Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 8, 2024
DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:31 pm.

Members in attendance:
Clif Koontz, Chair
Bill Winfield, Grand County Commission Member
Keri Nelson, BLM
Anna Sprout, GCATT
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

A. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Tustanowski made a motion to approve the July 11 minutes, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Scheduling Trail Projects

Clif shared that he and Jeff did the “brush out” in Lackey Basin on July 27 instead of Miners Basin because it had recently been done. There is a spot on the first switch back needing the removal of a root ball that would require a small excavator or lots of tow straps. Clif will notify the USFS. There have been reports to the USFS that Rim Rocker Trail is getting brushy.

August 24 - Upper Two Mile, 9 am meeting time, location to be determined after Clif scouts it out beforehand. Work is needed on drainage in the area of the buried picnic table.

September 21 - Cliffhanger, Waterfall area, 8 am meet where the pavement ends. Equipment needed is all lined up.

October 26 - Top of the World, meet 9 am at Dewey Bridge parking area.

Keri mentioned that new pit toilets are going in at Poison Spider trailhead and parking lot paving project will being August 19.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Subcommittee members

Bill Winfield shared there is nothing new to report from the County other than there is movement on the Mud Springs project due to collaboration with San Juan County for the transfer of state grant funds.

Keri Nelson shared that construction on trails in Mud Springs will begin next July with NEPA being completed over the winter for Phase 2. BLM aims to start a public scoping process for considering some non-motorized trails to be opened to Class 1 eBikes in Moab area. The process would not consider trails that cross onto USFS land such as LPS, nor consider trails designated non-motorized by the RMP such as Portal Trail. Keri predicts that the scoping period will be one month, and the decision will be made in six months, with annoucements coming out soon. Clif requested further explanation for excluding Portal Trail from consideration. Keri pointed out that the RMP identified hiking to be the primary use of Portal Trail even though it's also open to traditional mountain biking. As far as update on Top of the World, a project proposal for the ledge (to fence off the left bypass and mark open the right bypass) to be submitted. Details of the project were discussed. Jeff asked about status of signing the White Knuckle bypass, and she had no update but will follow up on it. Clif asked if BLM staff would be available to finish jackhammering the alternate line of White Knuckle around the same time as Cliffhanger, and she indicated there should be. Clif will coordinate with BLM on these. Keri announced she will be detailed to a different BLM position for the next 4 months, Peyton and David will be the BLM representatives while she is away.

Zane Taylor shared a technology update regarding the use of screen mirroring devices for mapping apps that are available now in a wide range of prices. Requires a 12 volt power source and mounting system. Using one of these provides good navigational assistance.

Anna Sprout shared the Ambassadors program is now putting together Waste Kits that include wag bags, toilet paper in a bag and instructional information since many visitors are not familiar with appropriate use. She also indicated that motorized users want to be prepared with Spill Kits. Anna then announced that the new Volunteer Event and Business Coordinator has been hired. One of the priorities of the position will be to meet with Retail, Hotel and Restaurant owners to provide Business Communication Training. Clif asked if motorized rental companies would be included, and she said yes. The new position will also be developing and implementing a Volunteer Trail Ambassador program to include training. Specific sign-ups will be available for volunteers to work a specific date/time/location with current priority being hiking trails. Bill Winfield requested Anna meet with the County Attorney and run the volunteer program thru him for review. She asked if the MTC could use any support from the new position? Clif asked if the position will assist Trail Mix such as recruiting volunteers, and she replid yes. Clif said the MTC could use general help especially with recruiting volunteers, she indicated both could be done. The Volunteer Appreciation party will be November 20 at Dewey's. Anna would like to include the MTC again. Clif asked about

awards and process for determining who gets recognized. Anna indicated there can be multiple factors as to how it is determined. She will be participating in the Utah State University Gateway Community Conference and Leave No Trace Global Summit. She is also working with Sand Flats Recreation Area on their Leave No Trace designation and the integration of graded-road education. The Trails Ambassador season starts again on August 30. As for the status of the development of the new Wander app, the Jeep Safari routes will be the focus for now. Clif recommends somehow showing all open routes so that things like intersections can be anticipated, and Anna said that would be included in the next phase. Discussion followed regarding the app and who would use it, what is priority for data to be included and what are the benefits of having it. The idea for the app originated with the Economic Development Office.

F. Adjournment

Clif thanked everyone for their work and adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.