

# **Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026**

**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:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep

Rika Ballard

Andrea Brand, Sand Flats Recreation Area (left at 1:39)

Ben Carswell, Utahraptor State Park

Jason James, Treasurer

Dave Hellman, ATV Rep (left at 2:39)

Clif Koontz, Chair

Cody McKinney, Grand County Roads Supervisor (left at 1:48)

Mark Pope, 4x4 Rep (left at 2:43)

Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT (left at 2:43)

Anna Sprout, Steward Moab

Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair

Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep

Carson Trader, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region Trail Crew Supervisor

Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary

Guests in attendance:

John Marshall, Grand County Search and Rescue

Tyler Welch, Ride Moab Industries

A. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Tustanowski made a motion to approve the January 15, 2026 minutes, Mark Pope seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Approving Support Letter re SFRA's Sand Flats Road application for USDOT BUILD Grant

Andrea provided background and stated this had previously been submitted. This opportunity is another attempt to get the road paved all the way from the cemetery to Porcupine Rim. This is a Planning and Design Grant to include a Feasibility Study so

the project could be shovel ready. Having matching funds will assist with being competitive for paving grant in the future. Cody shared that it will include the intersection at Mill Creek and include wider shoulders, bike path/lane on both sides where feasible. Andrea also shared she will have letters of support from BLM, Grand County Sheriff and Moab Valley Fire Department. After some discussion a motion was made to approve the letter of support by Mark Pope, seconded by Reid Bakken, approved unanimously.

Clif asked Andrea if there were any other issues she needs to update the MTC on. She thanked the MTC for work done over the last 3 weeks; Hells Revenge, South Fins, North Fins, and a field trip on the Slick-Fins. She also mentioned work done at the dinosaur track site with boulders being moved and fencing installed but it appears more boulders need to be placed. There are more boulders that can be used currently located in the lower parking lot (that's on the road to Potato Salad Hill) and the new buck and rail fence could be switched out with that location. On January 27 a heavy equipment operator and Sand Flats staff rerouted the road and moved boulders, and on February 6 widened the road with Portal Offroad's truck, GCATT's truck, and Ride with Respect's mini excavator.

#### D. Approving Support Letter re GCATT Sign/Fence/Paint/Kiosk application for Motorized RTP Grant

Keltain provided an overview of the map identifying primary areas to be addressed: White Wash/Lost World, Sevenmile/3-D, Poison Spider, Gemini Bridges, Kane Creek/Behind the Rocks, Dome Plateau/Top of the World. He then explained the spreadsheet he developed to accompany it and the data collected: mileage, intersections, signs needed, fencing needed paint needed, etc. Mark asked about the areas and why he choose what he did. Keltain explained that it was designed to be able to track how funds are spent and provide a working justification for the ask. Mark recommended splitting Spring Canyon from the Sevenmile/3-D trail area to balance out the mileage numbers since the west half has a lower route density and use level than the east half. Andrea mentioned her preference for the aluminum signs that are made by prison industries. Discussion took place including clarification on whether OHVR Grant funds can be used as a match for RTP and Clif said he has verified and it can be done. Projects still need to be defined and kiosks still need to be identified. Send photos that are geotagged to Keltain and any other relevant information so he can update the data. A motion was made for Clif to draft a letter of support for the grant by Reid Bakken, seconded by Zane Taylor with unanimous approval.

#### E. Approving Support Letter re Ride with Respect Project Planning and Heavy Equipment application for Motorized RTP Grant

Clif presented a letter to the MTC from Ride with Respect regarding the Motorized RTP Grant and performing heavy equipment work. In addition, he presented a draft letter to the Utah OHV Advisory Council from the MTC supporting Ride with Respect's request. He then provided an overview and explanation of the NEPA process and coordination

with SITLA and UDOT. Existing equipment will be considered as matching funds. The grant request will include funds to cover wages of equipment operators, reimbursement for use of vehicles and equipment and maintenance, as well as signage for the north and south ends of Sovereign Trail that are on SITLA property. A motion was made to approve the draft letter from the MTC by Dave Hellman, seconded by Jason James with unanimous approval. Clif Koontz abstained from voting.

F. Approving Support Letter re Ride with Respect Singletrack Maintenance application for State OHV Grant

Clif provided an overview and presented a letter to the MTC from Ride with Respect regarding the Utah OHV Grant and performing heavier-duty maintenance on motorized singletrack in Grand and Emery Counties. In addition, he presented a draft letter to the Utah OHV Advisory Council from the MTC supporting Ride with Respect's request. A motion was made to approve the draft letter from the MTC by Mark Pope, seconded by Zane Taylor with unanimous approval. Clif Koontz abstained from voting.

G. Electing MTC Treasurer

Although there is no budget or an account with funds, the Treasurer is a standing, voting position. Clif nominated Jason James for the position since he is now a voting member based on attendance. A motion was made to elect Jason James as the Treasurer by Dave Hellman, seconded by Jeff Stevens with unanimous approval.

H. Scheduling Trail Projects

Feb 21 Sevenmile Rim, meet at 10 am, Mill Canyon parking area to paint. Mark mentioned to consider BLM's norms for painting, it isn't a highway. To determine where a paint-blaze is needed, look at the near horizon as to the route to follow. The job is to refresh the paint but not paint everything and be reluctant to put any new paint-blazes down. Mark will be working with BLM to update the Painting Handbook.

Feb 24 Slick-Fins Dot Route, meet at 10 am, Fins staging parking lot to place logs to delineate route. Dave Hellman will provide his white trailer for the project.

Mark brought up the fencing issue at Determination Towers and wanted clarification if it should be a Rake and Ride or a field trip first. He has talked with Jenn Jones and discussed buck and rail vs post and cable fencing. Need to get onsite with BLM before April to talk about options and determine what type of fencing can be done. The project could be done as part of Spring Spruce Up. Clif will invite BLM on Feb. 21 Sevenmile Rim activity when Determination Towers could be scouted. It was noted that Fallen Peace Officer Trail is the backup for Determination Towers for the Spring Spruce Up.

March 7 Sovereign Trail, meet at 10 am, Utahraptor State Park visitor center

March 11 and 12 Moab Guide Summit. March 11 will have an evening dinner and presentations for owner and operators of guiding businesses. March 12 will provide educational sessions in morning and afternoon will involve project opportunities. Projects mentioned were Fins & Things and Pipe Dream. The MTC table will need coverage from 7:30 to 11 am on March 12. Reid, Jason and Rika will volunteer. Anna reminded folks to preregister.

#### I. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Anna Sprout shared the Trail Ambassadors will be starting March 1 with a smaller staff than before. Volunteers will be required to complete a 2 hour training and spend 4 hours per season accompanied by paid staff. Steward Moab will be applying for the \$250K OHVR Education Grant to cover a 28 month period and the \$35k OHVR Tourism Grant for the Back of Beyond podcasts season 2. They are looking for sponsors for season 1. On Feb. 14 a fundraiser will be held at Cactus Jacks to include the new logo release.

Mark Pope shared that Red Rock 4-Wheelers has 2 upcoming project days: Feb. 18 Buttes and Towers to clear rockfall, Feb. 28 Lockhart Basin.

Keltain Reece-Sullivan shared that he has been working on the RTP Grant, gathering data for the field maps and trail work needs locations as well as working on his EMT and Firefighter certifications.

Clif Koontz asked to reschedule the September meeting, and no one expressed concern, so he'll move it to the 17th. He also indicated that Jason Taylor will no longer be able to attend MTC meetings due to a scheduling conflict, so he shouldn't serve as the Snowmobile Representative on the MTC. He proposed considering Tyler Welch for the position once he meets membership requirements.

John Marshall stated he was here as an observer today but has experience as a permitted operator for 24 years as well as being on the Search and Rescue team for many years in addition to helping on trail work occasionally.

Tyler Welch stated he is also here as an observer and wants to get more familiar with the MTC. He was born and raised here, is a veteran and owns a motorcycle tour company in Moab. He is excited to have the opportunity to provide input to the MTC. He asked about Geyser Pass and if anything is in the works to have a singletrack alternate to the graded road. Clif indicated we are waiting on the outcome of the pending Manti-La Sal National Forest Land Management Plan update.

Zane Taylor mentioned the recent scouting work on Sovereign and that some Search and Rescue members were there also.

Reid Bakken mentioned that many of the local BLM mountain bike trails will be open to Class 1 e-bikes soon which is exciting. Most of the BLM Cedar City Field Office trails are opening also.

Carson Trader said his crew will not be available officially until May.

Ben Carswell shared they are continuing to remove Russian Thistle, doing some roadwork on culverts, regrading the housing area and ramping up staffing for the spring. In 2026 they will have 4 seasonals compared to the 10 they had in 2025. He will soon be attending water treatment training in St. George. He thanked those who helped on the recent work on singletrack trails. The policy on getting a park pass has been determined to be 4 hours volunteer work will get you a day pass. There will be no Utahraptor State Park specific annual pass, and the annual pass for all state parks in Utah costs \$125. The day pass costs \$7 for a motorcycle or \$15 for an automobile. Clif said he hopes that volunteer time could be valued at more than \$1.75-\$3.75 per hour, but he appreciates the trail work done by park staff thus far.

J. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 3:07 pm and thanked everyone for participating as well as reminder March meeting is on the 5th.