



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 15, 2023 – Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Janelle Kukuk, Jill Ozarski, Jack Placchi, Bevin Carithers, Jason Meyer, Meara McQuain, Heather Hormell, Pam Denahy\*

CPW Staff: Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Pam O'Malley, Randy Engle, Josh Stoudt, Luke Svare, Tappan Brown, Justin Rutter, Patricia Nord, Chrystal Read\*

Others: Ex-Officio Jeff Christensen\* (BLM). Guests: Steve Bonowski, Roz McClellan\*, Dan Zimmerer, Katie Smith, Laura Daniels, Andrew Sandstrom, Jim Lovelace

\*Participated virtually via ZOOM

**Call to Order:** Janelle Kukuk called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 3, 2023

*Motion to approve minutes – Jill Ozarski*

*Motion seconded – Meara McQuain*

*Motion passes unanimously*

### Public Comment:

Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club and Outside 285. Discussed the need for social trail strategy for the Mt. Silverheels area in South Park. The groups are considering a social trails educational event in 2024 to discuss how these trails are affecting wildlife. Steve will keep the Trails Program apprised of the planning process. He mentioned pending litigation on Pike San Isabel motorized use of Wildcat Canyon, South Platte and reiterated the need to have all user groups involved to discuss and mediate wildlife concerns, social trails and other issues or conflicts.

### Financial Update: Justin Rutter, CPW Chief Financial Officer:

Justin reported on CPW financials for FY23. The PowerPoint presentation is available for review in the [STC Google folder](#) for 9/15/23.

- The [Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan](#) has been approved, and there will be a new vehicle vanity license plate created for the program.

Following Justin's report, the committee discussed snowmobile funds.

### State Trails Program Update: Fletcher Jacobs

- CYCA OHV RFP report – using unspent grant funds. CYCA recommends giving money to partners who can spend the money more efficiently. Fletcher highlighted past projects and what was accomplished. Suggested that we should perhaps be more specific about the type of work being done and not funding short 2-week projects that could be accomplished by a regular crew. The committee discussed ways to make this program more successful, such as setting a 4-week minimum hitch and



using CYCA to finish up a trail project that the USFS is completing. Discussion about the priorities for the Committee and what types of projects to seek out where the crews will have more success completing the work. This money is unspent and has the shortest life cycle. It needs to be used within one season.

### **Action Item: Election of Officers**

Vice-chair – Jill Ozarski (self-nominated)

*Motion to re-elect – Jack Placchi*  
*Motion seconded – Bevin Carithers*  
*Motion passed unanimously*

Chair – Janelle Kukuk (self-nominated)

*Motion to re-elect – Jack Placchi*  
*Motion seconded – Jill Ozarski*  
*Motion passed unanimously*

### **Subcommittee Member Appointments**

Members self-nominate for subcommittee chair positions:

- Snowmobile – Janelle Kukuk
- OHV – Heather Hormell
- Non-Moto Construction – Meara McQuain
- Non-Moto Maintenance/Trails Stewardship – Pam Denahy (with assist from Jack Placchi)
- Non-Moto Planning and Support – Jason Meyer
- LWCF – Jill Ozarski

### **2024 Meeting Dates**

No issues were identified with the 2024 meeting dates as outlined by Fletcher Jacobs. Meeting times will likely follow the same hybrid 9am – 3pm format. Dates: February 9<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The September meeting will be held in the Southeast region.

*Motion – Jill Ozarski*  
*Motion seconded – Heather Hormell*  
*Motion passed unanimously*

### **Snowmobile Grooming Allocations: Tom Metsa**

Tom gave an overview of the snowmobile program and grooming allocations and discussed how Federal RTP money is divided within the program.

- 12 eligible projects
- 27 snowmobile grooming clubs

Discussion regarding allocations, funding history and which clubs are more likely to spend their allocations and those that might be struggling. There is \$90K in diversified RTP. Each club can receive up to \$5K.

Tom gave an overview of the program and its inception. Winter recreation is a high priority. Walking, fat-tire biking, kit skiing, dog sledding and snowshoe/cross-country skiing activities can all take place on groomed trails. Clubs are members of search and rescue, and perhaps the program name should be changed from Snowmobile to Winter Use Trails. The program is currently split with 40% volunteers and 60% contractors.

## **BLM Updates: Jeff Christensen**

- There are 26 regional positions, and they are working on approval to transition 14 to full-time seasonal status. The goal is to reduce the amount of hiring every year and to have more longevity, stability and retention. They would like to reduce restricted seasonal hours in order to hire earlier in the year or stay later, as needed. They have requested funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and hope to see an influx of \$200K.
- There is a possibility of a Government shutdown in the coming weeks.

### **Info Item – Gunnison Tourism: Andrew Sandstrom and Commissioner Laura Daniels**

Laura and Andrew discussed STOR (Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation), which was founded in 2017. The group studies economic development in the Crested Butte area, looking for a balance between recreation and sustainability. The community is heavily involved and they have many diverse partners. The STOR presentation can be found in the STC folder on the Google drive.

### **Info Item – Alpine Loop: Jim Lovelace, BLM and Crested Butte Mountain Bike Assoc.**

Jim gave an overview of this trail in the San Juan Mountains, and alpine triangle of communities in Ouray and Gunnison. The field office manages three 14ers in the region (Handies, Red Cloud and Sunlight peaks). Jim mentioned the CPW grant awarded for Baker's Park outside of Silverton.

### **Public Comment:**

Steve Bonowski appreciates all of the reporting on trail work and mentioned that the 100 ft. staircase on Guanella pass is in progress.

### **Regional Trail Coordinator Reports: Tappan Brown, Randy Engle, Josh Stoudt, Luke Svare**

#### **Round Table**

Fletcher Jacobs confirmed that the Dec. 1 meeting will be virtual only. He gave an update on BABA (Buy America/Build America). The Federal Highway Administration has finalized a waiver for projects under \$500,000.00. We are unsure if iron and steel is included, which would be helpful for foreign made snow cats. The Trails team has a new Program Coordinator, Joe O'Brien. Joe will manage the COTREX application, GIS mapping and other duties as assigned.

Bevin Carithers mentioned the Colorado Open Space meeting October 1-4 in Snowmass. Mick Daniel (SLVGO!) and Boulder Climbing Community will be receiving awards.

Meara McQuain will attend the Colorado Symposium. One topic is collaborations and partnerships and being flexible with capacity and hiring challenges.

Jason Meyer appreciates the field trips that are scheduled for the September meetings.

Jack Placchi mentioned the Public Lands Foundation. The BLM is working on a blueprint for recreation.

Heather Hormell is attending the COHVCO OHV workshop in October. Hiring and the housing situation is among the topics to address.

Janelle Kukuk mentioned that being on this committee opens up thinking about different user groups and to be a bit more holistic in our approach to options.

### **Meeting Adjourned 2:30 pm**