



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 5, 2020  
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

CPW Staff Present: Heather Dugan, Fletcher Jacobs, Brad Henley, Tom Metsa, Pam O'Malley, Megan Sims, Felicia Lohnes, Randy Engle, Luke Svare, Josh Stoudt, Elena Lazarevska, Joe O'Brien

Others in Attendance: Ex-Officio Jack Placchi (BLM), Chad Schneckenberger (USFS)

Guests: Heather Hormell, Nancy Working, Nat Paterson, Suzanne O'Neill, Steve Bonowski

**Call to Order:** Chair Scott Jones called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., opening with a roll call.

**Agenda Amendments:** None presented

*Motion to accept meeting agenda – Christian Meyer*

*Motion seconded – Jerry Abboud*

*Motion passes unanimously*

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** from May 8, 2020 – No changes presented

*Motion to approve minutes – Janelle Kukuk*

*Motion seconded – Christian Meyer*

*Motion passes unanimously.*

### **Public Comment:**

Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club. Commented on previous concerns regarding PWC requirement for hunting/fishing licenses to access SWAs/STLs. Stated that CMC did an analysis of SWAs that have hiking and critical access issues for the public. They submitted a request to address the issue with the PWC in July.

### **Director's Update – Fletcher Jacobs for Heather Dugan**



Fletcher discussed the ongoing agency response to COVID-19. Offices are opening with limited capacity, including the Littleton office. Social distancing guidelines and cleaning protocols will be followed. Campgrounds, cabins and yurts are now open. There are some exceptions due to specific county health orders. Governor Polis rescinded the Safer-at-Home and 10-mile travel limits for visitors. Masks and social distancing protocols are still in place. The CPW website is the best place to find relevant and up to date information.

OHV registration expirations have been extended to June 22, 2020 to help alleviate concerns for those who have not been able to renew. More staff members have been added to address the ongoing merge issues.

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) did not take any actions regarding the OHV cash fund. Those funds remain intact and available to the State Trails Program. The OHV community stepped up regarding these issues.

Janelle stated that people are still having issues with long wait times on the phone to renew tags. She is also concerned about how hiring restrictions may affect future funding. Jack and Chad both responded that while there may be an impact, they will do what they can to help keep the program funded. Fletcher stated that impacts would most likely be seen in 2022.

Jerry gave an overview of how bills make their way through the Legislature.

Heather Hormell stated that when she looked at renewing an OHV sticker online, the site took her to a hunting license area. Fletcher will follow up.

### **Trails Program Update - Fletcher Jacobs**

Chad Schneckenberger, US Forest Service update:

- Districts are on a different timetables, but crews are more or less up and running or will be soon. They are expecting to make good progress this year, but it will most likely be less than desired due to COVID-19.
- They are seeing an increase in vandalism at trailheads in the last few months, especially human waste due to restroom closures. It is a concern, but not unexpected.
- The Pikes Peak Travel Management Plan is ready for review and they should see results in a few months.
- Region 2 is close to finalizing an agreement with Stay the Trail to help increase capacity. They are also setting up an agreement with Colorado Search and Rescue.
- The Trails Strike Team will use Youth Corps to work on highly impacted Front Range trails with a FS supervisor. They will be working this summer with the South Platte Ranger District.
- Chad participated in a national call and stated that some progress has been made on e-bike regulations. The DC office is writing directives, which will then go through the regulatory process with public comment. They are hopeful to have guidance by the end of the summer.

Jack Placchi, BLM:

- They are starting to see a decrease in usage/visitation at lower elevations as the weather changes. They have also witnessed some vandalism. Stay the Trail's steering committee will meet to come up with some strategies.
- Two e-bike environmental assessments have been completed for non-motorized trails. Some areas are restricted and need more analysis.

Bill Koerner asked about the vandalism and if it is related to COVID-19 restrictions. Committee members discussed various issues with vandalism and trail etiquette/usage. Plans are needed to address and mitigate problems, including better messaging for people who are new to trail recreation. We are seeing an increase in visitation overall, due to people being at home and hearing the administration encourage them to get outdoors. A message/press conference from the Governor would be very helpful.

Fletcher reported that three applications were received for the upcoming District 3 vacancy on the Trails Committee. The interview panel will review and report recommendations to the full committee at the next meeting. The recommendation will then go to the PWC.

### **Action Item – Snowmobile Grooming/Capital Grants – Tom Metsa**

Tom presented an overview of the program, timeline and funding information. He discussed winter trail grooming and the capital grant program. There were 10 eligible projects this year for capital. Bill asked if it is typical to cover liability coverage. Yes on the capital side, more recently on the grooming side. Janelle stated that clubs have paid half and the Colorado Snowmobile Association (CSA) paid the other half. CSA has managed fundraising efforts in the past. This year's fundraiser was cancelled, so the ask in this year's applications is higher.

### **Action Item Motion**

*Motion to approve Action Item for Snowmobile grants – Janelle Kukuk*

*Motion seconded – Bill Koerner*

*Motion passes unanimously*

### **Round Table:**

Christian Meyer thanked the land managers for their work on the ground as we go through the current challenges.

Wally Piccone stated that the Jefferson County Health Department is clarifying details for the public to help get facilities open. The County submitted a request for a variance to the statewide Safer-At-Home order to meet county needs.

Jerry Abboud asked if the committee will continue discussions with current issues and environmental impacts due to increase usage in recreational areas. Fletcher concurred that we can start making recommendations to push information out regarding sanitation issues and will think about funding and education in the upcoming grant cycle. Jerry suggested that we need to act now and that the DNR Director needs to address the consequences of pushing people outdoors directly with the Governor and the media, preferably with a press conference and/or news release. This is the best way to get information out to the masses. Jill Ozarski agrees that messaging needs to happen very soon and would put her name on a memo or letter to DNR Director Dan Gibbs. She asked that Fletcher and Heather elevate it to DNR, and put something on the COVID-19 web page.

Bill Koerner agrees that messaging needs to come from the top, especially 'Leave No Trace'. Fletcher stated that there is a missing connection with health aspects, and it's time to update how we reach out and elevate this issue. The 'Leave No Trace' information is buried on the website.

### **Public Comment:**

Steve Bonowski stated that CMC has a panel discussion on private property owners allowing access to various peaks and their concern on human and dog waste issues and

vandalism. CMC is working with property owners regarding these issues. He will keep the committee updated.

Next virtual update meeting for the STC will be **Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** He will present more information on the STC vacancy as well as an update on the Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind efforts. The Regional Trail Coordinators will give reports. As it stands now, the September committee meeting will take place in person.

Meeting Adjourned by Scott Jones at 10:40 a.m.