



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado's Recreational Trails Committee

Established January 1, 1985

1313 Sherman Street, Room #618 • Denver, CO 80201

Trails@state.co.us

Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2019

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

4255 Sinton Rd.

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Members Present: Scott Jones, Jill Ozarski, Christian Meyer, Dustin Wilkinson, Jerry Abboud, Wally Piccone, Janelle Kukuk, Linda Strand, Betsy Blecha (PWC) via teleconference

Ex-Officio Present: Jack Placchi (BLM)

CPW Staff Present: Dan Prenzlou, Mark Leslie, Brad Henley, Margaret Taylor, Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Jeannie MacMurtrie, Pam O'Malley, Kate Litfin, Ben Plankis, Randy Engle, Josh Stoudt

Others in Attendance: Brian O'Connor, Steven Hill, Cory Sutela, Misi Ballard, Jim Lockhart, Tom Mowle, Jennifer Peterson, Steve Bonowski, Jason Robertson, Oscar Martinez, Larry Small, Kevin Shanks, Randall Navarro, Joe Lavorini

Call to Order – Chair Scott Jones called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Amendments – None Presented

Motion to approve agenda – Janelle Kukuk

Motion Seconded – Jill Ozarski

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Request for any additions, changes or edits to the June 21, 2019 meeting minutes. None presented.

Motion to approve agenda – Christian Meyer

Motion Seconded – Wally Piccone

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment: Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates; Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club; Misi Ballard, Wild Connections

Director's Update – Margaret Taylor

- Discussed the Eldo-Walker Trail (Eldorado Canyon SP). A visitor use study is underway and is now open for public comment. Public meetings will be scheduled. CPW will be



opening a new state park in Trinidad, on the Fisher's Peak property. The park is yet to be named.

- Introduced Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Betsy Blecha as the new liaison to the State Trails Committee.
- Introduced new CPW Director Dan Prenzlow.

Dan spoke about his previous roles in the agency and his general philosophy and goals going forward. This includes managing the intersection/collision of 8 million people (6 million residents and 2 million visitors) with recreation and open space for wildlife, trails, habitat preservation and resource protection. He and the agency will be working on how to stay ahead of the curve. He commended the State Trails Committee on their work and stated how important it is to have open communication across the state. There is an ongoing discussion about potential mountain bike fees and how it will be part of a longer discussion about non-motorized issues.

There was some discussion between Dan and committee members on additional funding for non-motorized trails as well as trails management statewide and policy issues for the committee. Dan will consider how the STC can be part of a wider conversation on these issues.

Margaret thanked Brad Henley and the Southeast Regional staff for orchestrating the Dixon Trail hike on Thursday and for hosting the committee meeting.

Trails Program Update – Fletcher Jacobs

- Attended the Mountain Bike Summit in Crested Butte. There is a larger conversation about local clubs forming a statewide coalition to build and improve relationships.
- E-bikes discussion and new NPS policy. E-bikes are only allowed on properties that currently allow bicycles. Even then, the superintendents have discretion. We will start seeing how different municipalities manage e-bikes, what class, what surfaces. This new policy does not affect the Department of Agriculture (Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation) where e-bikes are still considered motorized vehicles.
 - Jack Placchi stated that the BLM office will provide guidance to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), but the decisions will be up to the local managers. Travel management plans are in process now, with the need to define what classes of e-bikes will be allowed. We could see more use on natural surface trails because of the benefits of e-bikes. He thinks it will take about a year to develop new rules.
- COTREX update
- Partners Outdoors Conference
- Non-Moto grants were revised with new application categories, questions and scoring points. The emphasis is on wildlife corridors and seasonal closures.
- Working with regional staff on wildlife assessments. Will be updating the 'Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind' manual/brochure. We need to continue the conversation about what CPW manages and what we don't. The goal is to have a draft by next summer. We are

starting to pull together a task force with various land managers across the state and will consider academic advisors with wildlife expertise.

Information Item – 2020 Snowmobile Grooming Allocations – Tom Metsa

- Linda Strand asked how wildlife comments are incorporated into the motorized side of things. This could be an agenda item for a future meeting as it would be helpful to understand both sides.

Action Item – Election of Officers, Subcommittee Member Appointments and 2020 Meeting Dates – Scott Jones

Chair – Scott Jones. Self-nominated. Seconded by Janelle Kukuk. Motion passed.

Vice Chair – Christian Meyer. Nominated by Janelle Kukuk. Seconded by Dustin Wilkinson. Motion passed.

Subcommittee Assignments:

OHV Subcommittee Chair – Dustin Wilkinson

Snowmobile Subcommittee Chair – Janelle Kukuk

Non-motorized Construction Chair – Wally Piccone

Non-motorized Maintenance/Planning/Support Chair – Linda Strand

2020 Meeting Dates:

- Jan 31st – Denver
- Apr 3rd – Denver
- June 5th – Denver
- September 17-18th in Northwest Region
- December 4th – Denver

Presentation – USFS Trails Update – Oscar Martinez and Jason Robertson

Presentation – Colorado Front Range Trail (Fountain to Pueblo) – Larry Small

Presentation – Colorado Front Range Trail (Walsenburg to Trinidad) – Kevin Shanks

Presentation – Waldo Canyon Trail Planning Grant – Joe Lavorini & Jennifer Peterson

Regional Trail Coordinator Quarterly Reports

Northeast Region – Ben Plankis

Northwest Region – Randy Engle

Southwest Region – Josh Stoudt

Round Table

Linda gave an update on GOCO. There is a coalition of agencies looking at landscape level restoration projects.

Janelle gave some details on a labor market report that shows a significant increase in outdoor recreation. She also mentioned restoration projects to address beetle kill, watershed management, and timber and recreation management.

Jill talked about the need to find ways to leverage private funds with public money. She also mentioned bicycle fatalities in Denver and how this is a big topic of conversation within the Denver cycling community. They are pushing for a call for dedicated bike trails (urban) and not just bike lanes on city streets.

Jerry mentioned that motorcycle industry side-by-side sales are up. Jack stated that the 50” rule designates where different types of OHVs can be ridden based on width.

Christian wants to continue discussing good management crews for non-motorized projects.

Meeting Adjourned – Scott Jones at 2:30 p.m.