Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2025
DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:38 pm and started with introductions.

Members in attendance:

Ben Carswell, Utahraptor State Park
Dave Cozzens
Clif Koontz, Chair
Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison
Mark Pope, Red Rock 4-Wheelers
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT (arrived 1:11 pm)
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

A. Approval of Minutes

Zane Taylor made a motion to approve the October 16, 2025, and November 13, 2025 minutes, Jeff Stevens seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Scheduling Trail Projects

Discussion took place about Hell's Revenge, the ramp on the right before the dinosaur tracks. This and other Rake and Rides will be determined at the January 2026 meeting.

* the January 2026 meeting has been changed to January 15 instead of the 8th.

Mark Pope shared that he received a call from David O'Neill, Occupational Health and Safety Manager for BLM about Sons of Smokey and organizing Moab-area clean up days by doing a 'clean sweep' a couple of times a year in areas with debris. Mark will share with the MTC when locations are identified and scheduled. This could possibly be done with Spring Spruce Up in April.

D. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Ben Carswell shared that they have cleaned up the sediment from the dinosaur tracks on Willow Springs Road. The punch list from campground construction work has been completed. The seasonal staff are leaving. The Grand County Road Department is cleaning up Willow Springs Road from Courthouse Wash to the dinosaur tracks. Russian thistle is being removed around the campsites.

Brian Martinez stated he has missed the last 2 meetings but is happy to report the Memorandum of Understanding between the county and the State of Utah for the trail crew has been signed and should be operational by July. It is hoped to have the crews onboarded before that so they can participate in state-provided training. The MOU includes the county Motorized Trail Coordinator who will interface with the county trail crew and other agencies. There will hopefully be five crew members working year round. Equipment needs still to be determined. Grand County will be providing $200,000 and the state will provide the balance. The state is covering administrative and operational support. Some work will be done in San Juan County. It is hoped the arrangement will last well into the future. Clif stated the state crew that Carson Trader supervises will continue to work 50% motorized trails and 50% non-motorized. Mark Pope expressed concern about the BLM requirement to have a BLM employee onsite when work is done and suggested a 'pipeline' to projects reviewed and approved in advance. Clif stated that the county Motorized Trail Coordinator should be provided the opportunity to proceed with work that is within the scope of approved projects with BLM, state parks, USFS and SITLA. Clif also noted Grand County has a $400,000 budget for non-motorized trails and $200,000 for motorized in 2026 (actually $100,000 since the motorized crew will start halfway through the year). However he added that it was only a few-thousand dollars for motorized in 2025 and earlier, so this agreement will be a huge step forward for improving the management of motorized trails. He concluded that, especially since the commission's vote was unanimous, this agreement is a milestone for the MTC's sixth year. Brian shared that the county budget in 2025 is over by $2 million and the commission is working on presenting a flat budget in 2026. Brian also stated that the county passed a letter of support to BLM for reopening routes in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges TMP.

Kathy Tustanowski shared that she recently attended the Bronco Off-Roadeo training, compliments of Blake Torgersen. It was very educational, informative and exceptionally well done. Messaging about appropriate off-road use and trail etiquette was incorporated.

Clif shared that the Rake and Ride on Steel Bender/Flat Pass went well. The first couple of spots were on private property and therefore skipped, but the other locations included putting up fencing, signs and moving logs. Carson from the state crew participated. Some jackhammering needs to be done at the swing fence.

The Poison Spider Rake and Ride went well and the puddle issues were examined. Also, Ryan Lowe, a Motorized Trail Ambassador, participated. He would like to

participate in more. Keltain assisted Clif with this discussion by providing drone images of the area of the puddles and discussed options to resolve. Coming from Potash Road, the second and third puddles seem ok as is. The fourth puddle has a 3'-deep puddle just before Little Arch. A go-around for this is feasible but will need to be presented to BLM. The first puddle gets to a depth of about 4 feet, a go-around to the right exists but has the potential to deteriorate. Another route further right could be developed on slickrock. Temporary signage is recommended to direct users to another existing go-around that's on the left, and block off the existing go-around on the right. Clif will make a pitch to BLM. Mark asked about the planning process, so Clif provided an overview. Mark referenced a spot on Lockhart and was wondering how to proceed with the process. Clif shared that NEPA categorically excludes new trail construction from requiring an EA, but indicated it is often preferred to develop an EA anyway for thorough planning.

Clif shared that the new nonprofit, Steward Moab, is up and running taking the place of GCATT to continue the Moab Trail Ambassadors program. Nearly all assets are going to Steward Moab except for the CanAm utility model that will stay with GCATT for the Motorized Trail Coordinator.

Clif also shared that the Utahraptor State Park staff helped with some work along Sovereign ATV Loop at the park's south end in cooperation with Ride With Respect.

E. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 1:52 pm and thanked everyone for a good year.