

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Approved April 18, 2024

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:32 pm with introductions by those in attendance.

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep

Clif Koontz, Chair

Madeline Logowitz, GCATT

Keri Nelson, BLM (departed at about 1:30 pm)

Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT (departed at about 2:00 pm)

Anna Sprout, GCATT

Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair

Tyson Swasey, GCATT

Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep

Bill Winfield, Grand County Commission Liaison

Guests in attendance:

Andrea Brand, Sand Flats Recreation Area (departed at about 1:30 pm)

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

Foreman (departed at about 1:30 pm)

A. Approval of Minutes

Reid Bakken made a motion to approve the February 15, 2024 minutes, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Approving Support Letter for BLM's RTP Grant Application

Clif thanked the BLM for its latest RTP grant application, which includes a list of intended locations and tasks across the Moab Field Office, and includes clarification that neither the grant funding nor the match would implement the 2023 BLM Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges TMP decision. Zane made a motion to approve the draft MTC letter of support, Jeff Stevens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

Jeff said that, after getting the BLM's description of the needed fencing work near Determination Towers, he can scout the M&M OHV loop in early April to plan for the Spring Spruce Up (SSU). Maddie said that SSU volunteers can have pizza on Friday

night, sandwiches on Saturday morning, and they should return to town by 3pm. Clif said he'll post the SSU event on the MTC's Facebook page, which will serve as the rake & ride for April.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Subcommittee members

Thornberry offered to attend this month's rake & ride at Top of The World and next month's project at Determination Towers.

Jeff provided an update on White Knuckle Hill, that the harder line was not touched, while the easier line was ramped, and the bypass should be signed as closed or fenced off if necessary. Clif thanked the six volunteers and two BLM staff who participated as well as recognizing the loaned equipment from the BLM, RwR, MFFW, Grand County Road Department, Xtreme 4x4 Tours, and Dave Cozzens Construction along with setup guidance from Wheeler Machinery. Keri said it's great to see the productivity that comes from this kind of teamwork.

Keri said that the BLM is busy planning projects for spring. At the BLM's recreation-planner training in Phoenix, participants brought up Moab success stories like the non-motorized trail development. Payton is working on Marlborough Point to clean up and prevent sprawl. The Moab Field Office issued SRPs for three new events, one that's called "Running Up For Air," another for equestrians near Castle Valley, and a gravel-bike race by TransRockies.

Anna said that Trail Ambassadors did intensive training last week including information from the BLM, USFS, and SFRA. In the past two weeks alone, Trail Ambassadors have had 2,300 sightings of other trail users and made 1,700 informative contacts, which is a 74% contact rate. She said that 170 people are signed up for this weekend's Interagency guide training.

Keltain said he'll get a driver training from Barlow Adventures next month, and has had positive interactions with trail users so far. He has met with OHV tour and rental businesses to ask how they prefer Trail Ambassadors to interact with their guides. He went with Rick Wolcott to move boulders on Sevenmile so that the difficulty rating would return to a 3 out of 10. Keltain said that some OHV businesses were concerned that people aren't visiting Moab because they heard that all the trails are closed. Clif thanked Keltain for relaying this concern, and added that it's important for people to know both what has been closed and what hasn't been closed. Keri said that the BLM's current travel plan is available from the Avenza website in the form of georeferenced maps of Moab North and Moab South, but they don't automatically update, so users should download the latest maps before going out of cell range.

Maddie said that GCATT is trying to identify a single point of contact for each project during SSU. She said that the Wander App is progressing slowly because they're used to dealing with smaller trail systems, and she invites people to help test the beta

version. Crux Academy will produce "sizzler" videos that link to more substantial videos promoting minimum-impact practices for all types of recreation. GCATT is producing a podcast series (starting with 6 episodes pertaining to SAR) that will also steer listeners to educational messages. GCATT may even advertise the podcast on billboards. Maddie said that, when attending the BLM training in Phoenix, it was nice to get recognition of the work around Moab.

F. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:37 pm.