

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area  
Citizen Task Force (CTF)

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Start Time 9:33 am

Location: AHRA Visitor Center  
w/ conference call option

### Minutes

Present: Bob Hamel (CTF President, Commercial Permittees), Joe Greiner (Commercial Permittees), Logan Myers (Environmental Interests), Greg Felt (Local Governments)

Present via Phone: Christina King (Environmental Interests), Marshall Butler (Local Governments), Leslie Tyson (Private Boaters), Ed Perko (Water Interests)

In Attendance: Rob White (AHRA Park Manager), Kalem Lenard (acting BLM River Manager), Jennifer Crawford (AHRA Admin Asst.), John Kreski (Rationing and Agreement Coordinator), Tappan Brown (AHRA River Ranger Manager), Michael Rice (AHRA GOCO Intern), Dominique Naccarato (GARNA)

### Welcome & Introductions

#### CTF Members Roundtable

- Water is currently being released into the river at 80 cfs through March and will remain at this rate assuming there are no drastic changes in weather.
- A Federal Lands Access grant may potentially offer funding to work on the access road into Ruby Mountain. More info to follow.
- The traffic light placed near Ruby Mountain was vandalized multiple times over the summer and was left non-operational during the slower winter months. Greg Felt will follow up on whether or not the light will be used again in the coming season.

#### Discussion of Friends Group

The Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) was created as a friends group of the park and has since grown to support not only the park but surrounding communities. They have volunteer groups who focus primarily on BLM and USFS projects, but not one specifically supporting CPW. Dominique and Jennifer, with the support of Rob, presented the idea of a Friends of AHRA group and requested ideas and the support of CTF in this process.

Dominique noted that her ideas for initial focuses are recreation impact monitoring and education efforts to promote self-regulation by recreators in the park.

It was decided that AHRA and GARNA will move forward on the idea, coming up with a catalyst project to kick off interest. It was suggested that we work with Fremont County government, Trout Unlimited and others to potentially create a Hayden Fire area cleanup to encourage Cañon City involvement.

More information regarding Friends of AHRA to follow as the concept develops.

### **CTF Membership - Nomination Process**

The two-year CTF term expiring April 2019 is coming to a close. Members in this group include Hayden Mellso (Anglers), Bob Hamel (Commercial Permittees), Christina King (Environmental Interests), Marshall Butler (Local Governments), Mark Robbins (Private Boaters), Wendy Rombold (Property Owners), and Justin Zeisler (Water Interests).

With Fred Rasmussen's passing, his position as an Anglers representative will also be filled following the same process.

The nomination period will run through mid-March, and new members will be instated at the April meeting. Fred's position will expire upon its original termination date of April 2020.

AHRA will put out a press release in area newspapers advertising the openings. Individuals may self-nominate, or an organization may make nominations. The Application Nomination Form is available on AHRA's CTF website at <https://goo.gl/qKy5TU>.

### **Fred Rasmussen Achievement Award**

Rob took a moment to recognize the memory of Fred Rasmussen as an individual who always had a loud voice in standing up for the things he believed in, especially when it came to angling. AHRA is happy to announce the initiation of an annual Fred Rasmussen Achievement Award, an award for which community members possessing that same type of zeal may be nominated. More information to follow as the program is developed.

### **Park Manager Updates**

#### **AHRA Management Plan / Final Signing**

The Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) was submitted February 19, 2019 for final review by the USFS. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the USFS will require more time to review the final version, which will go to the commission in May.

#### **Granite Diversion**

River water in this section has been diverted back into the original channel and fish ladder. Work will continue on boat chute this summer with an expected completion this coming fall. There will be a mandatory portage in this area which will be communicated with signage.

#### **Ford Crossing**

Work will begin February 21, 2019 on the Ford Crossing project in which AHRA plans to enlarge the parking lot and to build a boat ramp and eddy. The site is expected to be ready for Spring fishing/boating season.

#### **MacKenzie Bridge**

Cañon City has acquired a 30-year property easement allowing the use of land at MacKenzie Bridge and has asked AHRA to manage the site. AHRA has acquired funds to create a concrete approach, improve the boat ramp, and work on an access point to make

the site more usable. Upstream signage will be installed, clearly marking the site as the last takeout.

### **Numbers/Placer Property**

Construction on this property is projected to begin in March as AHRA works to move the current put-in/take-out approximately ½ mile downstream. The old boat ramp location will be completely rehabilitated, the stairs removed, and the gage station moved to a downstream location. AHRA will talk with CDOT regarding the possibility of extending the current guard rail so that individuals do not park and walk down the old site as it is being rehabilitated. An in-progress land exchange between CPW and the USFS will place the entire property on CPW lands when complete.

### **Salida East**

Funds are in place for phase two renovations to Salida East where two-to-three campsites will be added, and a CXT double-vault toilet will be installed either this fall or next spring. More information on phase three will be provided as plans progress.

### **Black Hills**

There are currently no updates on this property. Rob will follow up on progress.

### **Envision Colorado Waters Conservation Board (CWCB) Grant**

The Colorado Water Conservation Board has submitted a grant request for funds to be used in investigating human-caused sedimentation within Chaffee County.

### **Trails Grant Statewide/State Parks**

GARNA has completed some rehab on trails within the AHRA at the Granite Rock site. Two potential grants may offer the opportunity for AHRA to continue the project, possibly allowing for increased parking and travel management, as well as some additional trails.

### **Other Discussions**

#### **Vallie Bridge Boat Ramp**

A small-cap funds request was submitted for a deep-water boat ramp on the downstream side of Vallie Bridge.

#### **Point Barr**

A second job show was recently held for the Point Barr construction project after only one bid was received following the first show. The time frame for work was extended through the end of October 2019, which increased the number of show attendees. Progress updates to follow. The job will likely be completed in two phases, first the road under the railroad trestle followed by removal and replacement of the concrete block retaining wall.

#### **Tunnel View Campground**

Tunnel View (CR384A), currently a free disbursed camping site, is increasing in popularity. With the increased use, neighbors have begun voicing their concern regarding people building fires, leaving trash, and over-using the area. In response to the resource damage, AHRA, in cooperation with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, is looking at installing rock boundaries and a buck-and-rail fence to keep vehicles and

campsites within a designated area. In the summer of 2018, a camp host was placed on site which helped mitigate problems. AHRA will attempt to place a camp host at the site again in 2019.

### **Cañon City Whitewater Park**

The Cañon City whitewater park rebuild has been completed and looks good. Functionality will hopefully be tested in high water this year.

### **Salida Whitewater Park**

The City of Salida plans to re-build “the office” wave (the most upstream wave of Salida Whitewater Park). Plans include re-building the drop and extending the rockwork on river left downstream to protect the bank. Because the work is expected to be completed after August 15, 2019 (before the fish spawn in Fall), the river will likely remain open at that point.

### **Hayden Pass Fire/Cottonwood Creek Flood Restoration Plan**

A public meeting, attended in part by the Hayden Pass Fire and Flood Recovery Coalition, was held concerning impacts on private property and county roads. The county was able to access Federal funds to assist private landowners, but the majority of private land owners are not willing to sign the agreement which would release those funds. Jim Pitts, USFS Salida Ranger District, was in attendance to address concerns.

An additional concern being monitored by CPW is that of the river and fish habitat. While this year’s runoff may clean up the riverbed, subsequent flash floods may wash more into the river. It was noted that early debris was largely ash and is now primarily sediment. This sediment has filled the riverbed depleting food sources and consequently removing fish habitat. It is expected that, in time, this process will reverse, potentially bringing fish back into the area naturally.

Adjourn: 11:00 am

Next Meeting: Friday, May 3, 2019