



**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, April 2, 2021

Via Zoom Webinar

Members present: Christian Meyer, Janelle Kukuk, Pamela Denahy, Jerry Abboud, Scott Jones, Heather Hormell, Jill Ozarski, Bill Koerner, and Wally Piccone

CPW Staff: Heather Dugan, Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Doug Vilsack, Pam O'Malley, Megan Sims, Jeannie MacMurtrie, Gabby Smiley, Felicia Lohnes, Brad Henley, Luke Svare, Randy Engle, Ben Plankis, Garret Watson, and Josh Stoudt

Others: Ex-Officio Jack Placchi (BLM), Chad Schneckenburger (USFS), Betsy Blecha (CPW Commission) Emily Orbanek (GOCO), Scott Segerstrom (Colorado Youth Corps Association),

Guests: Roz McClellan, Steve Bonowski, Wendy Sweet

**Call to Order:** Chair Christian Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., opening with a roll call.

**Agenda Amendments:** None presented

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** from January 29, 2021

*Motion to approve minutes – Janelle Kukuk*

*Motion seconded – Bill Koerner*

*Motion passed unanimously*

### **Public Comment:**

Scott Segerstrom, Executive Director for Colorado Youth Corps Association, thanked State Trails and the OHV Program for investing over \$300,000.00 to their program, which will:

- Repair trails overcome by the pandemic
- Create 40 jobs for youth and young adults enrolled in AmeriCorps to assist with tuition or loan debt
- Will be able to open trails sooner
- Strengthen relationships
- Create a generation of OHV stewards

Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club, voiced concern over grant #8, Calico Trail. Steve referred to a letter written by Byron Marion about the Calico Trail not being sustainable. Over the years, a lot of money has been spent on repairing and maintaining this area. Steve suggested that a cost – benefit analysis be done so we know if some of that money would be better used in another area.



Roz McClellan, Rocky Mountain Trails Initiative, said we need balance for trails and wildlife. Roz commended Fletcher on his approach, and the input by so many interested parties and regional partnerships in The Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind handbook. There is balanced information over the various issues and groups involved.

### **Director's Update – Heather Dugan**

Update on Senate Bill 21-112; 20 million dollars have been added to the General Fund for CPW. Funding will help develop Fishers Peak and its infrastructure. Parks have seen a 30% increase in attendance last year, and funds will be used for managing the issues involved with that growth.

New Colorado State Wildlife Area Pass will go on sale May 1st. Adult price is \$46.48 and \$20.47 for seniors, youths, and low-income visitors.

Wolf Reintroduction, Hiring an external facilitator to develop a process, as well as an advisory group and a technical group. Webinar and education materials are being developed as we will be taking a statewide approach on this issue. Additional information and registration for our electronic newsletter can be found at: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Wolves-Stay-Informed.aspx>

### **State Trails Update – Fletcher Jacobs**

Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind; Land Manager Task Force met for the ninth time in March to make updates based on the stakeholder advisory feedback to better serve as a collaboration tool for regional partnerships. Document is out for public comment through April 18<sup>th</sup>. Task Force will meet for a final time in May to discuss feedback and document will be release at the end of June.

Ask for a Recommendation on the non-motorized grant categories. Two years ago, a pilot program was put into place to change the grant categories from Large Construction, Small Construction, and Planning & Support to Construction, Maintenance, and Planning & Support. The committee all agreed that 1 more year of new categories would give us better data before going to the PWC for a permanent change. Fletcher will ask for the Commission to approve and additional pilot year in May.

Applications for 3 State Trails Committee member positions will be posted for District 2, 5 and 7. Information will be available on our website and will be sent to prospective applicants via email.

### **OHV Grant Funding Recommendations – Tom Metsa**

- Application deadline was December 4, 2020.
- 24 applications were received for Good Management, and 48 for competitive grants for a total of 72 applications.
- Total ask was \$6.2 M
- 3 days of grant presentations, March 10, 11, and 12, 2021.

## **Approval of OHV Sub-Committee's Recommendation**

*Motion to approve OHV Sub-Committee's Recommendation – Heather Hormell*

*Motion seconded – Jerry Abboud*

*Motion passed unanimously*

## **Legislative Update – Doug Vilsack**

SB21-249 calls for the creation on the 'Keep Colorado Wild Pass.' This optional discounted parks and public lands access pass that is purchased at the time a motor vehicle is registered, and would use the using the pass fees to finance a number of goals of the division of parks and wildlife related to increased conservation, safety, and access to state parks and public lands. Cost no more than \$40 (half of a parks pass), with a goal to achieve a \$20 price via high participation and cost even less for under-resourced households.

Uses of Revenue generated:

- Use up to \$32.5 million to strengthen our existing State Park System.
- Next \$2.5 Million Search & Rescue efforts
- Next \$1 Million for Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CIAC)
- Additional revenues above \$36 million would be used to build new state parks; grow CPW capacity to address outdoor recreation beyond state parks, including on federal lands; increase State Trails Program funds for new trails, trail stewardship, and river recreation projects; dedicate resources for the State Wildlife Action Plan to conserve vulnerable species and habitats; support CPW initiatives focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion in the outdoors; and fund Colorado Regional Outdoor Partnerships to support community-driven planning and projects.

## **No Further Public Comment**

### **Roundtable**

The Committee expressed their appreciation to Jack Placchi for his many years of service and participation on the State Trails Committee.

June meeting will be virtual.

Christian Meyer adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.