

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2025

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:35 pm.

Members in attendance:

Anthony Ash, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region Trail Crew Supervisor

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep

Payton Blasco, BLM

Dave Cozzens

Dave Hellman, 4x4 Rep (left at 1:16)

Clif Koontz, Chair

Madeline Logowitz, GCATT

Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison

Brian Murdock, USFS (left at 1:52)

Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT

Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair

Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep

Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Ben Alter, Assistant Director, Grand County Economic Development Office

Andrea Brand, Sand Flats Recreation Area (left at 1:35)

Joy Dannelly, GCATT Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Ben Fredregill, Director, Grand County Economic Development Office

Mark Thornberry, Backcountry Horsemen of Utah, Canyonlands Chapter

A. Approval of Minutes

Dave Hellman made a motion to approve the January 16, 2025 minutes, Dave Cozzens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Identifying Major Trail Projects Needed in the Greater Moab Area

Clif reviewed the changes to the list as a result of the feedback at the last meeting. No further changes were suggested. Cliffhanger will be evaluated during the February 22 rake & ride.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

February 22 Cliffhanger, 10:00 am, parking lot at beginning of dirt on Kane Creek Rd

March 15 Golden Spike - southern end near Poison Spider, 10:00 am

April 11-12 Spring Spruce Up, Behind the Rocks - range fencing will be needed to delineate the campsites and a few nearby trails. Dave Hellman reported that pallets had been burned in the area south of Picture Frame Arch leaving behind a pile of nails. Clif suggested those could be cleaned up separately. In case the event attracts many volunteers, Maddie suggested multiple projects by each recreational group: motorized, non-motorized, climbing. Sign up tables will be available the night of the 11th with work being done from 9 to 3 on the 12th. More details will be discussed at the March meeting.

Keltain suggested new paint on the Golden Spike/Rusty Nail route, Dave Hellman also suggested paint on additional parts of the "trifecta" (Goldbar Rim, Golden Spike, Poison Spider). After some discussion it was suggested that paint be brought to all rake and ride projects under BLM supervision.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Keltain Reece-Sullivan shared the Trail Ambassador season is about to start with training taking place the end of the month. Both of the UTVs are wrapped. He was approached by Phil Rawlings, founder of the Salt Lake Off-Road and Outdoor Expo, being held February 28 and March 1, about having GCATT provide a booth to highlight GCATT and support of motorized recreation. The booth fee is \$700. Keltain asked for the MTC's feedback as to whether it would be beneficial. Ben Fredregill shared that he had been asked by Phil Rawlings to speak at the event because there is a perceived dislike of motorized users by Grand County. Brian Martinez asked if this was an advertising event and if there were funds in the budget to support it. Clif stated he thought it is worth attending to include an educational component and promotional messaging. It provides an opportunity to show Grand County supports responsible recreation and that there are lots of trails still open. Reid Bakken reflected on previous discussions about the perception Moab is closed, there is a marketing need to fill the gap. Brian Martinez asked where a person could go to find a map of what trails are open or closed. Reid responded that Discover Moab has maps available but suggested a more user-friendly official county map is needed. Payton Blasco stated that the BLM regularly updates its Moab North and Moab South maps on Avenza. Andrea shared that Sand Flats visitation was up 3% last year with 250,000 visitors. She also offered some of the videos they have produced can be shown also at the Expo. After further discussion Ben Fedregill stated a decision will need to be made by the County regarding paying for the booth and generating content for his presentation as well as information to have available at the booth.

Anthony Ash shared he is still accepting applications for seasonal trail crew members and will be looking at establishing a separate crew to include heavy equipment operators to be stationed out of Salt Lake.

Payton Blasco shared that BLM staff will be returning from their furloughs soon. They have lost one Ranger to the National Park Service and are now unable to fill the position because of the federal hiring freeze. All Travel Management Plan work activities are at a standstill.

Andrea Brand shared that work is progressing on converting the former Campground H to a new parking area while adding campsites elsewhere.

Reid Bakken shared he is waiting for results of the fall scoping period from BLM regarding e-bikes. There will be a Hard Enduro motorcycle race again outside of Moab April 11-12, this will be a platinum level event.

Mark Thornberry stated that he is here to share info with members of the Backcountry Horsemen, Canyonlands Chapter.

Brian Murdock said he didn't have much to report from the USFS other than they have saved money on snow plowing this year. Work on the Loop Road will continue with closures to begin any day now.

Madeline Logowitz shared she is following federal level actions closely due to the uncertainty associated with grant funding sources. She is also keeping track of possible changes to TRT funds by the state legislature as it can impact funding for staff. She is also meeting with BLM regarding the scope of work in Keltain's position. Mud Springs Phase 1 will be open to e-bikes. Details of the contract are being fleshed out with the contractor hired. Another contractor is doing research on e-bikes in the Moab area. The Guide Summit will be March 13, MTC has a booth. The Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan Update is progressing with estimated completion in September. She is still working on grant proposals with a list of sources for funding for motorized trails provided to Clif.

Brian Martinez shared he is following the TRT bill in the state legislature. There will be two grand openings scheduled for Utahraptor State Park.

Jeff Stevens stated he agreed with the comments about some of the trails needing paint and he is not sure if Red Rock 4-Wheelers will be doing any painting. He also asked about confusion in the past regarding having to have a BLM employee present when doing project work. Payton and Clif will work to remedy and seek clarification on standard procedures for staff and volunteers based on the scope of the project similar to what Maddie as worked out for GCATT. Brian Martinez suggested the MTC develop a strategic plan outlining who it is working with and defining the direction it wants to go.

Clif reviewed the grant proposal being submitted by BLM for Recreation Trails Program (RTP) funds and asked for input. Suggestions were made to include Dome Plateau, Dewey and Cameo Cliffs. Let him know if you have other suggestions or ideas before finalizing the support letter from the MTC to Grand County. Maddie commented on the process of advisory committees doing letters of support or recommendation as it was

recently explained to her regarding Trail Mix. After discussion it appears there is enough time to meet the requirements for MTC to submit the letter. Maddie asked if there were any major projects on the MTC list that should be included in the grant. Clif responded that all would apply. Reid asked if the county would put up matching funds to support dedicated staff to do the work that is funded by the grant to BLM. In doing so it would show that Grand County has a commitment to maintain motorized trails. Brian Martinez indicated the county could be applying for more but first we have to figure out a way to make it streamlined which is why he suggested the MTC do a strategic plan. Brian volunteered to participate in helping to put together a strategic plan. Discussion took place regarding grant writing vs grant oversight as well as coordinating and monitoring work.

F. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:49 pm and thanked everyone for their participation.