**HorseThief Reservoir Benefit District Minutes – April 28, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the HTR Benefit District was called to order by Chairman, Gilbert Benton via conference call, at 8:31 a.m. on April 28, 2020. The meeting was held at the HTR Lodge due to the Covid-19 restrictions and board members practiced social distancing. HTR Board members present were Gene Webb, Henry Reed, Sam Seybold, and Chris Law. Others present; Josh Hobbs, Manager and Heather Mihm, Administrative Assistant. HTR Board members absent: Troy Brown, Randy Wehkamp, and Steve Seibel. The public was unable to attend due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the public was notified to email questions to us. No emails were received.

Consent Calendar: Chris inquired about Facebook Ads and why we advertise on Facebook. Chris also confirmed our current vehicles and the payments made for their tags. Sam made a motion to approve vouchers for January, February, March and April and the previous meeting minutes. Chris seconded and the motion passed.

New Business: The DWR Permit Review was tabled until the May meeting. The Board discussed the 2019 Annual Park Review. Each Board Member will receive an electronic copy of the report to share with their County Commissioners and the general public. Josh discussed the main details and discussed the Sheriff’s report regarding calls to the Reservoir. Gilbert did ask how the relationship was between HTR and the Hodgeman County Sheriff’s office. Josh responded by stating that the HG SO does an outstanding job and has one of their deputies out once a day, if not more. Also reported HTR and Hg Sheriff’s office maintains an excellent working relationship.

Josh Hobbs’ annual review was tabled until the May meeting.

The 2020 Budget was provided and discussion was held. There were questions on the Sales Tax Revenue Fund and final year to receive, pay off on bonds to be 2021. Josh has applied for numerous Grants for 2020 through several organizations. Some of the events that are already canceled are the Farm to Market Jubilee, the Friends of HTR Chili Cookoff/Backyard BBQ event, Camp Wild Women and HTR-the Festival. We are having an increase in daily use due to many being unemployed during this time. The weekdays have been just as busy as the weekends. This will help with the revenue loss from cancelation of events.

After discussion, Sam made a motion to approve the 2020 Annual Budget. Henry seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business: The Board tabled discussion on the 5-year plan. They will have further discussion later in 2020. The Board also decided to table the decision on property taxes for the next year.

Other Business:

Chairman’s Report: Gilbert gave a brief report from the PWS Board. The PWS Board, like ours, have not been able to meet due to Covid-19. Gilbert reported that the gate to the dam is a big topic of discussion, with no resolution coming soon. Gilbert will contact Brit regarding the cancelation of the joint meeting between PWS and HTR Board of Directors. Gilbert will let us know during our May meeting how we will handle the missed joint meeting in February. HTR will be the host for 2021 joint meeting. Josh also asked Gilbert to confirm when the PWS will be opening up the area east of the dam for public fishing. Isaac Aberson has reported twice that the area East of the dam will be opened soon by PWS. Gilbert will visit with the PWS board and will report about PWS opening creek access east of the dam, as well as a time frame.

HTR Managers Report: Josh reported that the Park is ready for the busy season. Staff have replaced hydrants, breakers, etc. and everything is in good working order. Staff will be opening up the other bathrooms soon due to the increase of visitation. Staff will continue to disinfect facilities. All staff has been provided PPE, self-pay envelopes are bagged and disinfected. HTR staff will continue to follow KDWPT and state directions.

Josh brought the Board up to date on the South Side Access Road and its progress. Concrete will be poured this week for the self-pay station, signs, etc. Josh is planning that we can have Lakota Cove open by Memorial Weekend. At this time, the cove will only be accessible for day use only. The area will be opened as soon as vegetation adequately covers disturbed soil.

Josh reported on the annual audit timeline. John Hendrickson with Kennedy, McKee has requested that financial materials be taken to their office in Dodge for the annual audit. We will make arrangements with Kennedy, McKee for drop off.

Rebecca Wyatt had her first annual review and did a great job her first year. Becca is always willing to learn new things and stays busy at all times. Josh will only be hiring one seasonal on for this year at this time.

Gilbert asked Josh what his plans were when the Stay at Home Shelter was lifted and the State was opened up again. Josh informed Gilbert that he planned to follow KDWPT parks. He will also stay in contact with the Hodgeman County Health Department and will continue to work closely with them. He did reiterate that he was doing everything possible to protect staff by having gloves, disinfectant, etc. close at hand. Heather is wiping office doors down daily; Becca and Josh continue to disinfect the bathroom and shower houses daily as well. He did say that Primitive Lodging units were not being rented now due to them not having running water. The three modern yurts/cabin have stayed rented and have disinfectant. They are not being rented back to back to insure proper cleaning; 24-hour time frame between rentals.

Sam wondered how the lake levels were. Josh explained the springs have been flowing well and water levels are increasing. Josh is actually needing to pull the docks up as the lake levels have come up. Sam also wondered if we are planning on marking the creek channel after complaints by a boater. Josh explained to Sam that speed may have played a role in the boat hitting the mud flat as that is in the no wake zone. No wake buoys are posted and going slow is highly recommended for boater safety.

Gene made a motion to adjourn the April meeting. Chris seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Randy Wehkamp, Secretary