

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2026

APPROVED May 14, 2026

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:39 pm and started with introductions.

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-bike Rep (left at 12:57)
Rika Ballard
Payton Blasco, BLM (arrived at 12:42)
Ben Carswell, Utahraport State Park
Jason James, Treasurer
Jennifer Jones, BLM (arrived at 12:51, left at 2:00)
Clif Koontz, Chair
Mark Pope, 4x4 Rep
Scott Solle, GCSAR
Anna Sprout, Steward Moab
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 February 12, 2026 minutes, Mark Pope seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B. Citizens to be Heard

* Reid Bakken made a Citizens to be Heard comment later in the agenda.

C. Scheduling Trail Projects

Since Reid had to leave early today, this section started with his Updates and comments for Citizens to be heard. For his update he stated most of the BLM mountain-bike trails opened to Class 1 E-bikes last Sunday allowing use on many BLM trails previously prohibiting their use. Some of the guidance issued by Trail Mix and others use prohibitive language, Reid would like to see guidance presented in a more positive manner. Anna stated that promotional documents: pamphlets and posters, can be developed from responsible recreation ethics regarding E-bikes. Mark asked about enforcement and where should Class 2 and 3 E-bikes be directed to. Anna stated the Ambassadors are not enforcing, just observing, their focus is on hiking and OHV trails

with their reduced staffing. Jenn shared that BLM does have information on the Moab Field Office website about E-bike usage.

* Reid then stated he had something to share as a Citizen to be Heard. He has attended MTC meetings for 5 years, as a motorcyclist he would like to see a Motorcycle Master Plan. There have been many positive changes in other activities but not for motorcyclists. He would like to see the state get involved also. E-motorcycle stuff will not be solved by prohibitive actions. These experiences need to be expanded and improved upon. This is a discussion that needs to be taken on.

The discussion then returned to Trail Projects.

March 6 - Sovereign Trail, meet at 10 am at Utahraptor State Park Visitor Center. This will be a half-day Rake and Ride and involve expert level riding abilities and include scouting for work to be done by the Trails Preservation Alliance crew. Ben noted that 2 hours of volunteer work in the park will result in earning a 1-day pass.

March 13 - Determination Towers, meet at 9 am, Mill Canyon OHV Staging Area. Payton will have supplies and materials for patching the existing fence with everyone agreeing this is not a long-term solution.

April 11 - Spring Spruce Up at Fallen Peace Officers Trail

April 17 - Sevenmile Rim, meet at 9 am at the big parking lot on Mill Canyon road. Recently 8 cans of paint were applied on a successful day. Some fencing needs were identified on the rock crawling area that recently developed without permission near the south end of Sevenmile Rim. It was suggested to place a picnic table to block the bottom and a buck-and-rail fence to block the top.

Jenn mention that Top of the World could use some attention, signs need to go up. Jason James offered to install the signs, he will follow up with Payton.

Discussion about Kane Creek and some of the issues there took place. More scouting needs to be done regarding confusion on the trail especially near the south end resulting in multiple routes being present. A second work day will also take place with Tread Lightly to update the kiosk on Kane Creek Canyon.

D. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Jason James stated he will only be available to help next week as he will be busy with Easter Jeep Safari (EJS).

Payton Blasco stated he will be working on some projects prior to EJS: Kane Creek, specifically the first mile from the Hurrah Pass side, Fins and Things, and Camp Moab activities. Clif said it was good to have Payton back from his furlough.

Jenn Jones shared there are no updates on Labyrinth /Gemini Bridges TMP. After a recent meeting with the Acting State BLM Director she wanted to pass along the message BLM is here to help and to provide support. She also announced the upcoming work on the River Road project for the pathway extension that may include 15 to 30 minute delays from March 16 thru October 31. Grandstaff Campground may be closed some of that time. She also thanked the MTC for their support and work being done on motorized trails.

Anna Sprout announced she wants to toot her horn due to the funds being acquired for the River Road project from her prior position with the county. She has been staying busy with: work on the Utah Trail Network project, getting Trail Ambassadors on the trails, submitting four state grant applications, working on the upcoming Guide Summit and the Spring Spruce Up (including a pre-Spruce Up presentation on adaptive sports), and fundraising for the Back of Beyond podcasts. She also shared that the Back of Beyond podcast has won an award and that two photographs associated with the Trail Ambassadors have won an award through the National Recreation Trails program.

Ben Carswell shared that they are gearing up for the busy season at Utahraptor State Park. The campsites in primitive areas have been improved, boulders have been used to block off part of Sovereign Trail near Willow Springs/Courthouse Wash to remove confusion. Campground hosts recently reported a SxS riding over the dinosaur tracks. Clif suggested using camera to monitor the area, Jason also commented on using Trail Ambassador signage as a deterrent even if no Ambassadors are present. He has received his water treatment certification and the sewer pods are being inspected and it appears they will need lots of maintenance. The county road department has been using water from Raptor lake. They will be grading Willow Springs road soon. He would like to get the keys for the kiosks so the park staff can clean them and update maps. Signs indicating use of E-bikes on Klonzo have gone up. Their spring clean-up tasks will be to make progress on removing rocks in campground and removal of old fencing.

Mark Pope shared that there was a recent rock fall on Buttes and Towers requiring removal of debris to make a route. On February 26, Red Rock 4-Wheelers completed work in Lockhart Basin by removal of the tops of some boulders on the last obstacle. Additional work is still needed and may require the mini-excavator. A discussion took place about the need to coordinate with the Monticello BLM Field Office. Mark wants to keep this on our radar screen. On March 28 a fencing project will be done on Fins and Things in coordination with Jeep. He noted that Jeep has been very generous in donation of supplies, materials, and tools. Mark asked Payton about David O'Neill's dump cleanup project and Payton was not aware of its status. He has also been involved in the Chamber of Commerce OHV initiative. They have selected an easy and intermediate route. On March 9 they will be driving the routes and he will be participating.

Jeff Stevens shared that he participated in some work done on Pritchett involving removal of a boulder from the trail.

Discussion took place about the recent work done on Kane Creek by San Juan County resulting in making the trail easier for ATVs but may give the wrong impression of the difficulty of the route further down the canyon and impacts to sensitive riparian areas. It seems to have taken place without anyone knowing about it. Payton said the BLM was not aware of the work in advance. Clif shared that Grand County does not do work on D roads to nearly the extent that San Juan County does. We need to offer to scout the work in advance with San Juan County. Zane offered to attend SPEAR meetings and recommended the ATV group operating in San Juan County be invited to our MTC meetings.

E. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:47 pm and thanked everyone for participating.