to be provided
- Providing adequate informational and warning signs
- Passing out Montana State Boating Regulations

Marina Concessionaries:

- A couple of questions were raised about the marina concessionaire operations; Attendees questions were addressed; reminded that this committee would be meeting May 6th

Beaches near Townsend

- Sandy Rose wishes consideration for the placement of sand for sandy beaches off of White Horse Road; wants beaches closer to Townsend; reminded that all current beaches on Canyon Ferry are of natural origin

- Develop a recreation site off White Horse Road

ATV Issues

- Need for better control of ATVs on BOR property

Action Items

- BOR will provide boating safety books to camp hosts and home owners association
- BOR kiosks will be updated with more boating rules and regulations
- BOR will update all kiosks
- BOR will check Cemetery Island and Mahogany Cove restrooms more frequently