



## **COLORADO NATURAL AREAS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, September 20, 2019  
Jefferson County Open Space Office  
700 Jefferson County Pkwy #100  
Golden, CO 80401

**CNAC Attendees:** Ken Strom (Chair), Dina Clark (Vice-Chair), Charlie Garcia (PWC), Julia Kintsch, Lynn Riedel, Denise Culver

**CPW Staff:** Raquel Wertsbaugh, Savanna Smith, David Klute (SCON supervisor)

**Other:** Jessica Smith (CNHP Botanist), Lindsey Brandt (SLB), Drew Rayburn (Jeffco Natural Resources Supervisor)

**Council Chair Ken Strom called meeting to order at 10:06 am**

### **Presentations from Commissions and Appointees**

**Charlie Garcia:** Fisher's Peak property near Trinidad slated to be the next state park. Discussions are still ongoing regarding management decisions.

**Denise Culver:** Visited Fisher's Peak this summer to conduct a biological inventory and remarked on unique plant and animal species it contains.

**Dina Clark:** Visited Fisher's Peak several times this year and remarked on the diverse assemblage of plant communities represented due to the large elevation gradient. Reiterated importance of CNAP outside the state- researchers from Nova Scotia are interested in cardinal flower genetics and using Arikaree River Natural Area as a research site.

**Lynn Riedel:** City of Boulder OSMP is working on a potential addition adjacent to Colorado Tallgrass Natural Area. Visited Antero-Salt Creek NA in August and highlighted its exceptional wetlands.

**Lindsey Brandt:** The State Land Board commission approved the recommended changes to the Stewardship Trust. Three new properties were added and pieces of land were added to existing Stewardship Trust properties, including a small piece to Antero-Salt Creek Natural Area. Some land was removed but only for areas that were erroneously added previously.

**Julia Kintsch:** Governor Polis recently signed a new executive order on wildlife corridors, encouraging collaboration and continued agency work on the topic.

**Ken Strom:** Recent report highlighted significant declines in bird species, an estimated 3 billion birds lost since 1970. Grassland birds in particular have seen a steep decline.

### **CPW staff update (David Klute)**

- Terrestrial section manager Craig McLaughlin is retiring from CPW, his last day is Oct. 4
- Decision item for CNAP budget has been approved. CNAP still has some SCTF funds remaining.
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), federal legislation: If passed, RAWA would add \$27 million annual allocation to CO to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan. The bill was introduced to the house in July and there are currently 122 co-sponsors. The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society are sponsoring a scientist sign-on letter that can be distributed. CPW created a RAWA funding vision outreach document.

### **Matters from Staff**

- *Recent news*
  - CNAP story map has been distributed widely and received well.
  - A representative from the Attorney General's office will be attending the December CNAC meeting to give a 30 minute training on ethics and transparency.
  - Current field tech Savanna Smith will be working through October and returning to CNAP in February. We plan to hire an additional technician for the 2020 field season.
- *2019 field season update*
  - CNAP is wrapping up the field season with 25 visits so far, and 3 more to go. Two site visits have been made to identified natural areas.
  - CNAP contracted with CNHP to evaluate the use of drones for survey & monitoring work on Parachute penstemon (Federally threatened).
  - CNAP staff visited Staunton Natural Area with contractor Mark Beardsley to monitor the federally petitioned budding monkeyflower. CNAP plans to expand monitoring efforts next season.
- *Update on identification of potential sites on eastern plains*
  - Several steps from strategic plan have been accomplished. Staff is currently evaluating natural features and gauging landowner support on prioritized sites.
  - There will be further discussion at December meeting on which site(s) to move forward with.

### **Matters from Council**

- *Approval of June minutes:* Motion to approve made by Dina Clark, seconded by Julia Kintsch. All in favor.

### **Overview of Dakota Hogback Natural Area- CNAP & Jeffco Open Space staff**

- Staff presented an overview of the Dakota Hogback Natural area, including significant features and management, to the council.

### **Field Tour of Dinosaur Ridge parcel of Dakota Hogback Natural Area**

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted:



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Raquel Wertsbaugh, Colorado Natural Areas Program Coordinator

Approved:



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Ken Strom, Colorado Natural Areas Council Chair

