

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 28, 2025

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:31pm

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep
Andrea Brand, Sand Flats Recreation Area (arrived 12:56, left 2:00)
Dave Hellman, 4x4 Rep
Clif Koontz, Chair
Maddie Logowitz, GCATT
Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison
Scott McFarland, sitting in for Nick Oldham, ATV/SxS Rep
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary (left 2:40)

Guests in attendance:

Gavin Beard, Area BFE (arrived 1:00)
Dave French, Moab Cowboy Country Off-road Adventures
Braden Helquist, Extreme 4x4 Tours
Ashley Korenblat, President Moab Chamber of Commerce (left 2:00)
Cora Phillips, Executive Director, Moab Chamber of Commerce
Mark Pope, Red Rock 4-Wheelers (RR4W)
George Schultz, President RR4W
Scott Solle, Grand County Search and Rescue
Staci Stephany, Outlaw Adventure Tours

A. Approval of Minutes

Jeff Stevens made a motion to approve the July 10, 2025 minutes, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Approving Support for Grand County Funding of Motorized Trail Work and Coordination with State of Utah

Clif provided some background and Brian gave an update on possible state and county funding for increasing mostly maintenance work on motorized trails from the Division of Outdoor Recreation. A Memorandum of Understanding would be required between the state and Grand County. The likely objectives of the agreement would be to fund a trail crew of up to 5 individuals on a year-round basis that would get direction from the Motorized Trails Committee. The state would provide equipment, maintenance of equipment and administrative oversight. Work of the crew would be to focus on larger projects that volunteers are not able to do. Questions arose regarding the OHV Trail Coordinator position that was recently funded by a grant from the state and how this would fit in. Maddie reviewed the scope of work for the new coordinator position and thinks it would be appropriate to cover working with this possible new crew and the existing state trail crew. Brian stated he wasn't sure exactly how this will all work yet. Clif suggested that perhaps the OHV Trail Coordinator could focus on soliciting volunteers and contributions from businesses while the new trail crew supervisor could coordinate the technical aspect of projects but, regardless of distinctions, there's no shortage of education and trail work to be done by the OHV Trail Coordinator and a new trail crew. Clif sees the need for more motorized trail work supported by the county and state, and thinks this is a good opportunity for the MTC to provide input.

D. Approving Support for OHV Initiative of the Moab Chamber of Commerce

Clif provided an overview and Ashley an update on initiative with the goal to get the support of the MTC to move forward. Two phases have been proposed: 1) Identify and name beginner, intermediate and advanced routes for side-by-sides utilizing primarily existing roads in travel management plans on public lands; 2) develop infrastructure for new trailheads, sign and market the new routes. Funding options will need to be sought and the Chamber would like to request the OHV Trail Coordinator's assistance in coordination, at least in keeping up with the data needed in Phase 1. The Chamber will also be forming an OHV Advisory Committee to support this initiative. Discussion took place regarding pros, cons, and risks of the initiative with some concern about possible closure of non-featured routes as a result of developing and featuring existing routes under this initiative. Ashley responded that in other examples she is aware of the opposite has occurred and thinks this can prevent closures by being proactive instead of reactive. Business owners pointed out the tourism downturn and said that something needs to be done soon. Clif agreed, but marking additional loops and preparing them for increased use will take many months. In the meantime, Grand County could make sure the public is aware that many quality trails are still open despite the 2023 closures. Further the public could become aware that Grand County is supporting motorized access through its current work to amend TMPs. Additional discussion was focused on whether it would be appropriate to have the OHV Trail Coordinator be assigned time to assist with at least the data collection needed for the route selection required by the Chamber. Options were discussed with Ashley reiterating the need for staff time from the county for Phase 1. Clif suggested that the MTC write its own letter supporting the OHV Initiative's core goal without taking a position on the other elements of Ashley's draft letter such as use of the OHV Trail Ambassador/Coordinator or timing of a master plan. Reid made a motion, seconded by Kathy, for Clif to draft a letter making it official

the MTC supports the initiative and offers the MTC's volunteer resources in scouting and marking routes, development of trailheads, pursue funding and promotion of the new OHV recreational opportunities. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Approving Request for Slick-Fins Dot Route TMP Amendment in Sand Flats Recreation Area

Clif provided background which included handouts, maps, and BLM information on why the MTC's 2020 proposal for this half-mile of motorized singletrack was previously rejected. Andrea said she will have this added to the next Stewardship Committee agenda for the September 11 meeting. A motion was made by Jeff Stevens, seconded by Reid Bakken, for Clif to draft a letter from the MTC to the Sand Flats Stewardship Committee reiterating the value of a Slick-Fins Dot Route and how previous concerns can be mitigated. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Approving Request for Hell's Revenge Maintenance near Dinosaur Tracks

Clif provided an overview of the two locations to be remedied: 1) route near ledge before the dinosaur tracks is getting wider (now 80 feet, while most trail sections should only be 20 feet) and it's getting steeper to the point that inbound drivers are surprised by the potential to roll. Recommendation is to install signs and paint guide lines for inbound drivers to stay left and to place a row of boulders along the outside of the turn and create a ramp by stacking nearby rocks to prevent the climb from ledging out even more; 2) to protect the dinosaur tracks further west it is recommended to add boulders and/or fencing and change the edge of the road on the opposite side, resulting in a short realignment. Keltain has been hearing feedback about the ledge area and suggests doing the work sooner rather than later. Clif replied that the ramp may need to wait until after the fall season, but the signs and guidelines could probably be done next month. George asked about mitigation of the issue by reducing traffic on it. It is the 3rd iteration of access, in other words the third location of the Hell's entrance, so why not go back to original route. Clif asked if it's okay to proceed with the proposed maintenance while considering George's additional route. George affirmed that both things could be pursued. Clif asked to be provided with a map of what he is referencing. Andrea shared she recently met with the BLM paleontologist who suggested post and cable fencing near the dinosaur tracks and there are sauropod tracks on the SITLA land nearby that should also be fenced off. Clif replied that this additional fence sounds compatible with the rest of the proposed maintenance. A motion was made by Reid Bakken, seconded by Zane Taylor for Clif to draft a letter to the Sand Flats Stewardship Committee with recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Scheduling Trail Projects

September 13, Moab Rim, 9 am - work to be done near the juniper tree that is dying; post and rail or boulders could be used to block off the inside corner.

September 20, Cliffhanger, 9 am at upper parking lot - work to be done will involve post and cable fencing a few hundred feet down from the trail's entrance.

Other items identified were:

Zane - in San Juan County the lower Indian Creek singletrack needs brush cutting.

Jeff - 7 Mile needs replacement of the fence posts installed by Ride with Respect (RwR) years ago below Uranium Arch. Several of them have , they have all been broken off.

Dave - Rusty Nail trail markings are gone after the No Left Turn, 2 cans of paint should take care of it, Clif will notify BLM.

Keltain - on the route to Deadman's Point, near the end, there are no paint markings on the slickrock, route is hard to follow.

H. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Maddie shared the public outreach has been completed for the Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan, there were many E-bike comments received. There will be an Open House on September 4 to share information on the Master Plan. As for the Slick-Fins proposed connector, connectivity is one of the guiding principles in the Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan, which might be worth highlighting. The trail crew will soon be working in the La Sals. Non-motorized Trail Ambassadors will be moving out of county operations. A working group is being formed to determine future options. Mud Springs Phase 1 is underway and on schedule, with the DOR trail crew working on it all of September. The trail system will be closed November 14 and reopen April 15. Phase 2 is still being planned.

Keltain - they are operating with a lot of uncertainty. The OHVR Grant requested 24 months of funding and they only received 12 months. Clif said that uncertainty with the Trail Ambassador Program weighed on the grant request, but the state ultimately approved the grant since they saw how well this program was developed, which is in large part thanks to Maddie and Keltain. Keltain said he recently completed the OHV Driver Training. He has also come to realize the weakest point on a UTV is the tie rods.

Reid said that regarding the BLM's e-bike EA, the Grand County Commission accepted the MTC's recommendations except that the Commission suggests a phase-in period of two years instead of three years, and they suggest leaving the Raptor Route closed to e-bikes unless the USFS opens the top of it to e-bikes. Reid said he thinks the BLM will release a decision this fall, which should be soon enough for some of the trails to become open to e-bikes next spring, which would help local businesses in addition to riders. Clif said he was glad to see the Commission seriously consider the MTC's recommendations and adopt a similar position.

Brian said that, through its cooperator status, the county has been working with the BLM on a Dolores River TMP and the USFS on a Manti-La Sal National Forest LMP, both of which should be released this year.

Scott Solle said that the state approved his OHVR grant request for UTVs. Clif said Scott did a good job explaining to the state how his application wasn't requesting any more than Grand County's share of OHVR grant funds given that Grand County is among the most active counties for SAR incidences that are OHV-related.

Cora said that the Chamber is happy to with the MTC, and also to help promote the Mud Springs ribbon-cutting event that Maddie mentioned.

Jeff said he's surprised how little use there has been recently on otherwise popular trails, although he realizes that it's still hot.

Clif thanked Reid for updating him that the Deer Creek Fire's fire line across the bottom of Trust Lands Singletrack still hasn't been reclaimed, as the singletrack still needs work, but ideally the fire line would be reclaimed first. The rest of Trust Lands Singletrack was brushed out by the DOR crew earlier this month with assistance from RWR through a grant of the Grand County Recreation Special Service District. RWR's OHVR grant was approved, so a motorcycle-based trail crew will probably spend a week on Sovereign Trail and a second week at Dubinky next February or March, so he welcomes input on what work should be done.

George said that we are welcome to join this evening's onX Master Class at the RR4W headquarters.

Mark said that RR4W is hosting a couple volunteer days with the BLM at Lost World Butte. On September 23, they'll meet at 9:00am on UT-313 to bust a boulder with the BLM that's obstructing the trail near Rainbow Rocks. On September 27, they'll meet at 8:45am on UT-313 to clear the remains of the boulder and block a nearby hill climb that could be an eyesore and isn't designated open.

I. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm and thanked everyone for participating.