



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, January 28, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Members present: Janelle Kukuk, Pamela Denahy, Jerry Abboud, Scott Jones, Jill Ozarski, Jack Placchi, Meara McQuain, Jason Meyer, Heather Hormell

CPW Staff: Heather Dugan, Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Pam O'Malley, Megan Sims, Jeannie MacMurtrie, Gabby Smiley, Felicia Lohnes, Leah Bean, Ajah Eills, Chris Sill, Ben Plankis, Luke Svare, Randy Engle, Garrett Watson, Patricia Nord, Shannon Schaller

Others: Ex-Officio Chad Schneckenburger (USFS), Tim Finger (BLM), Betsy Blecha, Parks and Wildlife Commission Liaison

Guests: Adrian Varney, Dan Zimmerer, David Deitmeyer, Scott Segerstrom, Roz McClellan, Sallie Thoreson, Steve Bonowski, Suzanne O'Neill, Emily Duncan, Greg Austin

Call to Order: Janelle Kukuk called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., opening with a roll call.

Agenda Amendments: None presented

Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 03, 2021

Motion to approve minutes – Jason Meyer

Motion seconded – Jill Ozarski

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment: None

Director's Update – Heather Dugan

- Operational Updates – DNR staff continues to work virtually when possible. The agency will continue to follow current State guidance on committee/subcommittee meetings.
- Partners in the Outdoors Conference – The conference will be held in person in Vail, April 18-20, 2022. Keynote speakers are Randy Moore, Chief of the USDA Forest Service, and Shane Mahoney, President of Conservation Visions. [Conference Registration](#) is open.
- 43rd State Park – Sweetwater Lake is slated to open later this year. In December 2021, CPW purchased the Colorado Clays Shooting Park in Adams County. The previous owners who will continue to run the facility under CPW ownership as a State Recreation Area.



- Legislature – DNR is working on several bills:
 - Reauthorize our habitat partnership program and non-game species tax check-off.
 - Annual Species Conservation Trust Fund and Water Conservation project funding.
 The Backcountry Search and Rescue Report has been finalized (SB-245). CPW is requesting a 1.5% increase in the agency’s operational spending to support outdoor recreation and conservation. This will include 15.5 additional FTE (full-time employee) positions.
- Keep Colorado Wild Pass – SB21-249 was passed into law. Beginning in 2023, Coloradans will have the opportunity to purchase Wild Passes at the time of vehicle registration.
- [Wolf Reintroduction](#) – Timeline for development of the wolf reintroduction:
 - Internal draft plan – October 2002
 - Present plan to Parks and Wildlife Commission – December 2022
 - Begin public review process – January/February 2023
 - 2-step final plan approval process – April/May 2023

Trails Program Update - Fletcher Jacobs

- 2021 CYCA OHV Request for Proposal – Tom Metsa explained how the program is funded with unspent OHV dollars. Youth Corps organizations respond to the RFP with proposals for trail maintenance, repairing damage from fires and restoring connectivity. 15 applications were submitted in November.
- Partners Conference – working with partners on a 10-year stewardship challenge and how the Rocky Mountain region will tackle the issues.

Open staff positions – Project Coordinator and Grant Specialist positions are open. Megan Sims has promoted to a position with the Deputy CFO’s office.

Action item – 2022

2022 Non-Motorized Trails and LWCF Funding Recommendations

*Motion to approve funding recommendations by Scott Jones
 Seconded by Meara McQuain
 Motion passed unanimously*

Public Comment – None presented

Info item – OHV grants update. Tom Metsa reported that the program received 63 applications, 25 Good Management and 38 Competitive. Subcommittee reviews begin in February, grant applicant presentations will be in March. There is \$6.3M available, \$6M from OHV registrations and \$300,000 from RTP motorized and diversified funding.

Round Table

Meara McQuain – Asked about attending the Partners conferences as a representative of her organization or as a member of the State Trails Committee. The scheduled Trails workshop must be open to the public if more than one STC member attends. Meara should attend as an STC member.
Jason Meyer – Colorado Springs has started an improvement project at Garden of the Gods. The County will be launching a trail mobility program.

Jerry Abboud – Discussed changes to the Recreational Trails Program and the need to rewrite statute for the new (8th) Congressional District. Does the committee change membership to an even number, or add an additional At-Large seat to increase the total to 11 members?

Jack Placchi – Appreciates the possibility for a field trip to see a Youth Corps in action during the September STC meeting dates. The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) annual conference takes place September 19-24 in Grand Junction. There will be a discussion about e-bike policy.

Pam Denahy – The 2021 [GOCO annual report](#) is available online and has been distributed.

Betsy Blecha – Thanked everyone for their hard work on the grant process and how it has changed the way the PWC looks at trails.

Fletcher Jacobs – The Partners Conference Trails Workshop will be public, so multiple STC members can attend on Monday, April 18th. The next STC meeting is April 1, 2022. It will hopefully be a hybrid set up with in-person and webinar options available.

Meeting Adjourned by Janelle Kukuk at 11:11 a.m.