



## 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, December 2, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Janelle Kukuk, Pam Denahy, Brad Schwartz, Mick Daniel, Meara McQuain, Jason Meyer, Jack Placchi, Jill Ozarski, Bevin Carithers, Heather Hormell

CPW staff: Fletcher Jacobs, Pam O'Malley, Chrystal Read, Jamie Goins, Chris Sill, Felicia Lohnes, Luke Svare, Maggie Gillard, Tom Metsa, Garrett Watson, Ty Petersburg, Randy Engle

Others: Ex-Officio Jeff Christenson (BLM) and Chad Schneckenburg (USFS), Christopher Breidenbach (CO Attorney General's Office)

Guests: Dani Cook, Scott Jones, Robyn Cascade, Dan Zimmerer, Brendan Kelly, Adrian Varney, Roz McClellan, Scott Segerstrom

**Call to Order:** Janelle Kukuk called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., opening with a roll call.

**Agenda Amendments:** None presented.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2022:

*Motion to approve minutes – Pam Denahy*

*Motion seconded – Jill Ozarski*

*Motion passed unanimously*

**Public Comments:** Robyn Cascade, Great Old Broads. Robyn commented on the current non-motorized grant cycle. She appreciates the permanent separation of the maintenance and construction grant categories and asked the Committee to consider and limit non-motorized construction grants. She also suggested increasing the application score for Wildlife and Natural Resources from 15 to 25.

#### Acting Director Updates: Ty Petersburg:

- SB21-249 – Keep Colorado Wild annual pass
  - Passes go live 1/3/23, available to Colorado residents during the vehicle registration process. \$29 is included in registration price unless owner chooses to opt out. Funding will support a variety of programs
- Trinidad State Park is opening 11 new miles of trails.



- The 2022 Partners in the Outdoors Conference
  - The investigation process wrapped up in August. DNR will be working on an all-staff cultural assessment, looking at lessons learned as part of the process to move forward and make the organization stronger.
  - The hiring process for a new CPW Director will start soon. It will be a collaborative effort with DNR and the Commission.
- Governor's budget
  - Includes historic investments to address critical natural resource issues. DNR was instrumental with SB 21-281 that covers the Future Generations Act and the Keep Colorado Wild Pass.
  - Looking at an increase of 90 additional full-time employees for DNR.
- New Colorado River Policy and Technical Support team with a FT Colorado River Commissioner to address water shortages, wildfire mitigation and create community outreach education incentives.
- Wolf Reintroduction Update
  - Draft plan will be presented to commission on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Draft plan based on work of the Technical Working and State Advisory groups.
  - The public review process will have multiple Parks and Wildlife Commission meetings in Jan/Feb 2023.
  - There will be 4 in-person meeting options and 1 virtual option.
  - There is a 2-step Final Plan Approval Process in April and May of 2023.
  - Future dates and summaries for all meetings are found on the public engagement website: <https://www.wolfengagementco.org>
- Backcountry Search and Rescue administration is coming to CPW (previously managed by DOLA).

#### **State Trails Program Update: Fletcher Jacobs**

- New District 8 – STC member added to the roster. There is a vacancy for District 6.
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership – ORLP is a grant program funded through the National Park Service, dedicated to funding projects located in urban areas that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation. This funding does not affect our CPW grant funding programs. Three project proposals were received from the cities of Denver, Boulder and Longmont.

#### **Info Item – CYCA OHV REP – Tom Metsa and Scott Segerstrom**

- Scott thanked the Committee for the investment in Conservation Corps. Eight projects were awarded, with seven fully completed and the eighth to be completed by the end of June 2023.
- Created 187 jobs for young people, with 19,000 hours of direct labor. Eight miles of OHV trail and 12.5 miles of pedestrian/bike trail were improved/repared. Bridges and fencing installed, as well as signage.
- Tom gave a review of the program, now reviewing applications for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The funds come from OHV fund returned or unspent dollars. Issues from the economy, hiring, supply chain, COVID, etc. played a part. Work included fire/fuel mitigation, restoration, installation and upkeep of fencing, trail reroutes, reconstruction, and more.
- Plans moving forward include having the grantee or CYCA report on progress.
- Committee discussion about the program and how to address inconsistencies in reporting.

- CYCA will send the 2022 season report and present the 2023 selected projects at the February meeting.

#### **Info Item – 2023 Non-Motorized Grant Cycle – Fletcher Jacobs**

- The scoring criteria was adjusted for this cycle, and language was added to directly reference ‘Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind’. This year will again have an emphasis on maintenance projects.
- The Land and Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF) again includes acquisition/development of new outdoor recreation facilities and improvement/renovation of existing LWCF sites.
- The new Build America/Buy America requirements will apply to LWCF grants. This mandates a domestic preference for steel/iron and construction/manufacturing goods.
- 49 applications were received, 17 Construction, 15 Maintenance, 7 Planning, 5 Support, and 5 LWCF with a total request of \$11,382,807.40.

**Public Comment** – Roz McClellan appreciates the progress made for wildlife concerns and mentioned the Rocky Mountain Field Institute grant application and how the reroute will benefit Big Horn Sheep habitat. She supports the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers application.

#### **Round Table**

- Fletcher reported that we will continue to offer hybrid options for meetings.
- Pam Denahy mentioned the upcoming GOCO board meeting, with election of officers.
- Mick Daniel is interested in serving on a grant review subcommittee.
- Jason Meyer reported on some Colorado Springs studies for transportation. The El Paso County Master Plan is complete. The City finalized two acquisitions for open space.
- Jill Ozarski offered to help with any questions about Colorado River issues and mentioned the benefits of trails near water for recreation, fishing, boating, etc.
- Meara McQuain thanked members for traveling to Winter Park/Fraser for the field trip and meeting in September. She is working with the Sustainable Communities Plan and Coalition. They are already well into snow mode and grooming trails for non-motorized and motorized recreation.
- Heather Hormell stated the importance of getting work done with the CYCA program. The Pikes Peak FS District was removed from Good Management. They are working on how to restore the relationship. The Dolores RD had some wildlife restrictions on a previous grant. They are looking at alternative funding with community partnerships and collaborations.
- Brad Schwartz, new member for District 4 is eager to figure out ways to help promote the program. He is scheduling a chainsaw class with the Forest Service.

#### **Executive Session**

*Motion to move to Executive Session – Jack Placchi*

*Motion seconded – Heather Hormell*

*Motion passed unanimously*

#### **Board and Commission Membership Presentation – Christopher Breidenbach, Colorado Attorney General’s Office**

Christopher presented information on Statute 24-6-402, subsection 3A: Statutory Authority, Open Meeting Law, Colorado Open Records Act, relevant ethical obligations. Committee discussion and questions followed the presentation. No other topics were discussed, and the Committee did not take any formal action while in Executive Session.

*Motion to end Executive Session – Pam Denahy*

*Motion seconded – Jack Placchi*

*Motion passed unanimously*

**Meeting adjourned** 12:03 p.m. by Janelle Kukuk.