

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 27, 2019**

The June 27, 2019 Gunnison Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Tourism Committee (STORC) meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstock Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin #D, Gunnison, CO 81230.

**Committee Members Present:**

Voting Members:

Kevin Alexander, Professor of Biology WCU, Hunter & Anglers  
John Messner, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners  
Paul Merck, Crested Butte Town Council  
Dave Ochs, Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association  
Matt Feier, Crested Butte Mountain Resort  
Matt McCombs, USFS  
Christie Hicks, Crested Butte Nordic  
Ben Breslauer, GOATS  
Sandy Snell, National Park Service  
Joellen Fonken, Gunnison Nordic  
Kristi Murphy, BLM  
Noel Durant, CB Land Trust  
Chris Parmeter, CPW  
Chris Haver, Town of Crested Butte Town Council  
John Norton, Gunnison Crested Butte Tourism Association  
Sue Wallace, Mountain Manners  
Frank Kugel, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

**Others in Audience:**

Marlene Crosby, Gunnison County Director of Public Works  
Hedda Peterson, Gunnison Met Rec  
Gary Pierson, Gunnison Trails  
Aaron Drendel, USFS

**Staff Members Present:**

Cathie Pagano, Director of Community and Economic Development  
Rachael Sabbato, Planner II

**CALL TO ORDER:** Alexander called the June 27, 2019 meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

**APPROVAL of May 9, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:** Moved: by Norton and seconded by Haver to accept the May 9, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Pagano reported that they received the GOCO Stewardship grant. They were the top ranked out of 11 applicants. They received the most money. They will receive the money soon. They have to hire a stewardship coordinator for a three year term and will be meeting sometime in the future to determine the logistics of what that person will do. They are looking at meeting around July 10<sup>th</sup>. The grant awards \$80,000 per year for work and \$50,000 for the coordinator.

## **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND 2019 FUNDING:**

Discussion continued on each site update:

### **Peanut Lake/Lower Loop:**

Ochs stated that they need a trail from Oh-Be-Joyful to Pittsburg. Hicks reported that there is a need for bathrooms. The Peanut Lake Committee has a short term plan for signage and parking. These are funded but not the bathrooms. Ochs reported that there is no parking and the road is getting ruined. Hicks reported that the short-term plan is to widen the parking area. Crosby reported that a lot the parking is on private parcels and there has been a lengthy conversation of increasing parking or encourage people to ride from town. Hicks reported that they are also looking at moving the trailhead closer to town. Hicks reported there will be a sign at the trailhead that has the summer rules that they can flip it in the winter to the Nordic info. Hicks reported that if the committee wants to fund long-term planning then it would be good to get the group together again to go over the plans.

### **Gothic Campground:**

McCombs stated that currently the Gothic Campground is one of the concession sites run by their contracted party. Any improvements would have to be coordinated with them. It has four sites and isn't much of a campsite, it looks bigger than it is. Ochs stated he would like to see more campsites. McCombs reported that they are looking at fully redeveloping Lake Irwin campground and the ones in and around Crested Butte. The goal is to expand and Gothic would be a natural fit. They would like to have a more managed setting for each of the sites. Messner stated that it would probably be something to look at but that they would have to go a different route to get the funding. Ochs added that Rustler Gulch is the same and wanted to know if it could have another parking area. McCombs stated that trail use is different stage but that in the interim they could work on the use.

### **Almont River Put-In:**

Messner reported that there are two different issues, the limited parking area at the current site, and the potential solution is to look at the forest service area a mile south and use it as a put in. McCombs reported that the USFS is open to that, but they would have to work on the different water issues and implementing the plan that may expensive.

McCombs said that they would like to add more in the long run but there is a big expense to do it. Alexander requested the expense, McCombs stated that it would be about \$1 million. Haver asked about the put-in near the post office. Discussion followed on the possibilities.

### **Nicholson Lake/Slate River:**

Ochs stated that parking is important. Hicks stated that in the winter it is getting bad with parking. They need expanded parking and bathrooms. Crosby reported that they will be signing it this year, it is a County road to Pittsburg so they are going to sign it with no ATVs past the parking area. There has been issues adding parking at Pittsburg with the late arrival of spring and deciding where they are going to put them back on. Ochs reported that people are parking in non-parking areas and that they should shut down the use of ATVs in the area. Crosby reported that they were going to put the no ATVs signs up to the town of Pittsburg but they haven't been able to due to the late spring. Crosby reported that the issue is that people unload their ATVs on County roads. Haver stated that to be good stewards they have to

draw the lines on usage and not allow everything everywhere, and start managing the uses. Hicks requested that they look at winter usage because it is just as bad. Hicks asked if they are developing the parking lot in Pittsburg this year and Crosby stated that they are trying but they are still working on it.

### **Taylor Park:**

Pierson reported that Gunnison Trails has helped manage the areas by Thunder Dome and would like more help out there. McCombs reported that they are focusing on working on disbursed camping and the funding they have allocated it the Center for Public Lands to provide Indian students to help replicate the process they did in Taylor Park and Crested Butte. The second piece is to continue closing roads. McCombs reported that having people out there, workers that can enforce by driving the trails and contacting people, every day, \$30,000 a year and they would provide housing. McCombs stated that there is also the option of working with the County to get more law enforcement. Pierson stated that Gunnison Trails could help if there is an interest. McCombs said absolutely and that field experience is the most effective. Pagano reported that there is a grant through Polaris available for education and signage. McCombs reported that they are looking at reopening the guard station near Cottonwood Pass. Breslauer reported that in the past years Phil Chamberland and some private land owners have been interested in getting a grant to improve Italian Creek Road.

### **Shady Island:**

Pagano reported that they are working on engineering now. They are waiting to hear from the grants from Fishing is Fun.

### **Rustler Gulch:**

Ochs stated that parking is needed. Five vehicles tried to cross and were ruined vehicles. Believes they should actually shut down parking. McCombs stated they would have to look deeper into the issue.

Messner stated that in the short term they need to create a parking area with no parking outside of it. McCombs stated that they would expand the parking and add signs and would need enforcement.

### **Discussion on what to put the funds towards:**

Discussion followed on the specific areas that they can focus their resources for the first year. Alexander asked if it would be good to do another Google survey to see what everyone thinks. Discussion followed on what they can't do right now and possibly adding specific projects they can work on.

### **FENCELINE TRAIL ALIGNMENT IN CEMENT CREEK:**

Ochs gave the presentation on their five year plan. It is something they would like to get done quickly and have it turned into the Forest Service for review. They would like to continue the Fenceline Trail as a continuation of Cement Creek trail. They would like to put it on public land and continue over. The main goal is to get it off private land and people off the busy road. Discussion followed on the specifics and how it would be beneficial. Messner suggested that they send out an email vote to see what they say. Members were in agreement.

### **DISPERSED CAMPING:**

Aaron Drendel, Recreation Staff Officer for the Gunnison Ranger District, gave the presentation on designated camping in the Crested Butte area. Before the 2010 decision, the Forest Service took pride in being able to offer an unregulated, dispersed camping experience. The exception was the Taylor River,

where they spent millions of dollars developing designated camp areas. They have been trying to manage the dispersed camping around Crested Butte. They decided to designate 12 corridors as 30 foot corridors of routes to access camping. In 2016 the Forest Supervisor decided to seasonally restrict camping in the Gothic Corridor from June 15 to August 15. The corridors were identified in the 2010 Travel Management Plan. Currently you can only travel up to 30 feet from any numbered route to establish a dispersed campground. They have a field ranger program where they are out there educating on weekends, communicating with law enforcement and forest protection officers to try and curtail impacts from out route and camping. Weekend patrol started in 2016. They contact campers, teaching "leave no trace". In 2015 he had someone working with him that would inventory the campgrounds, Musicians' Camp specifically. There were 19 small sites. In 2017 there were more campsites. In 2019, the entire area is full of campsites and fully impacted. They have cut roads through trees. Discussion followed.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** Future meetings will occur on the 4th Thursday of the month in the Planning Commission meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, Co. 81230, unless changed for a specific reason.

07-25-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
08-22-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
09-26-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
10-24-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
11.28-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
12-26-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room

**ADJOURN:** The June 27, 2019 meeting of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 4:19 PM.

Minutes Prepared By: Rebecca Ricord, Administrative Assistant III