



Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 7, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

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

CPW staff: Fletcher Jacobs, Tom Metsa, Gabrielle Smiley, Pam O'Malley, Jamie Goins, Randy Engle, Tappan Brown, Luke Svare, Josh Stoudt, Chrystal Read*, Maggie Gillard*, Jeannie MacMurtrie*, Felicia Lohnes*

Others: Ex-Officio Jeff Christenson (BLM), Brendan Kelly (USFS)

Guests: Roz McClellan, Rachel Fussell, Steve Bonowski, Scott Jones*

*Participated virtually via webinar.

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

Agenda Amendments: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 03, 2023:

Motion to approve minutes – Jill Ozarski

Motion seconded – Jack Placchi

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment:

Roz McClellan, Rocky Mountain Wildlife Initiative, supports a 'Good Management' program for non-motorized grants.

Sally Thoreson, Great Old Broads, encourages using 'Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind' when planning and building trails.

Steve Bonowski, Colorado Mountain Club, commented on the Calico Trail. He is not opposed to trails projects but wants the Trails Program to look into the long-term needs and sustainability of this trail.

Scott Jones met with BLM Colorado Director Doug Vilsack to discuss the OHV program. He suggested that the Search and Rescue representation for recreationists needs more money.



Acting Director Updates: Fletcher Jacobs for Ty Petersburg:

- CPW's new director is Jeff Davis, and he will start on May 1, 2023. Jeff is from Washington State and has extensive experience in recreation and conservation.
- The Wolf Reintroduction Plan recommendations have been made. Final steps will be discussed at the May Commission meeting. All public comment meetings have taken place.

State Trails Program Update: Fletcher Jacobs

- Non-Motorized grant scope change request. The Town of Estes Park was awarded a Colorado the Beautiful grant in 2020 to construct a portion of the Fall River Trail, which will eventually connect the Town with Rocky Mountain National Park. The Town would like to change the location of the funded portion of the trail to another location along the same trail. As construction is already underway for the connecting portions of the trail, they would be able to complete the segment much sooner, as early as June 2023. Other than the location, the scope has not changed. The committee discussed the issue and also had a chance for Q & A with the grantee. The Committee agreed that this was the best way forward, ensuring that the GOCO funding would be spent in a timely manner. All committee members were in favor of this scope change.
- Parks and Wildlife Commission is considering looking at an increase to the Search and Rescue fee from \$.25 to \$.75 for hunting and fishing licenses. If they pass it, they would then consider OHV and Snowmobile registrations.
- The Keep Colorado Wild Pass sales are going well. The initial goal is to raise \$36M to fund State Park operations, Backcountry Search and Rescue efforts, and Colorado Avalanche Information Center supports. After that, proceeds will be divided between Parks Cash and Wildlife Cash.

Action Item – OHV Funding Recommendations

68 applications were received, 27 Good Management and 41 Competitive. Tom Metsa presented information about the program and the applications. Recommended funding 52 grants for a total of \$6,236,360.00.

Motion to approve funding recommendations – Heather Hormell

Motion seconded – Bevin Carithers

Motion passed with one member recused

Regional Trail Coordinator Quarterly Report – Luke Svare

USFS Update – Brendan Kelly

They have a new saw curriculum with modules available now for trail sawyers, fire fighters, etc. This will help expand capacity to train and participate in 'train the trainer'. Hiring challenges continue, and they are expanding recruitment options. Flexibility is needed in using funds when they can't be spent elsewhere. They are creating housing opportunities, such as opening snow seasonal housing for summer staff.

BLM Update – Jeff Christenson

Hiring struggles are affecting the BLM as well as the Forest Service. Wildlife mitigation has been suggested to the BLM by Big Game groups.

Info Item – PeopleForBikes – Rachel Fussell

Rachel gave a presentation on electric bikes, highlighting the different classes of bikes, speed, wattage, etc. The most common reason people choose to ride an e-bike is improved health, lower transportation costs and increased fun. She discussed some of the laws and regulations in both Colorado and on federally managed land. More information can be found on their website – [PeopleForBikes](#).

Regional Trail Coordinator Quarterly Reports – Josh Stoudt, Tappan Brown, Randy Engle**Info Item – 2023 Non-Motorized Trails and LWCF Grant Cycle**

Fletcher discussed work being done to revise the grant applications to make them more user friendly and to eliminate repetition in the questions. Several Committee members agreed to help review the changes. He also discussed a new pilot for Non-Motorized Trail Stewardship crews. This additional funding from GOCO would be used to create a pilot program that mimics the OHV Good Management crews. It would focus on paying for skilled crews to maintain existing non-motorized trails across the State.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. by Janelle Kukuk