

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025

APPROVED May 8, 2025

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

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep
Dave Cozzens (left at 1:48)
Clif Koontz, Chair
Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison (left at 1:48)
Keri Nelson, BLM
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

Brendon Cameron, Chair, Grand County Trail Mix Committee

A. Approval of Minutes

Zane Taylor made a motion to approve the March 6, 2025 minutes, Kathy Tustanowski seconded, motion passed unanimously. Reid mentioned that AI could be utilized for recording the meeting and generating notes. Clif said he was willing to give it a try so Reid notified all present the meeting was being recorded.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Introducing Brendon Cameron, Chair of Grand County's Trail Mix Committee

Clif introduced Brendon Cameron to the group stating that he has replaced Colin Topper as the Chairperson of the Trail Mix Committee. Brendon shared some background about himself including he moved to Moab area 10 years ago due to work. He enjoys traditional biking, motorcycles, e-bikes. His goals with Trail Mix are similar to the MTC, get as many people outside as possible. If we are doing things outside we are better people. He wants to collaborate with any committee who wants to get people outside and focus on communication and collaboration to remove silos. Clif thanked Brendon for attending and said he is looking forward to working with Brendon and Trail Mix on the Cliffhanger/Amasa Back project. Reid stated that he thinks on a big scale

the next decade e-motos will be important to address. He thinks both Trail Mix and the MTC should be working with city and county together as leaders. Brian asked what small projects is Trail Mix working on not in the Master Plan. Brendon said that work on Mud Springs, Falcon Flow return route and Bar M updating and fixing trails are under way. Sovereign Trail was also discussed with motorized and non-motorized work to be done with the anticipation of the state park getting funding.

D. Approving draft letter on Fins and Things maintenance

Clif stated that the draft letter reflects 3 items that were reviewed at the January site visit to Fins and Things in which there was general consensus. Andrea Brand has already been updated. Clif provided an overview of what had been reviewed and the desired outcomes. He asked for comments or questions. It was mentioned that appropriate spacing of boulders should be narrow enough to prevent motorcycles from fitting through. Clif will add that point and a sentence indicating that choppiness is not a desired characteristic on this trail, thus it may be appropriate to mitigate even though it's already within the trail's difficulty rating. A motion was made by Zane Taylor to approve the draft letter with the minor changes. It was seconded by Dave Cozzens with unanimous approval.

E. Scheduling Trail Projects

Spring Spruce Up will be April 11 and 12. Anthony Ash of the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation regional trail crew will be helping the MTC lead a project at Behind The Rocks. The following week, the Overland Expo Foundation will be participating on the Fallen Peace Officer Trail project hosted by Ride with Respect and Anthony Ash. For both projects, SITLA will provide range fence materials to delineate designated campsites.

May 3 Kane Creek meet at 8 am in the big OHV parking area at the end of pavement. Install range fence near Hatch Canyon, this is a one day project but it will be a challenge getting material on-site. About 30 T-posts will be needed that could possibly be gathered in the request David O'Neill from BLM made to pick up the leftover t-posts from Steelbender.

May 16 Metal Masher probably meet at 8 am, top of Gemini Bridges Road off UT-313. This will be a field trip to scout trail work needed on Widow Maker obstacle of Metal Masher 4WD route.

Reid stated that the Enduro Loop will need work someday. Sovereign will need some focus and work to address increasing usage. Brian asked Keri if BLM has funds for Enduro Loop. She will follow up. Brian also mentioned that White Wash staging area needs work from flood damage and thought grant funding could cover some of the costs. Keri stated that collaboration needs to be done on priorities. Reid stated that some remodeling will need to be addressed in the future, similar to what Trail Mix is doing at the Brands. He abhors the siloing of trails management, the Master Plan

should be for all trails as there are multi-use trails. Brendon stated that if we aren't looking at all users and uses we are not getting people outside. Keri asked where can we send electric motorcycles? Keltain shared that he recently rode with the Idaho Single Track Alliance and they asked why Moab doesn't have more single track. Discussion took place but no decisions or agenda items identified.

F. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Zane Taylor wanted to say "hats off" to Trail Mix due to lots of positive energy and participation from that committee.

Reid Bakken stated he is reviewing the BLM e-bike scoping comments and finding them interesting.

Keltain Reece-Sullivan stated that he and 3 part-time Trail Ambassadors will be going to the Jeep Safari drivers' meeting in collaboration with Red Rock 4-Wheelers. He will be working with Jeep and Tread Lightly on a project on Dome Plateau and Top of the World. He will be presenting after the state's Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council (OHVAC) meeting being held in Moab this month. His presentation will include a trail ride on Hells Revenge and discussion of the Motorized Trail Ambassador Program. He invited MTC members to come along with the Ambassadors in the side by sides. The Motorized Trail Ambassadors have made over 1,500 contacts in the last 4 weeks.

Keri Nelson stated that she is also involved in the Jeep Safari projects with Jeep on Dome Plateau. Mud Springs is moving along with on-site trail builders. They are looking at the best approach to cleaning up target shooting areas. The E-Bikes Draft Environmental Assessment is being developed with 3 alternatives being identified. The BLM staff are keeping busy with events happening on a regular basis. The Utah ATV Association is here this week. They have never had to get a permit due to the size of their group, she has suggested they do a service project.

Jeff Stevens shared he was disappointed at a recent Steel Bender experience. The first two miles has four or five places with new go-arounds. On a recent motorcycle trip to Cameo Cliffs he had a blast and thought the trails were really nice.

Clif stated there should be a field trip to the north end of Steel Bender in June to evaluate keeping water off the road to prevent erosion. Keltain shared that he has observed tire tracks off route into and up the creek. Clif also mentioned Behind the Rocks and recent land swap. A new easement may need to be done to arrange for parking and BLM may need to move the kiosk. Clif will be participating in the OHVAC meeting and field trip that Keltain already mentioned. They will be reviewing grant proposals. He invited MTC members to attend both events. Clif provided an update on Cliffhanger stating that the previously discussed changes to the first 100 feet of mountain bike trail and the 200 feet of old motorcycle trail may need a Travel Management Plan amendment to designate the 300 feet for motorcycle use although

such use has occurred continuously for many years. Due to this short length and history of use, attendees of the March field trip agreed that the impact to non-motorized recreation of such a designation is likely negligible. In addition to those 300 feet, at the wide ledge that's immediately before the tallest ledge, a motorcycle line exists on the far left (beyond a juniper tree) which is unsustainable. The possibility exists to create a ramp in the rock (before the juniper tree) to replace the existing motorcycle line without impinging upon either one of the 4WD lines. Clif also stated that since Maddie isn't able to attend today's MTC meeting, she asked Clif to relay a concern she shared at the Trail Mix meeting. Surrone-type vehicles, e-motorcycles, are using standard bike paths. Clif thinks MTC can provide assistance as he sees it as an educational and enforcement issue. Zane has also observed this in town and thinks it is a group of local youngsters. He suggested taking photos of them in action and contacting police. Clif also suggested contacting the parents because they probably don't realize that they're violating about a half-dozen laws. Clif thanked Keri for giving the MTC a plug at the Chamber of Commerce meeting last night in order to encourage volunteerism. He thought the meeting was productive on how to help OHV tourism in the community, and he told the OHV businesses that the MTC could probably support any project that's in the long-term interest of OHV recreation.

G. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm and thanked everyone for participating.