

Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes
Tuesday August 10, 2021
Held via conference call only
PRELIMINARY

Meeting called to order at 11:12 AM.

Present: Paul Spencer, Brett Sutteer, Jacques Hadler, Colin Topper, Randall Fox, Laura Harris, Kirsten Peterson, Katie Stevens, Kim Schappert, Brian Murdock, Cory Schurtleff

Absent: Steve Schultz, Marc Thomas, Justin Ricks, Maddie Logowitz, Tyson Swasey, Kya Marienfeld

Guests: John Guenther, Dave Wilson

Approval Of Minutes: Brett Sutteer moved to accept the minutes as published; Jacques Hadler seconded. Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention.

Guest John Guenther, who is the Planning and Zoning Director for Grand County, did a short presentation on several topics of interest:

- the County is updating the Transportation Master Plan, and is looking for stakeholder input
- the Land Use Strategy is also being revised; both will be done within the next year and will involve public presentations and input
- an open house on the County General Plan will be held in late September

Citizens to be Heard: One comment was received, from a resident in the neighborhood of the Hidden Valley BLM trailhead (which is also the southern trailhead for the Pipe Dream trail), asking about the Trail Ambassador program and whether it could have some presence at that trailhead. Since that area is common to hiking / biking / trail running users and has historically had impact issues, that would be a good idea; Jacques will discuss this at the next meeting of the Ambassador Program. The BLM has already made several changes to that area and has increased enforcement to help mitigate issues.

BLM Report: Katie gave an update on changes to manage dispersed camping in the area; the Klondike Bluffs area updates are almost ready to publish in the Federal Register, and the other three areas will be up on eplanning very soon. None of the changes will ban camping; they will merely give BLM the authority to change from dispersed camping to designated sites only. The new campground in the North Klondike area is nearing completion and will be ready for the fall season.

Clearances for the minor reroute of the middle section of the Burrito trail (Hawks Glide) are being worked on.

Forest Service Report: Brian reported good progress on the cooperative project between USFS and GCATT, who are spending the month of August in the La Sals, working on rebuilding switchbacks on Burro Pass.

The combination of the fire and recent flooding has caused significant damage to some trails in the Forest, such as the Trans La Sal Trail, Moonlight Meadows, Clark, and Gold Basin. The fire closure is still in effect, so many trails remain closed, but things should reopen within a week or so. TWE is open to ride, but Geyser Pass Road is closed, so it can only be accessed from the back side.

The Forest Plan Update will have some open houses soon; undecided whether these will be in-person or virtual online only.

Geyser Pass Road is closed currently but will reopen within a few weeks; however, it will close again for a few weeks late in August for tree work.

GCATT Report: not present

County Report: Jacques reports that the County will be working on a land use bill and will be meeting with Congressman Curtis on Wednesday. Hiring for the Ambassador program is being done; the program should be in place for the busy fall season.

City Report: Cory reports that the Arches Area Hotspot program was approved, and the dispersed parking program is currently being designed. Concerns over bicycle safety with increased angle parking and median parking were raised. The Spanish Valley shared use path and a commuter bus system were also funded. Details should be on the moabcity.org web site, or Chuck Williams made an excellent presentation in the July 27th City Council meeting which is available on youtube.

Chair Report: nothing to report

Biking Report: Colin distributed the new Whole Enchilada flyers to bike shops and shuttle companies. The NICA high school race will be at the Brand Trails on September 25th; the Red Devil team will have a trail work day organized.

Katie noted that National Public Lands Day is also on September 25; locally GCATT will be organizing a work day on the Amasa Back area on the previous Saturday, September 18th.

Climbing/Canyoneering Report: nothing to report

Equestrian Report: not present

Hiking Report: not present

Trail Running Report: not present

Skiing Report: nothing to report

Action Items: none

Discussion Items: a group discussion about where to use TRT funds earmarked for Sustainable Trail Promotion generated the following ideas:

- signage for shuttle vans, and pamphlets for them to distribute (engaged user base with ~45 minutes free time in the van)
- a kiosk at the airport with information about sustainable recreation
- portable sandwich boards with information that could be placed at various trailheads during the busy season
- more educational trails, in the style of the short one next to the Brands kiosk; or adding of educational signage along an existing beginner-level trail
- informational pamphlets to distribute in hotel lobbies (this was done in the past, with a program of printed cards about cryptobiotic soil at hotel front desks)

Jacques will bring these ideas to the next Sustainable Trails meeting.

Colin Topper moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 PM. Brett Sutteer seconded.