

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2024

APPROVED February 15, 2024

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:40 pm with introductions by those in attendance.

Members in attendance:

Clif Koontz, Chair

Reid Bakken, eBike Rep

Dave Cozzens

Mike McCurdy, Grand County Commissioner sitting in for Bill Winfield

Keri Nelson, BLM

Nick Oldham, ATV Rep

Anna Sprout, GCATT

Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair

Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep

Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Gwen Dilworth, Moab Times-Independent

Madeline Logowitz, GCATT

Tim Rau

Mark Thornberry, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, Southeast Region Trail Crew Foreman

A. Approval of Minutes

Zane Taylor made a motion to approve the December 14, 2023 minutes, Reid Bakken seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Electing MTC Officers and Executive Committee members

Clif stated that Dee McNenny is no longer available to be the 4WD representative leaving that position open. Dave Hellman is willing to serve as the 4WD representative in addition to continuing as Treasurer. All other officers are interested in continuing in their roles with no other names being put forward for consideration. Kathy proposed combining the Secretary and Treasurer roles. Jeff supported Dave as the 4WD representative and combining the Secretary and Treasurer and he also said he could serve as 4WD representative. Clif proposed leaving the Treasurer role vacant for 90 days. Zane supported that option. A motion was made by Reid Bakken to pass the roster as presented: Dave Hellman as 4WD representative, Treasurer will be vacant, all

other positions will remain the same as last year. Jeff Stevens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

Keri indicated signs may not be ready by then which is ok. She would like to get the project work day scheduled for White Knuckle, Clif needs to get dates of availability from Dave Hellman and would like it to be between 2/24 and 3/24. Anna shared the Trail Ambassador training is first week of March and could possibly incorporate the work day into the training. Mark Thornberry doesn't get his crew in place until 2nd week of May but he will participate in the White Knuckle work day. Clif is probably not available March 1 or 2. Keri shared the Interagency Guide and Outfitter Workshop is 3/16.

Jan 27 Poison Spider Rake and Ride, 10 am at the trailhead

Feb 24 White Knuckle Rake and Ride, 9 am meet at parking area opposite of highway from Behind the Rocks entrance road.

March 16 save the date for possibly Top of the World [Actually scheduled March 23.]

On other matters Reid shared that he and Zane have talked about Sovereign Trail needing painting to be done. Suggested not using a stencil, and possibly getting a lesson from Tyson and Trail Mix on painting techniques. Clif suggested using better paint and agreed with researching a better setup, but said that Ride with Respect already purchased the spray paint for this year that lends itself to a stencil, with the goal of completing it before Easter Jeep Safari. There is another spot at the bottom of Cozzens Construction hill needing attention but this will need to be coordinated with the manager of Utah Raptor State Park.

Keri mentioned there has been lots of off route travel on the Kane Spring Canyon and Kane Creek 4x4 route causing erosion and donut holes have been developed. She would like input on options to remedy damage to riparian area. Location is 6 to 7 miles up from the junction with Hurrah Pass Road. Jeff suggested fencing and signage. Clif thought maybe this could be an April project. If anyone is going out there, take a look and provide feedback to remedy and details such as how much fencing would be needed, and take pictures.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Subcommittee members

Kathy will not be at the February meeting so a volunteer for note taking is needed.

Maddie shared that GCATT is hiring a Volunteer Event and Business Coordinator to interface with businesses, the Motorized Trails Committee and other entities on any project in the Moab area on public lands. The Moab Trail Spring Spruce Up is scheduled for April 12 and 13, signups will be done the first day to volunteer the second

day. They will also be hiring a full time Motorized Trail Ambassador. The Wander app they are developing is proving to be a challenge, beta testing is taking place now. She will provide a link to Clif for the MTC to review motorized routes.

Anna is working on hiring for part-time Trail Ambassador positions.

Mike has been working on the Senate Bill regarding Motor Vehicle licensing and Registration as it pertains to OHVs. He will be going to Salt Lake City next week with Commissioner Bill Winfield to talk with state legislators.

Reid shared that 19 survey responses were received containing lots of good information. Reid stated that there is an eBike Subcommittee meeting on Jan 19, and Clif stated that the survey results will be reviewed then. Clif asked Reid if he attended the last Trail Mix meeting. Reid shared they drafted new Bylaws which changed the way membership was determined. Maddie concurred and shared some of the changes regarding being elected based on attendance. Mike shared that several committees are changing membership requirements. Discussion took place to provide clarification and consider the tradeoffs of such changes for other committees like the MTC.

Nick said that in the OHV world the new Utah OHV Education course is now enforceable. His company had close to 100% compliance from customers with no pushback. Dave Cozzens asked if the course was helping. Nick said he would like to see some tweaks made and that safety is not emphasized as it should be. Anna asked him to send her feedback.

Thornberry provided information on his new position in the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation providing trail work in Grand and San Juan Counties. His goal now is to hire a crew and be of service to government entities. His position, and the program, are state funded so labor is free but they do not provide supplies and materials. He is finding it a challenge to hire staff in the area. Positions to be filled are 1 lead crew member and up to 6 trail crew technicians. He then provided some background on his experiences prior to taking on this position and admitted motorized trail maintenance is new to him and he is eager to learn more.

Keri shared there are many staffing changes in the BLM office taking place. Relocation costs will be provided for the Supervisory Park Ranger position which has been announced on USA Jobs. Keri will be the Acting Assistant Field Manager starting Jan 28 while Jennifer Jones is detailed into another position. BLM will be working with Jeep during Easter Jeep Safari on Dome Plateau and the Travel Management Plan updating process will begin in the Dolores area next.

Zane shared that Ride with Respect's rock hammer that broke during the Steel Bender project will be running soon.

Clif announced the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation Mountain West Trail Conference will be in Vernal this year, May 13 thru 15.

F. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:06 pm.