

Colorado State Recreational Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 1, 2019
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216

Members Present: Dustin Wilkinson, Janelle Kukuk, Scott Jones, Wally Piccone, Jerry Abboud, Christian Meyer (phone), Bill Koerner (phone)

Ex-Officio Present: Jack Placchi (BLM)

CPW Staff Present: Margaret Taylor, Nick Dellaca, Windi Padia, Rob Seel, Gabby Smiley, Brad Henley, Jeannie MacMurtrie, Tom Metsa, Pam O'Malley, Shelly Raemer, Lizzie DeRycke, Megan Sims, Randy Engle (phone), Josh Stoudt (phone).

Visitors: Steve Bonowksi (CMC), Dean Winstanley (VOC), Ann Baker (VOC), Alex Dean (DNR), Chris Shaver (Great Old Broads).

Call to Order – Chair Scott Jones called the meeting to order at 9:06 am

Welcome and Introductions

Agenda Amendments – None presented

Janelle Kukuk made a motion to approve the agenda as presented

Dustin Wilkinson seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Request for any additions, changes or edits to the December 7, 2018 meeting notes. None presented.

Wally Piccone made a motion to approve the meeting minutes

Janelle Kukuk seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment Period – None Presented.

Director's Update – Margaret Taylor

- Bob Broscheid resigned and went back to Arizona Parks. It could take 2-4 months to replace him. Jeff Ver Steeg is Acting Director in the interim.
- Dan Gibbs is the new Executive Director of DNR. Scott said when Broscheid came on there was a search committee put in place and there was a trails person on there. Will such a committee be created again? Anything we can do to keep trails relevant and in the discussion would be good.
- Other vacancies in DNR: Assistant Director of DNR, Madeleine West's position.
- Busy setting up grants, both capital and TiSP. Busy time of year getting ready for next fiscal year.
- Excited the federal government has reopened.
- One bill in legislative season. Increasing fines and penalties on various parks and wildlife citations to have them be in-line with the increased fees.

Trails Program Update – Nick Dellaca

- Penalty fee increases on snowmobile and OHV safety and registration related citations: \$50 to \$100. Registration and permit prices will not increase. Mostly related (crossing a road, railroad, improper equip, etc). In House Committee now, then it will move to the House floor and Senate.
 - Jack asked how they compared to federal citations. Nick said they are still below them. Scott asked if it was just a fine amendment or if other program enforcement procedures were also changing? Nick said it's just an amendment to the citation fines and there will still be officer discretion in the field, and we don't want to discourage people from recreating.
- 2018/19 Non-Motorized Grant Subcommittee Discussions
 1. CMC submitted an application for a trail assessment application. There was a lot of discussion about the need for 2 different crews. CMC explained that the Rapid Trail Assessment crew would assess the area and do minor maintenance as needed, and then another crew would come in behind them for more of the heavy maintenance. They will come to our March STC Meeting to explain RTA and their role in assisting land managers in trail assessment.
 - Scott is struggling with the model. Would like to see more strategic thinking and planning on the Non-Motorized side.
 - Janelle said if this is to try to do a good management program she is concerned about investing it in a non-profit rather than a larger entity. Thinks it's a duplicative effort if we give money to 2 crews doing the same thing.
 - Steve Bonowski stated that CMC is a hybrid: both stewardship and field work. Will take these comments to Julie. CMC established the Outdoor Recreation Coalition a few years ago. The group already contains various agencies that may be helpful for the discussion.
 - Dustin asked if there is a model for a Statewide Non-Motorized Maintenance Crew. Scott said that he would like staff to schedule meetings to get partners together to discuss (federal, non-profit, local government, etc). Janelle said it is more difficult on the non-motorized side because the land managers and jurisdiction vary so much. On the motorized side it's mainly all on federal land.
 - Start looking at the Non-Motorized Program as a whole and what would make the program stronger.
 - Nick said he would look into pulling a working group together of federal, state, municipal, and non-profits. Plan is to start meetings this spring. Will one program work for all or do we need separate programs? CMC is sharing their model with the feds as it follows federal guidelines, but it can be modified to meet other guidelines. Intent is to have a better database of what the problems and needs of an area are. Julie is working with Alex and Jeff Thompson to see what application (if any) would work best for this. Nick suggested STC Appoint members to be on the work group: Linda, Wally (local gov't), Scott, Jack and Janelle all volunteered. Recommendation was to listen to CMC meeting in March and take time to meet and plan this out. Tentative plan is to meet in May and June. May not be complete by August 1st, but could start the discussion. Plan to have an update on it at the September meeting.
 - Jack thinks it would have to be a state park crew since forest service crews wouldn't be able to work on local lands. Does the BLM have separate staff to oversee

motorized or non-motorized trails? Depends on the office. Some have a recreation planner that oversees both, some have separate staff for each.

- 2) Trail Amenities and how much should be included in each grant
 - We've always permitted amenities in the past – benches, parking areas, interpretive signs, lighting, restrooms.
 - Could put us in a bad position if we award them on years when we have more money and not on years when we have less. When money is not available they come back and say it was awarded previously and could be perceived as discriminatory.
 - Policy states that items are line itemed to help the grant score better, which should help with that.
 - Decision was to leave as a case by case basis.
 - Would like to see more grants to make it more competitive.
 - What's a reasonable cost for these amenities? Fair market value. Appropriate guidelines on the cost of these items. Or maybe make applicants justify those prices. Nick: those discussions happen at the subcommittee meetings and applicants are asked when costs seem high. Perhaps we provide a range. Put together fair market value on amenities with next year's application for subcommittee.
 - 3) Should tools and equipment be a separate support grant or included in maintenance /construction grant applications?
 - One suggestion was to set a percentage (say 30%). If they have more than that in their application, then they need to submit a separate support grant for the tools/equipment. If less than 30% they could keep it all as a maintenance/construction application.
 - Add a question to one of the application questions: If you are requesting tools and/or equipment, please explain how you will use those tools after the project is complete.
 - Nick would like to talk to the Trail Coordinators more about it before we set a percentage.
 - 4) Non-Motorized Trails Program Logo
 - Is there interest in this?
 - If we're buying trailers, heavy equipment, parking lots, would like to see that is says CPW Non-Motorized.
 - Would we do a separate one for GOCO, RTP, etc. or just one for CPW Non-Motorized?
 - Steve Bonowski said he saw one at a remote trailhead recently.
 - Nick will look into more and see what the options are. May pull together a small group to determine what it would look like.
 - 5) Feasibility of a Mountain Bike fee
 - Discussions are currently taking place with mountain bike clubs and constituents to determine if a mountain bike fee would a palatable funding option to the MTB community and how it might work out. The discussions are in the very early stages and nothing will move forward this legislative cycle, but next year could be an option.
- **CPW and DNR Staffing Updates**
 - Nick is leaving the agency in June and moving back to Iowa. His position will be posted in a few weeks, hopefully hired on in March/April and Nick will stay on in an S position part-time until June.

2018/19 Non-Motorized Trails Grants

Nick presented the 2018-19 grant application data and funding recommendations. 10 Large Construction applications, 3 Small Construction, 4 Planning and 2 Support Applications for a total of \$2,005,468.93 Million Requested.

Scott said he thought it worked well for the 2 CtB grant applications that came in. They took the feedback and brought back a better application and presentation.

Wally Piccone made a motion to approve the scores and ranking for the non-motorized trails grant applications and to recommend funding as stated by the subcommittee to the Parks and Wildlife Commission. Dustin Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (Jerry Abboud recused himself since he wasn't part of the STC Committee yet).

RTP Rescission – Funding Allocation – Nick Dellaca

- Allocating \$500,000.00 to TiSP grants
- Portion to go to 2018 Non-Motorized Grant Applications. \$136,720.00 of GOCO and \$426,064.64 of RTP. 4 Large Construction and 1 Small Construction.
- Recommendation is to fund 4 Large Construction, 1 Small Construction, so 5 grants total from the 2018 Non-Motorized Grant Cycle.

Public Comment: None

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VOC, OSI, and New Stepping Up Programs – Ann Baker & Dean Winstanley

- 34 years of pioneering Colorado Stewardship practices and tools
- Programmatic strategies include:
 - Boots on the ground: 60%
 - Stepping up Stewardship: 24%
 - Naturally United: 16% (Coalition/Collaboration Work – includes staff time, materials, training)
- Capacity Investment: develop local volunteers & organizations (done @ landscape level). Responsive to areas & local volunteers = more impact
- VOC Capacity Building programs
 - OSI
 - Stepping Up Stewardship (ready-made toolkit that can be downloaded)
- OSI
 - Standardized, peer reviewed curriculum taught by qualified instructors
 - Each trainee trains 30 people annually
 - 66% of the trainees and 75% of the courses met external (not VOC) needs in 30 locations in 22 counties. Involved 100 partner organizations.
 - VOC has received 2 grants in the last 3 years (almost \$90k) and used them for new/updated curricula, technology (online training, webinar formats). 97 trainings & 1,205 trainees.
 - Working with Colorado College to develop modules.

- Coming in 2019:
 - 320 trainees; 25 trainings
 - Online training through Colorado College.
- Funding sources: Organizations like Mile High Youth Corps, land management agencies, foundation money, ~27% gov't agencies, ~20% individual donations, organization donations, National Forest Foundation.
- As part of capacity planning is there a way to help other organizations know how to get/look for other funding? San Luis Valley work: received a \$5 mill donation over 5 years. Helped develop toolkits and train people in the area.

Lunch

Colorado's 16 Project Updates – Alex Dean, Colorado the Beautiful Project Manager

Regional Trail Coordinator Quarterly Reports

Southeast Region – Rob Seel

Southwest Region – Josh Stoudt (phone)

Northeast Region – Windi Padia

Northwest Region – Randy Engle (phone)

Round Table

Janelle said that the Rails to Trails project from Creede to South Fork is no longer moving forward. The landowner rejected the offer. County invested \$125k and a lot of time.

Meeting Adjourned

Scott Jones – 1:37 pm. Jerry Abboud motioned, Dustin Wilkinson seconded the motion.