

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, January 16, 2025
APPROVED February 13, 2025**

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:34 pm

Members in attendance:

Clif Koontz, Chair
Dave Cozzens (left at 2:05)
Dave Hellman, 4x4 Rep
Bill Jackson, Grand County Roads Supervisor (left at 2:20)
Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison
Keri Nelson, BLM (left at 1:54)
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Anna Sprout, GCATT
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Madeline Logowitz, GCATT (left at 1:27)
Ashley Korenblat, President Moab Chamber of Commerce

A. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Tustanowski made a motion to approve the December 12, 2024 meeting minutes, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Electing MTC Officers and Executive Subcommittee Members

Clif shared that he has spoken with officers and subcommittee members and everyone is willing to serve in the same roles so the roster will remain the same although Nick Oldham will not be available much as the ATV Representative and the Treasurer will remain open. A motion to elect the same roster as last year was made by Zane Taylor, seconded by Dave Hellman. Motion passed unanimously. Clif stated that he would like to encourage more participation in the MTC from new members.

D. Discussing and OHV Initiative with Ashley Korenblat, President of the Moab Chamber of Commerce

Clif introduced Ashley Korenblat, President of the Moab Chamber of Commerce. There are 5 Economic Development Initiatives the Chamber is working on to improve the Moab economy. One of them is to improve marketing and branding associated with OHVs. Funds are available for projects on public lands. Other locations have been successful with taking an existing open, marked trail, give it a catchy name and then market it. These trails have marked beginner, intermediate and advanced loops. An example from Farmington was used where they have a Learn to Ride Loop. The BLM and Tread Lightly have already expressed interest in helping. Consistency is a key component in directing types of visitors that need more assistance. The role of the Chamber is to be the “convener” that brings all parties together. The idea is to better share the “products” or experiences we are offering. End result could be that pressure is taken off of Hell’s Revenge and people may stay longer since there would be more featured routes to enjoy. A question and answer session took place. Ashley reiterated that we should be providing world class experiences in every category that are sustainable and make the Moab economy better for all categories of recreational users. It is about visitor management and improving the experiences we are selling. Keri Nelson stated there does need to be more action on the ground in hearing from the community what they need from BLM to improve the experience such as: trailheads, orientation information, signage and supporting infrastructure. More discussion took place regarding setting priorities, the types of recreational users to be targeted, infrastructure concerns, who should host the meeting, and possible existing routes that could be utilized. Ashley stated the Chamber’s role would be to bring everyone together, help with lift off and provide the energy to make it all happen. Ideally a meeting would be held in March with the involved parties to identify the next steps of the Initiative.

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

Clif went over the updated Major Trail Project draft list and asked for feedback. It was decided to take a look in person for migrating berms at Fins and Things and Hell’s Revenge to determine solutions. Will also need to look at the drop with four braids on the north side of Sand Flats Road. The Cliffhanger Z turn item will be removed from the list because it probably just needs something like an arrow sign to prevent people from missing the turn on their way down. Other Cliffhanger locations will be evaluated at a future Rake and Ride, specifically three ledges worth listing. The first one is before the creek crossing. The second one is about 1 mile past the turn to Jacksons that has a sustainable bypass needing to be designated. The third one is just past Pothole Arch where the rock is weak, so a reroute might be more sustainable than a ramp. Dave Hellman suggested adding Golden Spike, the southwest side has a mile-long braid paralleling the designated route that need to be blocked by logs harvested from nearby, ideally larger logs lifted by a truck boom. Keltain also shared that previous work done on Waterfall needs to be redone and suggested putting the Major Trail Project list in priority order. Clif would like to schedule Rake and Rides to evaluate some of the proposed projects.

F. Scheduling Trail Projects

January 25 Fins and Things, 11:00 am meet at main dirt parking lot on the right
February 22, Cliffhanger, 10:00 am, parking lot at beginning of dirt on Kane Creek Road
March 15, southern Golden Spike, 10:00 am, Poison Spider parking lot

Brian Martinez suggested doing a Rake and Ride the Saturday after the Moab Guide Summit since there will be a captive audience to recruit volunteers from that day. Several locations were suggested with Keltain identifying Poison Spider and/or Golden Spike. The group decided to move the Rake and Ride scheduled March 22 at Metal Masher to March 15 at southern Golden Spike. Scouting the Widow Maker project can be done during a future Rake and Ride at Metal Masher or a separate outing.

G. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee Members

Madeline Logowitz gave an update on Mud Springs with \$1.1 million dollars being allocated for Phase 2 and that a contractor has been selected. Work is continuing on the Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan that will involve the MTC and address Class 1 e-bikes. Grant season has begun so she will be working on identifying what funds are available and getting proposals generated.

Keri Nelson shared the Top of the World Travel Plan adjustment has been submitted and will be on ePlanning soon. BLM is wrapping up the e-bike public scooping comments for review, a draft EA will be out mid to late May. The Mud Springs trailhead construction is scheduled to start in September. Dave Hellman asked about the feasibility of a pit toilet near Tusher Tunnel, Keri will follow up on it.

Anna Sprout shared that OHVR Grant Funds cover 80% of Keltain's salary, but the project will expire, so they are looking for grant funding in 2026. Work has begun to prepare for the 2025 season. They received a Leave No Trace award for Community Partner of the Year. The Moab Guide Summit will be March 13 and the MTC will have a table from 8 am to 2 pm that needs people to staff it. Brian asked Anna about volunteer coordination and she responded that there are three individuals involved: Anna, Evan and Joy, each focusing on different needs.

Keltain Reece-Sullivan shared that Motorized Trail Ambassadors will be participating in the Easter Jeep Safari driver meetings. They also have new Recovery cards to hand out that provide a list of companies doing trail recovery work for disabled vehicles. Their CanAm now has a new awning and decals and will be doing motorized routes this year.

H. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:44 pm and thanked everyone for participating