

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 9, 2024
APPROVED June 13, 2024

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:36 pm with introductions by those in attendance.

In attendance:

Dave Cozzens
Bill Jackson, Grand County Road Department
Clif Koontz, Chair
Matt Porebski, BLM
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Anna Sprout, GCATT
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Tyson Swasey, GCATT
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary
Bill Winfield, Grand County Commission Liaison

Guests in attendance:

A. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Tustanowski made a motion to approve the April 18, 2024 minutes, Dave Cozens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Requesting Education for Responsible Use of Graded Roads

Clif provided a summary of what Bill Jackson brought up at the April meeting regarding the need for an educational element associated with appropriate and responsible use of graded (typically Class B) roads - dirt and gravel, to reduce the negative impacts to roads and other users. Educational messages already in place apply, but graded roads seem to be overlooked. More can be done which would involve planning for a range of motorized recreation, law enforcement, and education. Three years ago the general educational messages that were provided in the 10 page document the MTC submitted would still apply but what is specific to graded roads?: What are the laws and norms and what can be done to sway behavior, what is best way to get message out, what are motivators for user behavior?

Bill Jackson stated it is important to emphasize the fact Class B maintained roads are paid for by local funds and that safety is paramount. Clif stated that use of the term "Class B" road should be avoided. Bill asked if something could be added to the Adult OHV Education Course by the Utah Dept of Natural Resources, to address the issue. Clif said yes but we would need to succinctly explain the issue and corrective measures. Bill clarified that the key issues are blind corners, dust and visibility, proper lane travel, correct speed and burnouts, donuts and high banking. Anna stated that this is a larger issue than just motorized access, involves mountain bikers also. Clif stated that appropriate signage when leaving paved roads needs to have a clear message so we need to define what that message will be. Bill Winfield stated we need to protect our assets and Keltain stated we need to look at the psychological behavior change we want based on the signage and shared an example used in Oregon. He also shared that people remember information from the online training and recommends that be a way to get the message across.

In wrapping up the discussion Bill Jackson stated the message should not imply we want to stop use and that the state has 1/2 interest in city and county roads. Clif will work with different entities on implementing bullet points that he will provide based on today's meeting. It is more than just a speed limit issue. He will draft a document for the MTC to review and approve at the next meeting. Anna will meet with state OHV program staff next week and indicated she has enough information to make it productive. Bill Winfield asked about process and including County Commission. Clif explained we are refining educational message, not policy. Clarification was made the 25 mph general speed limit will be used for reference.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

May 25 - Poison Spider Mesa, meet at 8 am at the trailhead. Keltain, Peyton, and Thornberry will scout it out beforehand. Keltain has sent files to Clif who will distribute to appropriate MTC members. Clif also touched base on the use of various terms: false trail, illegal trail, non-designated trail, braid.

Anna shared that the spill kits are very popular and suggested a volunteer activity for the summer would involve volunteers and MTC members putting together more kits.

Clif stated summer Rake and Rides will be done in the mountains and scouting will need to be done on routes. Zane shared that Miners Basin needs brushing. Keltain shared that Dory is difficult based on his recent experience there. Tyson shared that a debris flow between Dory Canyon and Brumley is blocking part of the road.

The June Rake and Ride will be determined at the next meeting.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Subcommittee members

Matt Porebski shared that the BLM will be having the Poison Spider trailhead lot paved early to mid August.

Anna Sprout shared that the Trail Ambassadors have educated their 100,000th individual since the programed start in 2021. She has met with Clif, Andrea Brand and Jeff Stevens regarding the Wander app that is under development. She then gave a presentation of the app and reiterated it is a work in progress, the intent is for this app to interface with other apps and will serve as a tool for visitors who may not have any of the other mapping apps. She will be attending the Mountain West Trails Conference in Vernal, UT next week.

Tyson Swasey shared that crews will be working in the Gemini Bridges area replacing wooden kiosks with metal ones.

Bill Winfield shared he is involved with 3 groups associated with bike paths and extensions due to funding being acquired for them. One path extension will be along HWY 191 from Moab Giants to Utah Raptor State Park. The other will be in Spanish Valley to the county line. Clif mentioned the need for access to cross HWY 191 for motorized users without having to trailer across the highway just to ride on the other side of it. He hopes there is consideration for planning to resolve this issue in the future during the paved path planning.

Bill Jackson shared that an outfitter has informed him that he is concerned about Long Canyon Road and the rock underpass being slick when wet. Bill's crew recently applied material to Gemini Bridges Road which seems to have worked. He asked if anyone experienced an issue in this area, and no comments were made in the affirmative. He asked if anyone hears any concerns about it to pass it along to Bill.

Dave Cozzens shared that he received feedback about being too abrasive at the last meeting and he apologies for that.

Keltain shared that the decal wrap for the Trail Ambassador vehicles is in. He has been busy at the Poison Spider trailhead and UTV Utah recently ran an event with 100 vehicles and it went well with appropriate behavior being observed. They will be hiring another part-time position.

Jeff Stevens shared that Brian Clark of Moab Friends For Wheelin' has acquired funds through the Ford Bronco Wild Fund that could total \$5,000. He has proposed replacing the YOU ARE HERE signs. Jeff was advised to have Brian contact Keri Nelson with BLM to move forward.

F. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 pm.