

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2025

APPROVED October 16, 2025

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

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep
Payton Blasco, BLM (left at 1:50)
Clif Koontz, Chair
Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison (left at 2:23)
Keri Nelson, BLM (left at 1:50)
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Scott Solle, Grand County Search and Rescue
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary
Brad Walker, Utahraptor State Park (left at 1:50)

Guests in attendance:

Andrea Brand, Sand Flats Recreation Area (left at 1:50)
Ben Carswell, Utahraptor State Park (left at 1:50)
Anna Sprout, GCATT
Tyson Swasey, GCATT

A. Approval of Minutes

Reid Bakken made a motion to approve the August 28, 2025 minutes, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

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

A meeting took place onsite, September 9, 2025 with MTC members, Sand Flats staff, Sand Flats Stewardship Committee members and Grand County Commissioner Melodie McCandless. A new route was identified with a northern tie in to Fins and Things. Clif provided an overview of the project including the new tie in and asked for feedback. Suggestions were made on minor route adjustments and signage locations.

The exact location will be determined after BLM walks the route and marks GPS locations. A motion was made to approve the draft letter to the Sand Flats Stewardship Committee by Zane Taylor, seconded by Reid Bakken, approved unanimously.

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

Clif provided an overview indicating additional fencing will be needed due to the dinosaur tracks on SITLA land nearby with the new fencing to be as inconspicuous as possible. Andrea explained that SITLA does not support drilling so metal buck and rail fence is preferred with SITLA willing to reimburse for fencing work on their portion. A motion was made to approve the draft letter to the Sand Flats Stewardship Committee by Zane Taylor, seconded by Jeff Stevens, approved unanimously.

E. Scheduling Trail Projects

September 13, Moab Rim Rake and Ride, 9 am. Work will address the spot just before the overlook at an inside corner where a juniper tree is being hit by vehicles. Dave Hellman will place a bolder in front of the tree in addition to marking the route with paint.

September 20, Cliffhanger, 9 am, upper parking lot. Work will involve post and cable fencing with BLM providing materials. Ride with Respect and Moab Friends For Wheelin' will provide drills.

September 27, Lost World Butte/Rainbow Rocks project by Red Rock 4-Wheelers

September 27, National Public Lands Day, GCATT hosting a work day at Mud Springs for volunteers. Clif mentioned it would be nice to have some E-bike volunteers since E-bikes are allowed on the new trail system. The MTC Facebook page shared this date and additional ones to volunteer at Mud Springs.

Andrea reported that it has been brought to her attention that on Porcupine Rim, the junction near the stock tanks, there are broken boulders that served as retaining walls and ledges that are growing. She requested MTC take a look. She will send photos.

F. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Zane Taylor had a recent visit to Utahrapator State Park and said it was very nice. He has not been on the single track in the park recently but has heard concerns from the community the park is preventing access. Discussion took place about a recent Facebook post from Moab Riding Dirty in which misinformation was posted. Reid suggested a public service campaign for Sovereign to dispel the misinformation.

Keri Nelson shared that the E-bike Environmental Assessment will be out in September with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). As for progress at Mud Springs the

gravel is being laid in the parking lot and restrooms will be in by end of month. Trails for Phase II still being determined.

Payton Blasco shared that David O'Neill is no longer the Supervisory Park Ranger. For now it is recommended to contact the rangers directly.

Anna Sprout shared that Hiking and Motorized Trail Ambassadors are on duty. Next steps for Trail Ambassadors in 2026 are being worked on. Clif asked about the status of the motorized ambassador program. Anna stated it is still being evaluated but with the recent grant to fund an OHV Trail Coordinator it would align with staying in the county for now. Discussion took place about funding and benefits of keeping the program together instead of splitting it up.

Brad Walker shared he is the new Park Manager for Utahrapator State Park and works Saturday through Wednesday but indicated Ben Carswell will be the staff member you see the most. He has heard about the rumblings on how to access the park and how to recreate at the park. He understands the changes in boundaries has been confusing. In his short time there he has focused on cleaning up a lot of toilet paper and poop associated with dispersed camping. Other priorities needing to be addressed are maps, boundary markers and an emergency action plan and getting familiar with the park. He has been going out weekly with Mark Pope to get familiar with the jeep trails. He has been informed about local riders not being happy about having to pay \$15 to access Sovereign Trail. If you are coming to the park to access Willow Springs (in Arches NP) or Klonoa (on BLM land) you do not have to pay. Clif explained that the distinction is that use of a Class B road (vs going off of the Class B road within the state park) determines if you are "crossing" Utahrapator vs use of the park. Brad mentioned he is looking into a possible annual pass that could be earned by volunteering that could provide access without having to pay per visit for access to Sovereign Trail System. Andrea shared some background on the history of Sand Flats Recreation Area and its establishment and some of the issues associated with it: a lot of things take time, education and good law enforcement are key, and stressing people want to do the right thing if they understand it. Clif also stated that the park boundaries do not follow trail systems and the MTC can help on the trail side of things. Brad stated that he needs the help and he is focused on learning the park in addition to working on its priorities.

Brian Martinez shared he has been working on the Dolores Triangle TMP and Manti-La Sal LMP planning documents. The proposal to fund a county motorized trail crew with state funding will be on the agenda at the next commissioner's meeting (this was referenced at the last MTC meeting). Discussion took place regarding the grant funding for the OHV Trail Coordinator position and it remaining with Grand County independent of decisions made regarding the Trails Ambassador program and its future oversight and the potential for GCATT to include a motorized trail component. The discussion also included the state funded trail crew and future opportunities to coordinate and seek additional funding for OHV trail work and support to the county long term.

Scott Solle stated that although local businesses say they are down, activity for Search and Rescue is up with two life savings missions recently. A recent Back From Beyond Podcast shared key information about climbing safety and a recent rescue on Castleton could have been avoided had the proper precautions been followed. Recent activities they have responded to has included: climbers, mountain bikers, motorized users and base jumpers. Discussion took place regarding funding SAR activities. No counties in Utah bill for these services although Grand County did many years ago and there are many reasons why they aren't. Clif indicated there is an educational component to be addressed and Anna indicated the Trail Ambassadors can continue to provide support in the future. Clif reiterated there are also several ways to provide financial support: donations directly to Grand County Search and Rescue, a donation when you register your vehicle, contributing during annual fund drive, and purchasing an annual Utah SAR card. Brian Martinez shared the county is looking at implementing a fee to campers on public lands that would pay into local and county services that campers are using.

Keltain Reece-Sullivan shared that he is working on getting an up to date trail map indicating work that needs to be accomplished on motorized routes. He also mentioned trail work needed on Pritchett near Rock Pile where the motorcycle route is getting harder and new routes around it are being established. It is now twice as wide as it was a few months ago. Both of the UTVs used by Motorized Trail Ambassadors need new steering racks. He was out on the trails last weekend and all went well.

Tyson Swasey shared that work at Mud Springs is in full swing. The contractor, Dirt Trek, has 3 to 4 miles of new trail built using a mini excavator. BLM has been working on the trailhead and NO SHOOTING signs have gone up in appropriate areas.

Jeff Stevens shared he was out in his buggy on Rusty Nail and noticed it needs some paint from Golden Spike to the start. As for Pritchett all the rocks are gone from Son of Rock Pile, Down and Dirty keeps getting worse, the bypass is now a major route being used that didn't exist before. Clif said to get the work scheduled to be done October thru November.

G. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:40 and thanked everyone for participating.