



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

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Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 4, 2021

Via Zoom Webinar

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

CPW Staff: Heather Dugan, Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Pam O'Malley, Jeannie MacMurtrie, Shannon Schaller, Garrett Watson, Megan Sims, Gabby Smiley, Felicia Lohnes, Brad Henley, Mitch Martin, Luke Svare, Randy Engle, Ben Plankis, Josh Stoudt

Others: Ex-Officio Tim Finger (BLM), Chad Schneckenburger (USFS)

Guests: Sally Thoerson

Call to Order: Chair Christian Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., opening with a roll call.

Agenda Amendments: None presented

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2021

Motion to approve minutes – Scott Jones

Motion seconded – Bill Koerner

Motion passed unanimously

Bill Koerner's appointment is expiring. This is his last meeting. He was invited to address the committee. Bill commended the committee for bringing things together and making great strides. He has enjoyed being a part of the grant scoring process, and said he will miss all.

Public Comment: None at this time

Director's Update – Heather Dugan

- Update on CPW's COVID-19 protocol. No masks will be required for vaccinated employees. CPW is establishing guidelines, with more information to be included in the June 15 Town Hall with DNR Executive Director Dan Gibbs.
- All State Parks and Wildlife Areas are open.
- Care for Colorado Week: Gearing up to minimize impacts. Working with Colo. Tourism Department to educate outdoor recreationists on the *Leave No Trace* practices. Barr Lake State Park received a Gold Standard award. Colorado has 3 Gold Standard award winners.
- Gray Wolf Reintroduction Update: Focus on landscape rules, management, and implementation. Participating in stakeholder focus groups regarding livestock loss management,



etc. Information is posted and advertised on the CPW [Wolf Management](#) page, as well as social media outlets.

- Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership Program: One of the Governors Executive Orders. Funding will support local and regional (Statewide) plan. The Co-operative Executive committee meets June 8th.
- Senate Bills: [The Keep Colorado Wild Pass](#) and the [Backcountry Search and Rescue](#) bills passed in the House and will advance to the Governor's desk.

Trails Program Update - Fletcher Jacobs

- Reviewed outcome of legislative bills and the Long Bill spending authority. Received an increase in OHV funding spending authority. It was requested that OHV grant recipients are made aware of the increase, thanks to the Legislature.
- \$5M of OHV funds were returned. The possibility of continuing the CYCA OHV maintenance partnership will be considered.
- The Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind is in the final editing phase. It will be posted on the web along with a small paper version for distribution. The handbook will become a part of the Regional Partnership Toolbox.
- Jerry Abboud explained that House Bill 1326 would provide \$2,25M in stimulus funds for Search and Rescue, Wildlife Cash, Parks Cash and the Outdoor Equity Program. CPW has no concerns with this bill. The goal is to make recommendations in January 2022.
- STC Member Nominations are open for Districts 2, 5, and 7. Interviews have been conducted and recommendations for appointment will be brought to the PWC in July.

Snowmobile Grant Funding Recommendations – Tom Metsa

- Tom presented a program review, including the number of grooming clubs (27), the make-up of the OHV subcommittee, OHV funding history, and the grant cycle/review timeline.
- The recommendation for funding will move forward to the PWC July 15-16, 2021. One member commented that meetings via Zoom made the process difficult.

Action Item – Snowmobile Grant Funding Recommendations

- Proposal to fund six grooming projects, as recommended by the Snowmobile subcommittee.

Motion to approve scores and ranking – Janelle Kukuk

Motion seconded by Heather Hormell

Motion passed unanimously

2022 Non-Motorized Grant Cycles – Fletcher Jacobs

- The PWC approved the non-motorized grants Pilot Categories for another year. Categories are Trail Construction, Trail Maintenance, Trail Planning and Support. The reason for the extension is to collect additional data to see if the program is working correctly, and to compare like projects and scopes. If it is determined that these changes work, policy changes and/or updates would be created.

Additional discussion points:

- Trail Maintenance was a big focus last year. Members agreed that it should continue to be the focus for the 21-22 cycle, and to perhaps model non-motorized crews like OHV Good Management crews and to add ADA compliance on all trails. The USFS is looking at this for all

non-motorized and motorized trails as a whole. They would like to hear from OHV clubs and include them in future discussions.

- Discussion on changes to the non-motorized application and that there have been too many changes in past years. There needs to be consistency. The Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind will help, as some change is expected, and there will be webinars offered with instructions on completing an application.
- Non-motorized and motorized trail groups are discussing similarities in the two programs to see if there is a model that would be best and consistent for all.

2022 Non-Motorized and LWCF Program Update – Fletcher Jacobs

- No changes will be made to the non-motorized application. We will be working to develop an online application and may launch that if it can be done in time for the next cycle. This would be a pilot for non-moto only, as some motorized applicants still need the option of a handwritten application. Non-Moto suggested timeline:
 - August 2 – Applications available
 - September 7 – Brief scope of work and map(s) due to AWMs for initial review
 - October 4 – Applications due
 - October-December – Subcommittee review period
 - January 2022 – Applicant presentations
 - January 2022 – State Trails Committee
 - March 2022 – PWC
- GOCO/RTP Match Requirements:
 - Historically we have used a match amount of 30% of the grant request, with 10% of that amount required to be cash. This is higher than what both the Federal Highway Administration and GOCO require. FHWA has a different process for calculating the appropriate amount of match, based on the entire cost of a project. Non-moto applications will now have a 25% match requirement, which will align with the federal guidelines. The committee had no objections to this change.

Round Table:

- Future STC meetings. In-person meeting is preferred when we are able to do that. The September 17th meeting was to be a travel meeting in the NW Region. A decision will be made to move forward with that plan or to arrange a hybrid meeting at 6060 Broadway. Committee members did not voice any serious travel concerns. A suggestion was made to schedule two in-person meetings per year and use Zoom for others.
- Officer Elections will take place at the September meeting. Open positions are STC Chair, STC Vice Chair and Non-motorized Subcommittee chairs. The 2022 STC meeting schedule will also be confirmed in September.
- There is still a gap/delay in receiving OHV and Snowmobile registration stickers. Heather Dugan and Fletcher will meet with Grant Brown to discuss.
- Tim Finger (BLM) stated that Great American Outdoors Act funding was received. The BLM is identifying parcels of public land that would be eligible for LWCF funds. They will be hiring 30 OHV seasonal employees. There will be 7 permanent BLM positions filled. Two out of the five National Volunteer Award winners for the BLM are from Colorado.
- Fletcher mentioned that Tom Metsa and the Regional Trail Coordinators met on June 3rd to discuss aligning COTREX data with State Trails data along with updates they would like to see

in future versions of the application. COTREX Coordinator Alex Alma announced his resignation from CPW. The position will be advertised and filled in the coming months.

- Fletcher mentioned the 2021 National Park Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP). These grants fund urban/underserved communities. The Montbello neighborhood in Denver was awarded funding through this program in 2015.
- Christian Meyer thanked the committee and commented that he has enjoyed the past years learning about trails and outdoor recreation. He noted that the staff has demonstrated the ability to react quickly to meet needs.
- Wally Piccone stated that this is his last meeting and he will not seek a second term.
- Fletcher thanked both men and showed them the gifts of appreciation for their service.

Public Comment:

- Sallie Thoerson, Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Commented about commissioners' wildlife concerns, and that these concerns should be addressed in grant applications. She would like to see/track what changes are made.
- Marcus Trusty, Stay the Trail Board member. The STT website has been reworked regarding OHV trails, with updates relative and current with OHV information. COTREX has been integrated in the STT website. He invited attendees to visit [Stay the Trail](#) for updates.

Meeting Adjourned by Christian Meyer at 11:20 a.m.