Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 6, 2025
DRAFT

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

Members in attendance:

Dave Hellman, 4x4 Rep
Clif Koontz, Chair
Madeline Logowitz, GCATT (left at 2:10)
Keri Nelson, BLM (arrived 12:39)
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary (arrived 12:43)

Note: Clif indicated Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison is unable to attend today due to out-of-town business associated with his company.

Guests in attendance:

None

A. Approval of Minutes

Jeff Stevens made a motion to approve the February 13, 2025 minutes, Dave Hellman seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Approving Support Letter for BLM's RTP Grant Application

Clif reviewed the draft letter of support for BLM's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application. A motion was made to approve the letter by Zane Taylor, seconded by Dave Hellman, motion passed unanimously.

D. Scheduling Trail Projects

March 15 Golden Spike, meet 10 am at Poison Spider parking area.

April 11-12 Spring Spruce Up, Behind the Rocks. Clif could use up to 25 volunteers to install campsite perimeter fences provided by SITLA. Dave Hellman would also like to

have 5 volunteers to help with picking up nails south of Picture Frame Arch using rakes and roller magnets.

Keri asked about Cliffhanger project day. Clif responded that the second ledge, which is off-camber and a mile or so before Jackson's, has three bypasses. The volunteers blocked off two bypasses, while the third one and the main line were delineated by hand. Both lines should be marked as designated routes ideally, but should hold the way it is now, and the two other bypasses can be blocked with larger rocks if the need arises. There is another spot past Pothole Arch starting to erode, will need work at some point to prevent ledging out, which could involve cutting the top of the ledge on the SE line while leaving the SW line untouched. Does not need to go on the list now. The first obstacle is where the action is needed, the first ledge before the creek. The four-foot ledge is problematic for motos in particular since they can't winch up. Tyson Swasey suggested, if a reroute were needed and the options were too limited by terrain, asking Trail Mix to open the mountain bike trail adjacent to the ledge area to motos. However there is a third route currently being used between the ledge and bicycle trail that would be easy to adapt and be sustainable, which involves motorcyclists using 100 feet of the bicycle trail and 200 feet of existing singletrack that connects with the 4WD route. It is not feasible to make a motorcycle line over the ledge along the 4WD route. Also immediately above the ledge, there is a boulder that is sliding into the 4WD route, approximately 10 feet by 6 feet in size, that needs to be broken up into smaller pieces and placed at bottom of ledge. This section of the route rates an 8 and will become a 9. Placing the rock pieces at the bottom will delay the process. Clif asked for feedback. Dave and Zane agreed with recommendations. Clif will send an email inviting BLM staff to attend a field trip to include Trail Mix and GCATT.

E. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Dave Hellman shared that paint is needed on Golden Spike as it is easy to get lost out there. Clif suggested Payton go out with some volunteers and Keri suggested he go out to assess it first. Maddie shared that approval has been given by BLM for Keltain to complete this type of task on his own.

Jeff Stevens stated he agrees with the need for paint in some sections of Golden Spike to assist with staying on the route. He also asked about the status of the project the Chamber brought forward about establishing or expanding loop routes. He thinks Behind the Rocks would be a good location. It would be helpful to have a few carsonite signs out there now to help with directions. Keri requested to identify priorities and develop a plan to stay focused. She also shared the recent land transfer with the state shifted the parking area to SITLA land. Jeff also shared that the signs on Sovereign Trail need help. Clif indicated the new state park has grant funds to replace them. Signs are needed at every intersection of the featured routes and maps at strategic intersections.

Zane Taylor expressed his support for volunteers to assist with painting needs and would like to see something scheduled while the weather is good. Clif will get an email out to schedule painting days. Zane also agreed with Jeff's suggestion to target Behind the Rocks as a good location for the Chamber of Commerce project.

Madeline Logowitz shared that Keltain attended the Salt Lake Off-Road and Outdoor Expo last week with Ben Fredregill of the Moab Office of Tourism. They had side-by side-booths and did a presentation on "The Moab We Love." Clif shared that he enjoyed their presentation. Other updates: Keltain will be attending the Easter Jeep Safari Driver's Meeting and Work Days; seasonal Trail Ambassadors are back on duty; businesses in town are expressing interest in helping with the Spring Spruce Up; work continues with the Mud Springs paperwork side of things with ground breaking scheduled for August and the Non-motorized Trails Master Plan is ongoing.

Keri Nelson shared that they are waiting for word on whether a government shutdown will happen next week in addition to potential Reduction In Force (RIF) actions. They are still unable to make any purchases. There has been a good response to the Guide Summit next week, they are above capacity at this point. The Department of the Interior land exchange associated with the Dingell Act has been completed and impacts BLM lands in Grand and San Juan Counties. Preparations are taking place for several projects in the Dome Plateau area associated with Easter Jeep Safari. Clif met with the Tread Lightly Coordinator for Utah last week at the Salt Lake Off-Road and Outdoor Expo. Tread Lightly will be providing materials for the Dome Plateau projects and may help with transporting it out there. Keri indicated there are events scheduled every weekend for the foreseeable future. Over 1,500 public comments were received during the fall scoping period associated with BLM allowing Class 1 e-bikes on mountain bike trails. Over 500 were substantive, 80 against, a few neutral. Support was favorable to provide opportunities for people who are older or have physical limitations. Depending on the outcome, BLM will work with GCATT if changes come about to allow e-bikes.

Clif shared that on March 16, Ride with Respect will be doing a project with Overland Expo Foundation on the Fallen Peace Officer Trail. He also asked if Tread Lightly and Jeep needed any help on their project on Top of the World. From the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, there is an upcoming training for Trail Crew Supervisors with a fee of $115. Another training opportunity is available online March 19 - Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance.

F. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm and thanked everyone for their participation.