

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:37 pm and started with introductions.

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep
Payton Blasco, BLM
Andrea Brand, Stand Flats Recreation Area
Ben Carswell, Utahraptor State Park
Dave Cozzens (left at 1:56)
Clif Koontz, Chair
Madeline Logowitz, GCATT
Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison
Cody McKinney, Grand County Roads Supervisor (left at 2:04)
Alex Mudler, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region Trail Crew Supervisor
Mark Pope, 4x4 Rep
Keltain Reece-Sullivan, GCATT
Scott Solle, GCSAR
Anna Sprout, Steward Moab (left around 2:45)
Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair
Kathy Tustanowski, Secretary (left at 2:30)

Guests in attendance:

Ryan Lowe, Motorized Trail Ambassador, Steward Moab

A. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 2026 meeting had not been distributed for review. Postponed until next meeting.

B. Citizens to be Heard

None

C. Approving Support of Sand Flats Stewardship Committee Letter regarding Steen Property Rezone

Clif and Andrea provided an overview of the requested rezone of the Steen property, from Range and Grazing to Resort Commercial, impacting 235 acres that juts into the Sand Flats Recreation Area with an address 1021 N Hell's Revenge Trail and encompasses parts of both the Slickrock Bike Trail and the Hell's Revenge OHV Trail.

BLM and Grand County each hold easements across portions of the parcel. A review of the letter provided by the Sand Flats Recreation Area Stewardship Committee generated questions and discussion.

Concerns expressed included: the proposal claims that SFRA recreation would benefit from uses allowed in the Resort Commercial zone, the proposed OHV event area and food truck could be handled by modification of the existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) resulting in less impactful rezoning; legal access to the property is near the popular feature the 'Hot Tubs' on Hell's Revenge which could result in paving or otherwise improving part of Hell's Revenge, it is located in a future annexation zone of the city of Moab, it is in a designated Water Source Protection Overlay, the Resort Commercial zone would allow much higher housing density and comes from the North Gateway Plan (2001) that states "The Plan shall not be interpreted to support additional development on lands with slopes in excess of 30% or on top of the surrounding escarpments," the Resort Special zoning would be more applicable although it may apply only to locations around UT-313, the Future Land Use Plan (December 2024) merely has generalized maps that suggest a "place type" of Resort that could translate to either Resort Commercial or Resort Special.

Brian stated that for 10 years land owners have been waiting for the Future Land Use Plan which is now out. As such, requests are coming in to rezone accordingly. Clif suggested a different zoning category be identified. The possibility of a future purchase of the property came up, particularly as it would pertain to protection of the land for recreational purposes such as using Land and Water Conservation Funds.

A motion was made by Reid Bakken, seconded by Kathy Tustanowski, for Clif to draft a letter indicating appreciation for the current use of the property owner's land for recreational purposes but indicating the rezoning is not compatible with the current uses and referencing support of the Sand Flats Recreation Area Stewardship Committee letter and include any consideration of rezoning should protect Hell's Revenge and Slickrock Trail's quality and experience. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Approving Support Letter for National Recreation Trail Nomination of Poison Spider Mesa

The Poison Spider Mesa Trail is being nominated by BLM to receive National Recreation Trail status as it is the 3rd or 4th most-utilized motorized trail in the Moab area. Anna reiterated that travelers use the National Recreation Trails to decide where to travel to. There was general consensus in support of the initiative based on the relevance of the trail due to the variety of obstacles, it has a flowing route with good conditions due to work provided by the MTC and Motorized Trail Ambassadors among others, and the end result is an amazing view that you have worked for in addition to its tie in with Golden Spike and Gold Bar and the unique history associated with the Trail. A motion was made by Jeff Stevens, seconded by Mark Pope for Clif to draft a letter in support of the BLM nomination for the County Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Commenting on Trail-Work Mapping App

Keltain explained there are two goals for today associated with the trail-work survey which is functioning like a geo-database using ArcGIS Survey123: 1) comment on questions in the survey, 2) training and use of the app to include downloading the app, download the survey, collect trail work points exercise. Maddie indicated that Survey 123 has been used by the non-motorized crew for a while. For it to work well it needs local involvement and coordination. Keltain recommended getting the app loaded and did a walk thru of the process. He then explained how to take pictures for uploading, how to provide location, issue/condition and priority level data. Discussion took place about options for accessing a map of the trail-work points and updates on work that has been completed. Keltain will have access and Scott shared that he has an ArcGIS paid account that might be able to be utilized for expanded access. Updates on projects will be covered at MTC meetings. There were no issues with the survey questions.

F. Commenting on Worksites for Division of Outdoor Recreation Trail Crew

Clif mentioned the 4 points in his email that need to be incorporated into the Memorandum of Understanding between Grand County and the state. For the record they are:

1. Allow the crew to work in San Juan County based on the MTC's priorities along with the Grand County Motorized Trail Coordinator's updates to San Juan County staff
2. Allow the crew to store equipment on some Grand County property
3. Allow the DOR to use some of the Grand County funds for materials like signs
4. Allow the DOR to coordinate directly with land managers on some projects instead of always going through the Grand County Motorized Trail Coordinator and MTC

Alex shared that they have ArcGIS Survey 123 maps of the work the state has completed. Keltain went over his handout of the proposed schedule and locations of work to be done by the crew. Feedback was provided with Clif requesting the addition of the motorcycle route on Cliffhanger, Gold Bar Waterfall left side, Axle Hill, Down and Dirty, and Chicken Corners.

G. Scheduling Trail Projects

Payton said that the BLM and others cleaned up the hogan site near the northeast end of Steel Bender. He also said there's a new site needing cleanup at the upper (east) end of Kane Creek 4WD route that developed after work was done to make the road more accessible.

Since Anna had to leave the meeting, she provided an update on Steward Moab, which educated approximately 80 kids at Camp Moab during Easter Jeep Safari. The Motorized Trail Ambassador has been out on Hell's Revenge and Poison Spider this spring.

Back to Trail Projects, Jeff suggested working on Pritchett Canyon between The Brickyard and Down and Dirty obstacles, which can be reached with a difficulty rating of 6 or 7 when approached from Kane Creek Road. To block off-trail travel, the rake & ride will include work with rocks, signs, and possibly fence. Meet May 16 at 8:30am in the lot that's just past the pavement on Kane Creek Road.

H. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Brian said that HB381 is categorizing Class II and III e-bikes as motorcycles, so he suggests finding places for them to recreate, which could include something like a pamphlet guide. He anticipates that the BLM will release a Labyrinth Rims TMP decision in August and a Dolores River TMP draft sooner. Also the Manti La-Sal National Forest should release a land management plan soon.

Alex provided his background, which includes five years of trail-work experience, and he is happy to get more experience on motorized trails.

Payton said that the BLM and SFRA worked with Stellantis (which owns Jeep), RR4W, and other volunteers on the east side of Fins to block braids and mark the designated route. The BLM also worked with Tread Lightly on Kane Creek 4WD route and with Bronco Off-Rodeo on Chicken Corners. Mud Springs is opening today for e-bike and non-motorized use. In June, San Juan County will reroute the highway access to Mud Springs. He anticipates that the BLM will release a Dolores River TMP draft in the middle of this summer.

Mark Pope requested that, for future MTC meetings, the stakeholder updates item be moved earlier in the agenda. Clif replied that he's open to it, but wants to make sure that people request a separate agenda item for topics that wouldn't fit in stakeholder updates, and that people limit their updates to make sure there's time left for the other agenda items. A five-minute time limit seemed to be the general consensus. Clif also suggested that some items, such as some of the trail-work details, could be developed outside of the monthly meeting (and then brought back to a monthly meeting as needed). Maddie said, if Clif needs Keltain's help displaying documents during an MTC meeting, he should send them to Keltain earlier. Clif agreed. Mark said there's chain at Goldbar Waterfall that's obsolete, so he'll remove it.

Scott says that a Utah OHVR grant has provided GCSAR with a UTV. He needs a better way to haul a UTV, so he's asking for help from Ford, Toyota, and Jeep. So far this year, GCSAR has had the same number of calls as last year.

Andrea said that SFRA revenue is up 20% this year, which is due only in part to the increased fee for camping. She mentioned that Stellantis used an SFRA campground to debut its concept vehicles.

Maddie said that GCATT applied for a couple state grants, including the OHVR grant for trail-work materials, and both applications were approved. Spring Spruce Up had 90 volunteers, most of whom are local residents, so they hope to attract more visitors.

Clif said that Ride with Respect received an invitation to the Colorado River bike path ribbon cutting event this month, which he'll forward to Reid as the MTC's e-bike rep along with Keltain and Maddie to make sure GCATT is involved. Brian said it's part of the Utah Trail Network that emphasizes statewide connectivity of mostly pathways.

I. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 3:32 pm and thanked everyone for participating.