

Grand County Motorized Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2026

DRAFT

The meeting was held at the Grand Center and called to order by Clif Koontz at 12:34 pm.

Members in attendance:

Reid Bakken, E-Bike Rep

Ben Carswell, Utahraptor State Park

Jennifer Jones, BLM

Clif Koontz, Chair

Madeline Logowitz, GCATT

Brian Martinez, Grand County Commission Liaison (left at 1:45)

Alex Mudler, Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region Trail Crew Supervisor

Mark Pope, 4x4 Rep

Scott Solle, GCSAR

Anna Sprout, Steward Moab

Jeff Stevens, Vice Chair

Zane Taylor, Motorcycle Rep

Guests in attendance:

Dave Cozzens

A. Approval of Minutes

Jen Jones pointed out that the Potash Road is SR279, not SR219. With that change, Mark Pope made a motion to approve the June 4, 2026 minutes, Zane Taylor seconded, motion passed unanimously. The May 14, 2026 minutes will be provided for review at the August meeting.

B. Citizens to be Heard

Reid expressed the need for more motorized singletrack, which can be designed for fun and sustainability better than the user-created trails. These opportunities are especially needed given the emergence of electric motorcycles. There's also a need for consistently harder trails, not just easier trails with a harder spot.

C. Updates from MTC Stakeholder Representatives and Executive Committee

Jen Jones said that a Motorized RTP grant was awarded to the Foundation for America's Public Lands to work at Tusher Tunnel, Uranium Arch, and Bartlett Alcove. The BLM will probably complete the work this winter. An EA was completed to designate 300' to 400' of a loop trail for walking through the tunnel and back around. The funding also covers two traffic counters. The Labyrinth Rims and Dolores River

TMPs are currently on hold. Work on the Potash Road has finished. A Utah Outdoor Recreation Initiative grant will improve the entrance/exit of Goldbar Campground. Kyle Beagley is the acting manager for the Moab Field Office for 120 days, which started July 7th. Jen will forward an email describing the schedule of pavement resurfacing in Sand Flats Recreation Area.

Scott Solle said that GCSAR received Utah OHVR grant reimbursement for a couple of OHVs, which came in under budget. They're a lot nicer than the twenty-year-old machines they replaced. Also thanks for RR4W, Redrok Rally, and the MTC for supporting that project. The summer has been busy with 17 calls in June, few calls in July, but EMS has responded to heat-related calls in Arches plus wildfire duty. EMS released a statement regarding record levels of heat this weekend.

Alex Mudler said his crew has focused on motorized trail work, with three weeks on the national forest. The crew got a mini-excavator and used it in the Lower Twomile area that burned last year during the Deer Creek Fire. This heavy equipment may be shared with another regional crew. It's part of a DOR initiative that includes providing heavy-equipment training, CDL training, and raising wages. His crew also spent two weeks in the Upper Twomile area where the crew is learning the finer points of trail maintenance, and they're currently working on the Aspen Ridge singletrack.

Maddie Logowitz said she presented an update of her department during the county commission's most recent meeting. She has received a few applications for the OHV Coordinator position. GCATT applied for a non-motorized RTP grant and received a little over \$145,000 to convert bicycle trails for Class 1 e-bike use. Mud Springs Phase 2A is improving the highway turnout of the parking area. Maddie hopes to submit a Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure grant for Phase 2B that would expand trails.

Ben Carswell said that Utahraport State Park purchased generators to pump water during emergencies. He just got a CDL tanker endorsement so he can truck water up to Dead Horse State Park as well. Two hundred people attended Astrofest. Two new seasonals will start work in a couple weeks.

Anna Sprout said that OHV Trail Ambassadors reached 3,000 people, roughly 60% of which were informative contacts. Steward Moab's Back from Beyond podcast won a regional ER Morrow award. They're fundraising for Season Two, which include applying for a state grant to fund the OHV-related episodes. They built 1,000 spill kits with volunteers including the MTC and Family RV Association. Pamphlets on e-biking around Moab are in bike shops. They'll hire Trail Ambassadors this fall for combination hike-OHV positions (which gives staff a variety of work) from August 27th to October 31st and possibly into November. The OHV trailheads they cover are just two because other trailheads would require an enclosed vehicle or the complication of a trailer and pickup.

Mark Pope said that he entered into the mapping app three needed worksites on Metal Masher.

Zane Taylor said he again cleared Upper Twomile trails this month. Reid added that the Abajo trails are key for motorcyclists from Moab. Aspen Flat and Red Ledges have already burned in the Babylon Fire, and Robertson Pasture and Spring Creek seem likely to burn. He emphasized the great value of this area, and hopes that funding and restoration work are aggressively pursued for the trails and surrounding forest. The group identified possible grants such as Legacy Trails from American Trails, the Recreation Restoration Infrastructure Grant from Utah, and Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) federal funds.

Dave Cozzens said he's sorry to have missed meetings, but is happy to return.

Clif Koontz provided an update about the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program, which will train volunteers at least a dozen volunteers from the Red Rock 4 Wheelers and Ride with Respect on July 15th and 16th.

Regarding Reid's request to expand motorized singletrack opportunities, Clif said that the MTC could develop a proposal as broad as a master plan for all kinds of motorized recreation or one that focuses on singletrack to address particular needs. Maddie said that ORPA funds can go to the development of master plans, and the non-motorized master plan was managed by a county GIS temp person. Brian said that the Utah Association of Governments offers CIB grants of up to \$50,000 without matching or higher amounts with matching, which could be matched with DOR grants. Clif said it's good to have these options, but we could also simply develop a proposal through MTC members and its public meetings. Maddie suggested that the MTC define a scope and get assistance from the OHV Coordinator.

D. Approving Support Letter re GCATT OHV Coordinator application for OHVR Grant

Maddie said that this position will primarily plan trail-work projects in addition to volunteer engagement including the MTC and social media, possibly facilitating broader MTC proposals, and participating in some of the field work. Reid Bakken motioned for Clif to submit an MTC letter of support for this grant application, Mark Pope seconded, motion passed unanimously. Maddie was asked about the wage range for this position, and she replied that the county may offer nearly one dollar/hour more for each year of relevant experience, plus the county offers benefits.

E. Commenting on the BLM's Dolores River Travel Management Area (<https://eplanning.blm.gov/Project-Home/?id=C05965E0-BA65-F111-A824-001DD800B811>)

Clif said the MTC can wait until the BLM is closer to a Draft EA of the Dolores River TMP, which Jen guessed might be released following rulemaking from recent executive orders.

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

Alex said he's planning BLM work, possibly including Indian Creek as permitted by wildfire closure orders. Reid said that, in Upper Twomile, the SW Singletrack Access (aka Shepherders Trail) needs work. Clif replied that it warrants a reroute. Zane said that Trail 17 (aka Upper Twomile ATV Loop) needs a cattle guard to be installed at the new gate east of Chicken Creek.

G. Scheduling Trail Projects

No one identified a pressing need, and Clif is still busier than usual, but said he may propose an August outing via email.

H. Adjournment

Clif adjourned the meeting at 2:28 pm and thanked everyone for participating.