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MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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Last week at the regular MRD Board Meeting, the Board voted unanimously to create a Master Plan for the recently acquired 26 acre parcel at Woodgate and Ogden, including indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. The Board further voted to enter into a contract with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to accept their grant award to pay for much of the cost of the project. MRD applied for this grant to enable the creation of this plan and on May 15th received notification from DOLA of the grant award.

The resultant design will provide a Community Recreation Center (CRC) project plan at the Woodgate property as well as specify conceptual designs for several phases of outdoor facilities and/or partner uses. The planning process will span from June through November and will involve a MRD Board appointed Citizen and Partner Advisory Panel. This group will be comprised of key stakeholders including representation from several private, non-profit and public entities. One major goal of this group will be to facilitate partnerships with other agencies who desire direct involvement in the project.

Working with the Citizen and Partner Advisory Panel, as well as MRD Board and staff, will be the project team:

- ❑ Chuck Musgrave from Barker-Rinker-Seacat, a firm specializing in recreation center design who built many recreation centers on the western slope including Gunnison, Cortez and Durango
- ❑ John Eloe, an architect practicing locally in Montrose, who will bring western slope design and local site and code expertise to the project
- ❑ John Barnholt from GreenPlay, a firm specializing in operational planning for recreation centers, who worked on the plans for recreation centers in Fruita and Rifle, among many others around the U.S.
- ❑ Julee Wolverton, a landscape architect practicing locally in Montrose, who will be taking the lead on creating the outdoor facility plans
- ❑ Doug Whitaker, Aquatic Design, who'll be doing further design of the aquatic components of the CRC

Architect John Eloe said of the Board vote, "now that we have an actual site, we can begin the process of molding the design to fit both the new Montrose partners we hope will join the process as well as the community feel of Montrose." Board President Kevin Davis agreed, stating "the addition of the Woodgate land into the project has been positively received by the community, for its price, its location, and its potential to become a real community hub benefiting the quality of life in Montrose. Now, we need to apply the CRC plan to this site by completing this Master Plan".

This Master Plan process will utilize the foundation provided by the final project plan of the CRC feasibility study in 2011. This was an in-depth public process that identified the facility that would meet the needs of the community, a process where the Citizen Task Force was the driving influence in the creation of the plan. It specifies a 72,000 square foot recreation center, which would be at the Woodgate site. The plan also calls for the current indoor pool to be converted into an indoor turf field house for the continued benefit of Montrose.

The resultant Woodgate Property Master Plan will include the following:



- ❑ Specify the orientation of the CRC and address other site development issues such as parking lots and access drives. This will enable a much more precise total project cost.
- ❑ This more accurate cost will lead into a new strategy for financing. The MRD Board has directed that a greater focus be placed on non-tax funding through grants, such as the DOLA grant that was earned for the Master Plan, as well as fundraising through the Montrose Recreation Foundation and the one-duck-at-a-time capital campaign. It is important to note that even with an effective effort with non-tax funding sources, a funding gap will likely still exist for the CRC to be built.
- ❑ Provide for the detailed design of phase 1 of outdoor recreation facilities at the site. This will position MRD to pursue a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant to build such amenities as trails, an outdoor pool, fields etc. The appraised value of \$390,000 can be used as cash match in a GOCO proposal so long as a grant is awarded before December 2015, even though the land was purchased by MRD for \$299,888. This is one reason MRD is moving forward with this Master Plan now.

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