



Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 3, 2020
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

CPW Staff Present: Heather Dugan, Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Randy Engle, Ben Plankis, Josh Stoudt, Luke Svare, Brad Henley, Pam O'Malley, Megan Sims, Gabby Smiley, Joe O'Brien, Deon Kuhl

Others in Attendance: Betsy Blecha (PWC Liaison), Ex-Officio Present: Jack Placchi (BLM), Chad Schneckenburger (USFS Region 2), Steve Bonowski (Colorado Mountain Club)

Guests: Craig Grother, Heather Hormell, Nate Peterson, Emily Orbanek, Roz McClellan

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

Agenda Amendments – None Presented

Motion to approve agenda – Janelle Kukuk

Motion Seconded – Dustin Wilkinson

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 31, 2020– None Presented

Motion to approve minutes from January 31, 2020 – Christian Meyer

Motion Seconded – Jill Ozarski

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment:

Craig Grother, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Sent written comments (see letter in file)

Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club. Sent written comments (see letter in file)

Director's Update – Heather Dugan

Overview of new branch, COVID-19 update and how the public should go to the CPW pages for the most current information. Parks are open for outdoor recreation. All buildings are closed as are picnic areas and playgrounds. Camping is also not allowed at this time.

Partners Conference is most likely going to be permanently cancelled for 2020 but will be planned again for 2021.



State government is open for business through email and phone. The Stay at Home order specifies that outdoor recreation is encouraged but people need to be aware of social distancing. Stay local and avoid lengthy travel.

Executive Order on 3/25 authorizing extensions for licenses, permits, registrations, etc. until 4/30/20. This will help eliminate in person traffic at offices and service centers.

Group discussion on open lands during stay at home order

Jerry Abboud – Power Sports parts and service departments are open even if showrooms are closed. There are no in-person sales allowed.

Heather – issue in Yuma County regarding upcoming turkey hunt and that they were looking at cancelling it.

Chad - Access to federal lands with local agencies weighing in on whether or not they could mandate closures.

Bill – Manitou Incline and shuttle are closed. City is dealing with user objections but feel it is important to stay closed for public health and safety.

Linda mentioned that there is confusion between the types of parks available for people (local, metro, county, state, national)

Trails Program Update – Fletcher Jacobs

Discussed ongoing work with COTREX to add closure information.

PWC meeting in March was postponed until April 30th. This is the meeting where the non-moto grants are approved. We are hopeful to have as much of the prep work for contracting in place so they can move forward quickly after approval. Anticipating the possibility of some delays in getting the funds on the ground.

Chad (FS) said we all need to be flexible as things changed daily. The FS is trying to be as responsive as possible to the public and the districts. Waiting on guidance from DC, closed visitor centers, campgrounds, some trailheads and restrooms. Most trails are open. There may be more widespread closures in the coming weeks. Issues with hiring seasonal summer staff and how to handle fire season. No firm answers yet. User groups, youth corps, volunteers are all facing the same issues. Fire personnel will be the most urgent. Most important is the safety of employees, visitors, and public at large.

Christian thinks we might lose half of the summer season due to restrictions and asked about surge staffing.

Linda – lottery proceeds are down and lack of funds for outdoor recreation & GOCO funds for grants will be impacted.

Jack – BLM has completed their proposal on e-bikes and will be looking for comments. They plan to define e-bikes as non-motorized. Stated that there are many closures for BLM at this time. There are new restrictions for River Outfitters – a maximum of 10 people may participate at a time. Local field offices can continue to determine closures until further guidance is received.

Action Item: 2020-2021 OHV Grant Recommendation - Tom Metsa

Explanation of grant process, showed grant applications and funding summary.

Total Grant Applications	67	Requesting \$5.036 million
Good Management Applications	23	Requesting \$1.969 million
Competitive Grant Applications	44	Requesting \$3.066 million
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	2020-2021	\$5.036 million
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	2020-2021	\$4.274 million

Steve Bonowski asked why grant #22 for Pikes Peak Ranger District scored so low, Tom said because they have overlapping grants right now and it doesn't make sense timing or money wise.

Motion to approve 2020-2021 OHV Grant Recommendation – Dustin Wilkinson
Motion Seconded – Christian Meyer
Motion passed unanimously

Round Table

Linda asked about the next STC meeting, scheduled for June 5th and that the committee may need to discuss grant and funding status prior to that date. Christian and Jack agreed that an interim teleconference is a good idea. Fletcher proposed May 8th from 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. for another Zoom conference meeting.

Public Comment

Emily Orbanek stated that GOCO will be very flexible when it comes to discussing extensions.

Steve Bonowski thanked Tom Metsa for clarifying issues with the Pikes Peak Ranger District.

Scott adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.