

Minutes – Combined Roads / Committee Meeting – August 22, 10am – 2pm

In attendance: Ron and Kelley Alcorn (Roads/Snow), Jim and Judy Nance (Roads/EMC), Ron Lovely (EMC), Jim Angelillo (Board President/Roads), Brad and Marian Brooks (EMC). Not attending, Terry Bloomfield, Art and Wendy Jackson.

Roads

Jim began the discussion on roads by stating that the roads budget for 2023 was \$48,256 and that the following projects were planned:

- A. \$14,800 on Cougar Trail grading and roadbase – completed - \$14800
- B. Rugby Mines slide reduction in grade through grading and additional fill – projected \$15000
- C. Brodmore Emergency Exit – possibly add more roadbase.
- D. Grading on Sunrise Drive – probably the road in the worst shape on the ranch and needs grading

Specific items of Discussion

- A. Howards Draw – continues to be used extensively by residents, contractors and delivery vehicles. Does not meet current 20' width target. Jim suggests that we investigate the facts surrounding what rights Blackhawk has with regard to getting Las Animas County to widen and grade that portion of 66.1 that is within the borders of Blackhawk Ranch. It was also discussed that we need to understand better the pros and cons of asking the county to abandon that portion of 66.1 within the borders of Blackhawk Ranch. Jim will attempt to set up a meeting with Las Animas County Roads and Bridges for a fact-finding discussion on this topic. An analysis of the pros and cons of reclaiming Blackhawk's portion of CR 66.1 should be done in order to inform and guide our decisions on this matter.
- B. Lower Mines Road – asphalt regrind remainders along the road. Jim wanted to be sure that ranch residents knew that they were free to remove the regrind along the road and use it on their property for free.
- C. A lengthy discussion on Timber Drive and its safety issues ensued. It is unlikely that we can make Timber any safer through decreasing the grade. Further it is unlikely that residents will heed any warning signage. A warning sign was proposed for commercial traffic on Timber during the snow season.
- D. Culverts – Jim has completed the inventory of all 179 culverts on the ranch, has given them IDs and color-coded them with respect to their current condition (Good, Fair or Poor). He has developed a map of the ranch with the culverts identified in such a manner and saved it as a KML file in Google Earth Pro. A discussion ensued regarding the necessity, or the lack thereof, the marking of the feed side of culverts with T-posts. The cost of materials and labor for consistently marking all culverts this way not be insignificant and is still under study. The core question is are these really needed by our snow removal contractor to do their job safely – Kelly Alcorn will follow up on that question with our new contractor once the contract has been completed and approved.
- E. Jim also shared that he did not want to be Road Chair after our next annual meeting and that we all should be looking for a permanent ranch resident to take over. Jim stated he still would like to be part of the Road Committee, just not the Chair.
- F. Brad brought up the need to include Lost Spur in our discussions with any new snow removal contractor due to its narrow and steep condition as well as the little area to turn a plow around at its bottom. Kelly will follow up on that matter with the contractor via the contract. Jim asked Kelly to determine if BAMM would be willing to clean culverts as well as plow snow. Kelly Alcorn, who has volunteered to be Blackhawk Ranch's Snow Captain (Queen?), has prepared a draft Snow Removal Request for Proposal (RFP) for review and comment by Road and EMC Committee members. The intent is to share this RFP

with B.A.M.M. by Friday August, 25. Mark Kendal, owner and CEO of B.A.M.M. has expressed a keen interest in bidding on our Snow Removal business for 2023-2024, and will receive this RFP.

Emergency Management

- A. Colorado State Forest Service Grant, Wapiti Drive Shaded Fuel Break – Brad reports that this grant has been completed, the final report prepared and submitted. The Forest Service is currently reviewing this grant and determining the amount of reimbursement that the Blackhawk POA will receive for the 3 years of work that both Blackhawk and Team Rubicon volunteers have completed. Brad asked those present to consider at least three more fire mitigation workdays in September / October to finish some of the work on this area and to prepare and transport fire wood to the County Transfer Station for use by the County LEAP program. Those gathered chose Tuesday September 12, Saturday September 23, and Thursday September 28 as community workdays to make progress on continuing needs along Wapiti.
- B. Produced Wood – two late breaking events have surfaced this week: 1) Chris called to tell us that he cannot possibly remove all the produced wood this year. He stated that any of the land owners who want it removed can either have it for themselves or let others have it. Chris will retain ownership of the logs produced on 4-Mile Canyon and hopes to remove them this fall; and 2) The LEAP Program has restarted its firewood program but with some important new changes that impact our work – instead of 4-foot logs, they now want us to buck them up to 16” long rounds that can either be burned as is or split for use in wood burning appliances. This will increase our work in preparing our produced wood for transport to the Huerfano County Transfer Station.
- C. Ron Lovely reports that the Chipper Program remains functional, but needs to purchase additional chipping blades and anvils, as well as sharpen and square off those we have. Additional bolts are also needed for securing both anvils and blades. JP Angelillo, asked that Ron prepare a list and their prices for review and approval by the board; the funds will come from the EMC budget. Brad requested that the EMC also be allowed to purchase two 5-gallon Steel Safety Gas Cans with flash arrestors. JP Angelillo asked that these items be sourced and priced for pre-approval; Brad will handle that.
- D. With the two recent close calls that Blackhawk has had with nearby wildland fires, Brad mentioned the need for additional dedicated firefighting water on the ranch. His recommendation is to site, and estimate the cost the of constructing a second firefighting water tank. Siting the tank, would be done in collaboration with the Huerfano County Fire Protection District. The already completed tank project cost \$5800 for constructing the elevated tank bed, and the current cost of water tanks is approximately \$1/gallon (3000 gallon tank requested), bringing the early estimate for the project to just under \$9000.
- E. Ranch Quadrants and their ongoing and newly assigned duties were discussed. In addition to fire and smoke plume locating, and search and recovery duties, weed management will now be added to Quadrant duties, as well as supplying EMS and Fire escorts as the need arises. The need for additional Quadrant members for necessary backup was discussed. Other ranch residents will be approached for help.
- F. Fire Weather Sign changes – due to the theft of several of our fire weather signs, and the amazing number of changes to the signage, day after day, it has been decided to manage intentional fires on Blackhawk in a different way. The EMC has decided it will remove the old signs and put up a single sign with verbiage similar to:
NO OPEN FIRES WITHOUT COUNTY PERMIT
Las Animal County – xxx-xxx-xxxx
Huerfano County – xxx-xxx-xxxx

The “County” in this case is the designated Fire Protection authority in each county.

- G. JP Angelillo will call both counties regarding to the signage and assure they approve of this approach. If county approval is granted, Brad will replace the fire weather signs with these new signs.

H. Ron Lovely and his wife Gail have initiated an experimental trial of an application called SIGNAL. This application is being tested as a solid communication platform (online) that will facilitate increased communication regarding emergencies, fires, and other health and safety issues on the ranch. This hopefully will allow for a more rapid and effective response to these incidents. While 911 will always be called first in such emergencies, this will help recruit and deploy on-ranch resources as well. Ron and others also brought up the fact that HAM radios already deployed by some members of the EMC on the ranch, could also be used in Emergencies Only even by unlicensed residents. Although a small number of residents were involved in this initial SIGNAL trial, it appears to have the potential for expanding our communication effectiveness in emergency situation on, or nearby, the Blackhawk Ranch.

Brad made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40pm, it was seconded, and accepted by all present.

Respectfully submitted 8/22/23,

Brad

Brad Brooks, EMC Chair