



Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 31, 2020
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216

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

CPW Commission Liaison: Betsy Blecha

Ex-Officio Present: Jack Placchi (BLM), Chad Schneckenburger (USFS)

CPW Staff Present: Margaret Taylor, Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Mark Leslie, Brad Henley, Luke Svare, Randy Engle, Josh Stoudt, Pam O'Malley, Megan Sims, Gabby Smiley, Jeannie MacMurtrie, Mark Leslie, Elena Lazarevska.

Others in Attendance: Steve Bonowski (Colorado Mtn. Club), Paige Fery, Ryan McSparran (Backcountry Hunters and Anglers), Wendy Sweet (Boulder Mountainbike Alliance), Marilyn Liebetrau, Mike LeMaster, Dave Hamson (Thunder Mountain Wheelers), Rosalind McClellan (Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative), Lloyd Athearn (CO Fourteeners Initiative)

Call to Order – Chair Scott Jones called the meeting to order at 9:10 am

Agenda Amendments – None Presented

Motion to approve agenda – Christian Meyer

Motion Seconded – Janelle Kukuk

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Request for any additions, changes or edits to the December 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Correction to Director's notes on the legislation for mountain bike registration fees.

Motion to approve minutes as amended – Jerry Abboud

Motion Seconded – Janelle Kukuk

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment:

Steve Bonowski, CMC – Commented on Colorado the Beautiful grant application Project Raghorn (USFS). The club supports this grant. Local support is good and they recommend approval.

Wendy Sweet, Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance. Supports the Colorado the Beautiful grant application for the Tolland Ranch Trail (Boulder County). The organization has worked with the ranger district on education and etiquette. Suggested webpage resources to understand winter vs. summer trails.



Director's Update – Margaret Taylor

- Introduced CPW Commissioner Betsy Blecha as a non-voting member.
- Asked SE DRM Brad Henley to introduce Luke Svare, new Trails Coordinator for the SE Region.
- Update on wolves in Colorado and what happens when reintroduction comes up on the November ballot. CPW does not take a position on this initiative or other legislation. A wolf pack has been discovered in Moffet County. They are federally managed animals and CPW does not have control over this. The Senate Bill is #121.
- Another bill introduced is the 'I Love Colorado State Parks Act'. It is related to capital development in the state park system and is important to the newest park near Fisher's Peak. \$10M has been designated for this project with \$4M going to infrastructure at Fisher's Peak and \$6M to other projects across the state, with a plan to address improvements that will directly affect the public, park amenities, visitor centers, etc.
- The Commission approved an increase to State Park entrance fees by \$1.00. It goes into effect on March 1, 2020.
- CPW is working on two years of operational planning. The Strategic Plan is written in a broad way to avoid frequent changes. Fletcher is the representative for the Trails Program.

Trails Program Update – Fletcher Jacobs

- Update on the licensing/registration renewal issue. We are on track to fix the problem of merging multiple vehicles with an individual's CID. More resources have been assigned for this effort. There was some discussion on the issues and the feedback will be relayed to the appropriate people/departments.
- Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind. Planning is underway with an external task force in place. They will have their first meeting in February. The group includes land managers and subject matter experts from across the state, as well as representatives from the federal and municipal entities. Jill Ozarski is the State Trails Committee rep. More information will be shared at the next meeting.
 - Jerry asked if the State is prepared to work with the BLM and Forest Service on overlap and who is going to pay to keep trails open. It is a critical component that needs a good cross conversation on best practices moving forward.
 - Jack Placchi and Chad Schneckenburger discussed a motorized action plan for the BLM and FS. A Task Force will work on priorities. The FS will make an announcement about a 10-year trail program, and a good deal of integration work is being planned.
- Partners in the Outdoors conference will be held April 27-29 in Vail, CO. There will be a session for Planning Trails with Wildlife. We will also have a slot to present the State Trails Program on stage during the opening session.
- Trail grants – your dollars at work signage. Working on a template for a State Trails Program logo. Signage will be developed to display at project sites.

Non-Motorized Grant Funding – Fletcher Jacobs

- Fletcher reviewed new categories for this grant cycle with the intent to score construction projects within its own category.
- An Action Item handout was distributed with information and funding recommendations. The wildlife scoring criteria was changed to address concerns.

- The allocation of funds was altered to increase funding for maintenance projects from 19% to 33%. Construction was changed from 76% to 62%. Planning grants that received a score of 82 points or more were recommended for funding and one Support grant received a smaller award recommendation. There was discussion on the changes and agreement from the committee that the focus on maintenance is good as well as the rebalance of funding.
- The City of Lakewood applied for a non-motorized construction grant. This project was recommended for LWCF funding.

Action Item – Non-Motorized Grant Funding Recommendation – Scott Jones

- Recused Committee member: Wally Piccone
- Proposal to fund 15 projects (6 construction, 5 maintenance, 3 Planning and 1 Support), as recommended by the appropriate subcommittees.

Motion to approve scores and ranking – Linda Strand

Motion seconded by Dustin Wilkinson

Motion passed unanimously

Action Item – LWCF Grant Funding Recommendation – Scott Jones

- City of Lakewood Bear Creek Trail to be funded through NPS with LWCF funds with 100% matching funds provided by the recipient.

Motion to approve LWCF funding – Linda Strand

Motion seconded by Janelle Kukuk

Motion passed unanimously

Action Item – LWCF Grant Funding Recommendation for 2018 ORLP project – Scott Jones

- The City of Colorado Springs applied for a grant through the NPS Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program. Their application was not recommended for funding through that program but NPS gave their approval to submit the application through our regular non-motorized LWCF cycle.

Motion to approve LWCF funding – Bill Koerner

Motion seconded by Wally Piccone

Motion passed unanimously

Non-Motorized Grant Pilot Categories – Fletcher Jacobs

- A one-year pilot was developed, changing the grant application categories to Construction; Maintenance; Planning and Support. Construction and Maintenance projects would be able to request an amount up to \$250,000. Planning and Support projects remained the same at \$45,000 each. This pilot eliminates the Large and Small categories in the previously combined Construction/Maintenance category. Committee consensus to maintain the pilot for another year. Fletcher will request approval from the PWC. Further committee discussion on the need for quality maintenance projects. Suggestion to revise the Support application to clarify some differences that are seen in the other categories.

Presentation – Marilyn Liebetrau and Mike LeMaster, Thunder Mountain Wheelers OHV Club.

Highlights – discussed meeting with land managers about 50-inch rule on trails. The Forest Service cannot manage all of the maintenance needs on their own and depend on outside organizations to help.

Presentation – Lloyd Athearn, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative. Highlights – population explosion is having an effect on the peaks with trampled tundra, social trails, eroded areas, etc.

Public Comment:

Roz McClellan, Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative – Asked if public comment on the application criteria was welcomed. Scott explained that this was the reason for the pilot program and that changes have been made over the years due, in part, to input from public comment. She asked about hands on management with education/field presence. Present funding does not allow enforcement in non-motorized trails.

Steve Bonowski, CMC – Motorized and non-motorized groups have differences of opinion and working together can be problematic. Bringing people together is a continued goal of this group.

Lunch 12:40 am – 1:10 pm

Regional Trail Coordinator Quarterly Reports

Northeast Region – Ben Plankis

Northwest Region – Randy Engle

Southwest Region – Josh Stoudt

Round Table

Jill – Initiative DD (sports betting) passed in 2019. Tax revenue will fund water projects. Trails ecological restoration along rivers could qualify for funding. There is a new task force for Trail Planning. Jill will represent the STC. She will report out to the committee and would like to receive feedback from members.

Jerry – A bill was introduced regarding surplus military vehicle use on a roadway. It has support but he doesn't think it will pass. Vehicles are classified as OHV and are not road worthy, use diesel fuel, are loud and do not meet emission standards. Regular OHVs are not allowed on roadways.

Linda – GOCO is funding stewardship grants with combined partners. It will be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Grants are large landscape restoration projects with wildlife and/or habitat benefits. GOCO is starting a strategic listening tour to include public meetings, reviewing specific sites that have been funded by GOCO and stakeholder events to discuss strategic planning.

Janelle – A GOCO Initiative grant has funded a youth corps for the last three years. It was awarded to try to get a younger group to help in their community. The children were thrilled that they were doing something that mattered. They built a cedar fence at the cemetery and came forward with new ideas on how to build the fence. As a trails community, we can make them into great volunteers.

Dustin – Suggested that PWC liaison Betsy Blecha attend the OHV oral presentations.

Meeting Adjourned – Scott Jones at 1:45 p.m.