

**Sand Flats Recreation Area (SFRA)
Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14th, 2024
3:00 pm**

In attendance

Sand Flats: Andrea Brand (AB) Director, Matt Olding (MO), staff via zoom
Stewardship Committee members: Molly Taylor (MT), Tom Dillon (TD), Mike Kelso (MK),
Bureau of Land Management: Keri Nelson (KN) leaves at 3:26 pm
Grand County Commission: Evan Clapper (EC)

Call to Order 3:00 pm

Approval of Minutes

MT makes a motion, MK seconded. All vote in favor

Chair makes a motion to change the order of the meeting agenda, agree to put General Business- Action Item- interviews at the end. EC- So moved. TD seconded. All voted in favor.

Agency Reports

Budget 2024

AB- Review Budget Remits sheet- Revenue up 4% end of 2023 compared to 2022. February up a little bit from last year and about the same for January; this is from campground reservations. Budget Balance sheets-budget is not shown for all of the departments. Salaries and Benefits are in line. Capital Improvements up a little more than shown; about \$8,000 because BLM has been doing some work up at SFRA. AB reminded committee that SFRA should bring in an extra \$175,000 in 2024 due to fee increase.

Citizens to be Heard

No citizens

Presentation

Consent Agenda

Ratify edited “Redesignating Hours for Motorized Use on Sand Flats Trails” letter to the BLM
AB- Reads the one sentence change in the letter that clarifies trail names.

Ratify RAISE grant support letter

AB- Committee supported the RAISE grant in the past. Group working on RAISE grant application thought a letter from Stewardship Committee would be helpful for grant.

MT makes a motion to ratify letters. MK seconded. All vote in favor.

Discussion Items

Follow up from previous meeting:

Hell's Revenge nomination as a National Recreation Trail update

KN- Still waiting on response, going through NPS process.

GPRA Survey update

AB- Any results back? Our documents showed ending date for survey as November 2023. KN- Not yet.

Youth grant update

AB- Any updates? KN- Waiting to hear on that too. As far as we know it will be awarded but don't know the time frame.

Night time trail closure BLM scoping process update

KN- Working through projects on eplanning. This project was pulled down, it hasn't been canceled. It will be down until we are ready for the scoping process period. BLM needs to wrap up some of the Travel Plan project now. We would like to mention some alternatives in to the document, mention ebikes, option of night time closure only up until Day's Crack area, closure of all roads as written in the letter. EC- BLM wants to put out other options? Committee had a long discussion concerning trails, chose to recommend closure to all trails because worried there would be confusion on what trails would be open. AB- If we closed all the main ones than the others would most likely see more traffic. KN- BLM will reach out to you all on the rational of what led you to the proposal. AB- Camera at booth is tracking what vehicles go straight and which ones go onto Hell's as the BLM requested. KN- Data to back up impact to campers- impacts from lights and noise and off road travel. Track ranger reports that support these claims. MK- We have campgrounds that folks are supposed to shut off generators, quiet hours, obligation to these people and yet we are not doing anything about that noise. KN- We need substantial data to help us make our decision.

Kestrel Run trail

AB- Complete and going well.

RAISE grant 2024 application and survey results

AB- Application was put in on February 28th after the GC Commission approval. Survey results were in your packet.

Final Sand Flats Introductory video and Ephemeral Pools video will be on Emery Telcom Channel 6. Mark Finley will be working on a new Fairy shrimp video with Tim Graham mostly using existing footage and some new. Cost us about \$1,500. Mark Finley is in Moab filming for Travel Council, CNHA and GCATT this week.

BLM heavy equipment work update for SFRA

AB- Shows photos of new parking area at Hawk/ Eagle Eye, new metal Falcon Flow toilet and new bike tool installed from the BLM. SFRA staff helped BLM with concrete forms and SFRA

paid for all materials. BLM heavy equipment operators also repaired roads in A, B, E and Juniper campgrounds; fixed where cobble was coming through in the roadways. SFRA is waiting on parking at Kestrel trail; go through the spring to see how it goes. EC- Eventually there will be a connector to Slickrock.

Booth painting and repairs complete

AB- Interior painting done and counters fixed.

“Save our Trees” signs for toilets on hold

General Business- Action Items

The Sand Flats Recreation Area Stewardship Committee received 5 applications for 1 open vacancy. From 3:30 to 5:30 pm half hour interviews were conducted in the following order with interviewees Jenna Woodbury, Mark Pope, Reid Bakken, Dave Cozzens and Mark Wilson. After discussion, EC made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation for Mark Pope for Stewardship Committee membership to the Grand County Commission. MK seconded it and the committee voted all in favor.

New Topics were not discussed

SFRA Staff training

BLM updates

Grand County Commission updates

Adjourn