



**Emery County
Trail's Committee
October 7, 2025 8:00 AM**



Attendance: Les Wilberg, Terri Bennett, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Steven Jeffery, Brett White, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell, Tifnie Hansen, Nicole Nielsen, Dennis Worwood, Jordan Leonard, Wayne Ludington, Ed Geary, Jeff Thomas, Ray Peterson

Welcome Chairman: Les Wilberg

1. Approval of Minutes: September 2025 Motion to approve with a spelling correction, made by Steven, seconded by Terri. **Motion passed.**

2. Presentation/Discussion: Swell Retreat Mountain Bike Trail. The Swell Retreat has been working through the Emery County Trails Grant to build and approve a NICA High School Mountain bike course. Lacy presented a report on their work and progress, where the idea came from and what they still need to do. They have been working with individuals from NICA to make sure everything is compliant and appropriate for high school races. Lacy also shared some of their strategies for upkeep and what has been working well so far.

A NICA parent joined via zoom to share information regarding the positive impacts of these races on the participants and their families, the venues and communities where races are held, and the growth that this sport is experiencing in Utah.

Discussion on race season (Aug-Oct), and their practice schedules over the course of the year. Discussion on nearby tracks. Discussion on the effects, both positive and challenging, on the community when a race is in town. Discussion on what kind of support is needed and how to make a successful venue. Discussion on the aspect of public access to the bike trails and how that will be coordinated. Discussion on how the county, trails committee, and travel office can appropriately support the development of a successful race. Discussion on how and when to use equipment and get the course constructed.

3. Discussion: Trails projects October-November. This agenda item is in place to use this time to plan out some potential projects for the next couple months. Some ideas from Les include: The Culvert Trail in the Lone Tree area, Whiskey Wash, Chimney Rock to Stone Gulch, and Temple Mountain Signs (set for Nov 17-18). Discussion on these locations. Jaydon presented the idea of George's Draw, and Temple Mountain in November; he wants to approach the state crews to work on Temple Mountain as well. Discussion on the equipment and culverts that will be needed/utilized on these projects. Input from Drew on how many culverts would be needed, and coordination with the county road grader operator which would help if it works out. Discussion on the tendency of the area to wash out and degrade and how to coordinate with Emery Telcom as well. Discussion on working on the Cottonwood Canyon parking area.

Jaydon shared some development work for single-track motorcycle trails. A group out of Moab called Ride with Respect has applied for a grant to hire a trail crew out of Colorado that does a lot of trail building/maintenance. They've been hired to come work on some Manti-Lasal, San Rafael Swell, and Moab trails. They are planning to be working in our area in November.

4. Committee Members

- **Discussion of projects/events/concerns-**

Steven reported completion of the trail to the parking lot, discussion on potentially working on the Grime's Wash road. They had a big group of about 40 volunteers spread throughout the area including towns doing service in conjunction with the

Joe's Valley Fest.

Terri reported on Public Lands Day project. They had 13-14 people show up to help. Terri was able to ride the Good Water trail the day before, marking spots that needed work and found that much of the east side was in great shape. They cleaned up some campsites and did some good work on the west side.

Don shared some work to be done on Horse Canyon trailhead with the Forest Service.

Brett reported on the Sagebrush Bench work. It was a huge collaboration and they got a lot of good work done. The Back Country pilots are very excited to be able to use it, and the first plane landed on it yesterday and had a very successful landing. They found that the trail from Link's Flat will need some work in the future. Jaydon shared a video of the work-day and the progress they made. This was a successful project with a lot of volunteers and cooperation.

5. Discuss Reports of the Following:

a. BLM- Discussion on Red's Canyon, Tan Seeps, signage on Temple Mountain, signage on Tomsic Butte

b. Forest Service-

c. State Agencies- Tifnie reported Millsite water level down to 40%. Docks are beached and will be getting picked up soon. Camping has stayed fairly consistent with hunters. Huntington water level is staying around 73% percent, boaters and fishers continue to visit, and they will keep the docks in for as long as they can. Tomorrow they will be hitting the trails, marking trails for snow grooming. Seasonals have mostly finished for the year and they will be closing Millsite up for the winter soon. Huntington will be staying open for the winter.

Drew shared appreciation for the discussion on culvert work down near Goblin Valley. They are very busy this time of year with lots of camping and day-use. They are making efforts to support and maintain BLM land during the shutdown. They have received a ton of rain recently which resulted in flash floods and some search and rescue incidents. They have the state trail crew coming to work on a couple trails, and a big trail running event as well as a gravel bike event coming up. They are working on a lease agreement with the Back Country Pilot's Association to help manage the airstrip. They are also holding an upcoming film event for the screening of Galaxy Quest which should be a fun event.

Tifnie and her crew spent some time cleaning up the FS area and bathrooms. AnnDee brought up some other agencies, State Parks, SHPO, Utah Office of Tourism, Utah Office of Economic Development, that are all working hard to continue maintaining and supporting federal lands.

d. Commission- Jordan expressed appreciation for everyone working together and taking care of our area and community.

e. Travel Bureau and Public Lands- The office received grant funding from the state to help print maps. We're trying to get that pushed through before the end of the year. Everything is moving along well and in line to get it done.

Jim reported that the general plan is ready to review. They will be discussing it more in Public Lands but it will be available for public comment and review.

6. Adjourn.

Council - Les Wilberg, Terri Bennett, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Robin Hunt, Steven Jeffery, Brett White

Staff – Keven Jensen, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell

Next Trails Meeting: November 4, 2025

