



Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 7, 2019
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216

Members Present: Scott Jones, Janelle Kukuk, Linda Strand, Jill Ozarski, Christian Meyer (phone), Dustin Wilkinson (phone), Wally Piccone (phone), Bill Koerner (phone)

Ex-Officio Present: Jack Placchi (BLM)

CPW Staff Present: Margaret Taylor, Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Randy Engle, Ben Plankis, Josh Stoudt, Brad Henley, Dean Riggs, Pam O'Malley, Megan Sims, Gabby Smiley, Jody Kennedy, Dan Zimmerer, Lizzie DeRycke, Mark Leslie, Scott Roush.

Others in Attendance: Sam Logan (Stay the Trail), Molly Chiappetta (Stay the Trail), Steve Bonowski (Colorado Mountain Club), John Reiber (landowner), Chad Schneckenburger (USFS Region 2), Gary Moore (COMBA), Grover Cleveland.

Call to Order – Chair Scott Jones called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

Agenda Amendments – None Presented

Motion to approve agenda – Janelle Kukuk

Motion Seconded – Linda Strand

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Request for any additions, changes or edits to the September 20, 2019 meeting minutes. Janelle: last page on roundtable – details came out of a labor market report, not a snowmobile report. 2nd to last line – 40H limits size, not OHVs (Jack Placchi).

Motion to approve minutes as amended – Linda Strand

Motion Seconded – Janelle Kukuk

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment:

Steve Bonowski, CMC – Introduced Grover Cleveland and John Rover from Littleton. John is interested in how trails program works (has some issues with OHV and off trail use). CMC will work with him to address his concerns.

Brandon Mitchell, South Platte Ranger District – Outside 285 planning grant. Providing support on grant as part of regional trails planning.



Brian Banks, Regional District Ranger for the South Platte Ranger District – The South Platte Ranger District doesn't have the resources to do it so they asked COMBA to provide a landscape detail of what they wanted to do in the future. South Platte is heavily used and seeing increased visitation due to growing population. Meant to be a discussion and planning piece, won't necessarily construct all trails shown. Interested in identifying unsustainable routes, closing them, and rerouting. Some new trails where it makes sense – linking trails, adding where it makes sense. They support the outside 285 project and getting input from all user groups.

Director's Update – Margaret Taylor

- Fisher Peak update
- Polis is looking to add \$10 million to general fund to operate state parks (to help with maintenance backlog and development of Fishers Peak).
- Legislative session begins January 8th. The mountain bike registration fee initiative is not moving forward, as it needed more support. The proposed initiative was different from the OHV registration system in that instead of registering bikes, users would register as individuals.

Trails Program Update – Fletcher Jacobs

- Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind: internal team made up of biologists, Regional Managers, GIS and stewardship staff. Will reach out to Forest Service and open space entities as well. Who would be the best representative from the State Trails Committee? There will be 4-6 meetings after the New Year. Hope to have a document that will help future grant cycles and outside entities when planning trails. Linda would like a GOCO rep to get the 2 programs in-line. The goal is to have the rough draft done by June 30, 2020 and would hope to have the final draft a few months after that. Hiring someone externally to write it.
- Partners in the Outdoors Conference: April 27-29, 2020 in Vail. Have discussed having a strong trails presence. COTREX will be the sponsor. We can submit presentations (a few slots) to discuss trail topics. Presentation ideas:
 - Explain Trails Program – what is and what it does, how to best use it to develop grant applications. What we do, what we can and can't do (discuss where our prevue stops).
 - Grant Application 101 – what is a good grant
 - Roundtable discussion with STC and Trails Staff (allow members and staff to explain their passion and for attendees to ask questions).
 - Have a Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind meeting at the conference and/or session about the plan.
- COTREX Update: 29k user accounts, 87k downloads. Big thanks to Colorado Snow Association to add snow routes. 45,078 trail miles in COTREX.
- OHV: Per Information Item, \$4.3 mill available. 67 grants requested totaling just over \$5M.
- 28 Non-Moto apps received, \$4.6 million requested. A few applications also applied for CTB.
- Jerry Abboud and Scott Jones were both inducted into the Off-Highway Vehicle Hall of Fame.

Action Item – Colorado the Beautiful Grant Funding Recommendations – Scott Jones

- Vision started in 2016 with former administration to have every Coloradoan within 10 minutes of a park or trail. This was the second and final year for this grant cycle.
- Received 7 construction and 7 planning applications totaling just under \$3.2 million.

- Outside 285 Plan: there were a few items we were not comfortable funding so the amount funded was reduced accordingly. Steve Bonowski mentioned that he was approached at the end of August to work with COMBA. He has agreed to help solve problems. Mark Leslie wants CPW to have a seat at the table. Introduced Scott Roush, Deputy Regional Manager. Scott and Ben will be heavily involved in the process.
- Proposing to fund 13 grants.
Motion to approve scores and ranking – Janelle Kukuk
Motion Seconded – Wally Piccone
Motion passed unanimously

Presentation – Rocky Mountain Regional Trails Strategy – Jason Robertson

There are 5,000 miles of trails in high beetle kill areas. Focusing on how to manage those areas. Have had over 200 partner agencies share comments. A final draft will come out in a few weeks and will be posted on the website. Partners will meet to review and hope to release a final copy in March.

Presentation – Regional Conservation and Recreation Districts – Jody Kennedy and Dan Zimmerer

CO-OP convened in 2016 to address the balance of outdoor recreation & conservation. All recreation has impact and we need to work together to address this impact. CPW serves as the convener and coordinator. Results of SCORP indicate that over 80% of Coloradoans participate in trails activities. Looking at if they can coordinate local conversations to identify regional, on the ground priorities and provide funding for those.

Presentation – Stay the Trail Update – Sam Logan and Molly Chiappetta

Stay the Trail is creating a culture of responsible trail use through direct user contact and distribution of educational materials at trailheads, events and club/group presentations. Their 2020 plans include a new Ecosystems brochure educating the public on the alpine, OHV billboard registration reminder on I-70 in March, updates to the OHV opportunity map, 2 new mobile billboard trails, splitting the ATV and side-by-side brochures, and continuing website updates.

Public Comment Period:

- Nancy Working, Great Old Broads - Maintain trails we have, enforcement, rules for building more trails based on scientific data to prevent erosion and conflict with wildlife and resource protection.
- Roz McClellan, Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative – Shared stewardship and decisions over how public lands are used. Planning grants differ from NEPA in public comment process and environmental review. Non-motorized program could learn from OHV program.
- Grover Cleveland – Multi-use trails. Concerned multi-use are mostly mountain bike trails. Elk Creek: 7-miles one-way is too far without a trailhead to be multi-use.

Lunch 11:42 am – 12:35 pm

Presentation – OHV and Snowmobile Registration and Licensing Updates – Danielle Isenhardt

Large number of duplicate records when IPAWS and VRS merged. 250,000 records have been automatically merged, 19,000 manual merges have been done by 2 seasonal employees and 80,000 still need

to merge. Danielle determined this morning that there was a merge issue causing renewals to be valid for only one month. The glitch occurred from 8/17 - end of August.

Concerns:

- Renewal cards that weren't sent this year may not be sent next year.
- Constituents have concerns over the agency and the view on snowmobiles – it took a long time to get the snowmobile program where it was and now constituents feel as if the agency is trying to get rid of snowmobiles.
- Delays on stickers being sent out. Discussed working with registrations staff to address this and talking to field staff to provide leniency.

Will work with Danielle's shop and registrations to send out new renewal cards to address this program. Could a statement from CPW be sent out to clubs letting them know about this delay?

Regional Trail Coordinator Quarterly Reports

Northeast Region – Ben Plankis

Northwest Region – Randy Engle

Southwest Region – Josh Stoudt

Round Table

Christian: will follow up with Fletcher on CPW work presentation. Commended OHV sub-committee ride, staff did a good job planning it.

Bill: Are there any updates on the e-bike determinations? No new updates. Class 1 & 2 are allowed on all trails open to mountain bikes. Jack: first lawsuit filed today based on the process not being done correctly.

Jill: Initiative DD passed, stream of funding going to Colorado Water Board to fund water projects. There may be partner possibilities with CWB when there are trails that are near waterways.

- Bill brought up the trail from Colorado Springs to Pueblo (Fountain Creek). River is eroding and has affected the trail. Raised a question about partner possibilities. Jill thought it was worth having the conversation. Could be more about fixing erosion issue and moving trail to make it more sustainable.

Janelle: Recognized Trail Coordinators and all that they do.

Scott: Looking into a winter ride, will talk to Fletcher about it further.

Brad Henley: update on Captain Jack. Forest Service (FS) received a letter of intent from the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). FS has responded to them and is waiting to hear back from them. SE Region Coordinator position closed and they received 8 applications. Hope to have the SE Coordinator on board and announced at our next STC Meeting.

Break

Presentation – Board and Commission Membership – AG's Office

A bill recently pass that required boards, commission groups to be trained on Board, and Commission Membership requirements. Anything you write in email could be disclosed to the public. If you receive a

CORA Request, forward it to dnr_cpw.cora@state.co.us. The Open Meetings Law (OML) requires transparency and public involvement. If 2 or more people meet, it is considered a meeting and is subject to the OML requirements:

- Public notice of meeting must be posted 24 hours prior to meeting
- Minutes
- Attendee list

Meeting Adjourned – Scott Jones at 2:33 pm