



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 1, 2023 - Virtual Meeting

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

CPW Staff: Fletcher Jacobs, Ty Petersburg, Tom Metsa, Randy Engle, Josh Stoudt, Luke Svare, Tappan Brown, Garrett Watson, Matt Thorpe, Chrystal Read, Joe O'Brien, Gabrielle Smiley, Felicia Lohnes, Lauren Zubick, Josh Mabis, Jamie Goins.

Others: Ex-Officio Jeff Christensen (BLM), Brendan Kelly (USFS). Guests: Gary Skiba (CPW Commission), Steve Bonowski, Roz McClellan, Dan Zimmerer, Sallie Thoreson, Rosalind McClellan, Steve Bonowski, Carol Bennett, Scott Jones, Scott Segerstrom, Chris Breidenback (AG's office)

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

### Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 15, 2023

*Motion to approve minutes – Pam Denahy*

*Motion seconded – Bevin Carithers*

*Motion passes unanimously*

### Public Comment:

Sallie Thoreson, Great Old Broads. Discussed interest in the State Trails Program and CPW wildlife connectivity. Mentioned that the number of non-motorized trail applications are impressive. Suggested that it would be beneficial for wildlife reviews to be posted to the website as soon as possible, and that applicants should be mindful of stakeholders and social trail concerns.

Rosalind McClellan, Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative. Mentioned that the organization has been working to get more protection for wildlife in the application process. Discussed the historical perspective and bringing CPW closer to its mission and the past history of two agencies. Trails were about human access into the backcountry that wildlife needs for habitat. Roz thanked CPW on collaboration and hopes CPW keeps up the good work.

### Director Updates: Ty Petersburg

- Ty thanked Commissioner Skiba for joining the meeting. He commended the State Trails team and Fletcher Jacobs for their hard work.
- DNR hiring updates
  - Working on positions for a Tribal Liaison, Climate Resilience Coordinator and Colorado River Coordinator and Specialist.
- Discussed legislative updates and specific bills and the hope for a State Hearing Officer in place soon.
- CPW updates



- The hiring process is complete for the new officer academy year. Last year's group of 32-33 officers are heading to their assignments.
- The agency has made offers to several applicants and have officers coming onboard. There are many vacancies, and this is the second year where the application has been opened nationwide. CPW has hired several people from out of state.
- Discussed bear conflicts, embracing wise management and big game issues.
- The Outdoor Equity grant program is now closed.
- Reported on invasive species at Highline Reservoir, and it will need to be drained.
- Discussed the wolf reintroduction to Colorado.
- The Commission discussed questions regarding the Outdoor Recreation grant and Ty provided more information.

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

- State Trails Program staff update. Joe O'Brien has joined the team, focused on the COTREX application. Fletcher discussed pushing COTREX forward and will share more at the next meeting.
- The National Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program grant opportunity is now open through the end of February. Interested parties should contact Fletcher Jacobs or Chrystal Read for details.
- The Partners in the Outdoor conference will be in Breckenridge, April 15-17, 2024. There will be a Recreational Trails workshop. Fletcher asked the committee for suggestions. Janelle Kukuk asked that the committee put their feedback in the Zoom chat so it could be captured for future discussion.
- Fletcher provided an update on 2024 Colorado's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The plan is revised every five years.

### **CYCA OHV RFP Update: Scott Segerstrom**

Scott provided a final report for 2023. It will be uploaded to the [Trails Program website](#). Scott discussed program accomplishments, including hours of service and feedback. He highlighted the Grand Lake OHV project as well 300 feet of constructed bridges. Ten applications were received for the 2024 season. Fletcher gave Scott and staff credit for the work that has been done with this program.

### **Info Item – 2024 Non-Motorized Grant Cycle – Fletcher Jacobs**

- 70 applications were received. 11 Construction, 14 Maintenance, 15 Trails Stewardship (new pilot category), 13 Planning, 5 Support, and 12 LWCF with a total request of \$17,952,749.23.
- The new Trails Stewardship category focuses on funding 1-year projects for maintenance, re-route or reconstruction on existing trails. The pilot is funded by GOCO with an initial total of \$500,000.00. The grant maximum for a 2-4 person crew is set at \$75,000, and the maximum for a 5-8 member crew is set at \$150,000.00.
- Wildlife Impact summaries will be posted to the website later this month.

### **Round Table**

Fletcher Jacobs will have more information about potential new State Trails Committee members and term expirations in early 2024.

Meara McQuain reported that OHV crews are working very hard in the Grand Lake area and getting a portion of the trail open. Grand County was successful in extending a .3% sales tax to support open lands, rivers, trails and fire recovery in perpetuity (73% yes vote). New trail language for the measure is modeled after the State Trails Program.

Jack Placchi is glad to hear that the Partners in the Outdoors conference is back this year and thanks CPW for their efforts.

Jason Meyer is looking forward to the non-motorized grant application review process.

Bevin Carithers extended thanks to staff for their hard work getting the grant applications ready to review.

Pam Denahy discussed the GOCO December board meeting. There will be a short video developed on the Celebration of GOCO legends. The Board is taking action on more than \$16M in grant recommendations. Representatives from the Colorado Lottery and Best program are going over questions about expenditures. They are also going to have conversations about the strategic plan, with some minor updates in mind.

Mick Daniel reported that SLV GO! crews are finishing up the season, as the weather allows. They are coordinating partnerships with Federal agencies, and having a bigger conversation about a possible large conservation area with the BLM. The San Luis Valley Ecosystems Council is working on a congressional designation of a conservation area, as well as a regional conservation initiative.

Janelle Kukuk discussed the winter travel management process, mapping and determining accuracy and winter recreation.

Brad Schwartz discussed some motorized trail work west of Fort Collins by the Northern CO Trail Riders. The group also applied for a planning grant with Larimer County for the Grizzly Helena Trail for some bridges.

Fletcher gave Heather Hormell's updates. Heather and Tom Metsa reinstated the OHV subcommittee autumn meeting, and this took place in October. Heather attended the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) workshop October 21-22. The OHV subcommittee participated. They discussed the current grant cycle and the future of the program. Big takeaway is seeing CPW as partners, focusing on how what we need to do to help them, along with safe protection of resources. Heather thanked the Regional Trail Coordinators for their participation as well.

Jack Placchi agreed that the OHV workshop went well and several good topics were raised. He asked about a public comment letter, and Fletcher said it is related to a Trails stewardship opportunity and understands the concern. He will reach out to them directly and discuss grant opportunities.

**Annual training for State committees required by § 24-3.7-102, C.R.S., Chris Breidenback, AG's Office**

Janelle Kukuk asked the committee to vote to continue the meeting in open session or change to an Executive session.

*Committee agreed to stay in open session.*

Chris Breidenback led the session and reported that slides would be made available if needed.

**Meeting Adjourned 11:20 a.m.**