

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2019**

The August 22, 2019 Gunnison Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Tourism Committee (STORC) meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstock Government Center, 2nd floor meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin #D, Gunnison, CO 81230.

Committee Members Present:

Voting Members:

Kevin Alexander, Professor of Biology WSU, Hunter & Anglers (in at 2:20)
Matt Feier, Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Matt McCombs, USFS
Christie Hicks, Crested Butte Nordic
Ben Breslauer, GOATS
Joellen Fonken, Gunnison Nordic
Elijah Waters, BLM
Paul Merck, Town of Crested Butte
Noel Durant, CB Land Trust
Chris Parmeter, CPW
John Norton, Gunnison Crested Butte Tourism Association
Frank Kugel, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Noel Durant, CB Land Trust
Roman Kolodziej, Town of Mt. CB
Tim Kugler, Gunnison Trails

Others in Audience:

Aaron Drendel, USFS
Scott Borden, WCU
Jim Lovelace, BLM
Maddie Rehn, WCU
Lizzy Bauer, WCU
Ken Straley, USFS
Sam Degenhard, WCU
Mel Yemma, Town of Crested Butte
Brain Lieberman, Crested Butte Land Trust

Staff Members Present:

Rachael Sabbato, Planner II
Hillary Seminick, Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER: Community Development Staff, Sabbato called the August 22, 2019 meeting to order at 2:06 PM.

APPROVAL OF JULY 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Will go over the Minutes at the next meeting since neither Chairman nor Vice-Chairman were present.

FEE PROPOSAL ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

McCombs introduced Paul Cruz, Recreational Manager of the Rocky Mountain Region, as the presenter today. Cruz gave presentation and background on what they do in the Rocky Mountain Region. His

advice is to know your visitor and who is recreating, know your goals (what concerns you, what you want to see change), and know your capabilities and parameters. The last visitor report for their region was done in 2014 and usually takes a year to a year and half to be completed. Every national forest has a total forest visitation number. It shows the ranked visited forests. The top three forests in the Nation are in Region 2. Gunnison/Uncompaghre is 18 out of 144 in the amount of visitors. Cruz continued to go over visitor statistics and what demographic and percentage come through the Gunnison Forest. Went over the outdoor recreational activities that visitors do. The top five highest activities, in order, are: downhill skiing, hiking, driving for pleasure, cross-country skiing, and viewing natural features. Satisfaction survey results are based on facilities, people they encounter and a macro satisfaction rating, Gunnison is a satisfied level of 85%.

Cruz went over knowing your goals and what problems the Committee sees. Backcountry being trashed with human waste, garbage and not being able to keep up with it. Too many people in too small of place, overcrowding. Impacts to wildlife. Communication and education are missing. Discussion followed.

Knowing your capabilities and parameters. There are ways to collect fees. One being, standard amenity fees, where you have to have a developed parking lot, picnic table, trash, toilet, kiosk and security services available. Second, they can do an expanded amenity fee, i.e. camping. They would have to have fire rings, picnic tables, drinking water, interpretative signs, toilets, refuse containers, reasonable visitor protection, collection of fees, infrastructure, and tent or trailer spaces.

Cruz went over the internal process of how to propose a fee increase or a new increase and the steps it takes to get to approval. The supervisor should be informed. If it's a new site or new fee it has to be published in the nationally published bulletin six months before you can implement the fee. Then it would go to regional office. The proposal gets a pre-review and then it gets put in front of the fee board. They review the fee and how it compares to other comparable campgrounds and if it is reasonable for that area. They also look at the public participation input. What they plan on doing with the increase fees and then they will approve or disapprove it. Once it has been approved by the regional office it is sent to the Washington office and they will also review it. They will send it back with approval or disapproval. Then they will be told to go forward with the process and get public comments. They compile the comments and data documentation. The regional office reviews the data and whether they have general public support. If it looks good and favorable the board makes a recommendation to approve the fee. The Washington office reviews again and if they agree they will send it back with approval. Then it goes to the Regional forester for approval, who can approve it or not. Some proposals have taken two years but mostly they take a year.

UPDATES INCLUDING SUBCOMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES

Sabbato went over the communication group and reported that they were able to get \$20,000 and have started working on the kiosks showing a map and some information from Almont to Wilson's landing. They would like to get the kiosks in before winter. The list of proposed kiosk installs are Almont, North Bridge, Van Tuyl area, and the Lazy K project, White Water Park and McCabe's. Went over draft budget. Sabbato will be at the river fest this weekend for a fundraiser for Shady Island but will also promote the kiosks and get public input.

Durant and Lieberman gave presentation on the Peanut Lake road planning effort. The Peanut Lake subcommittee was talking about potential use of GOCO funding for prioritization of projects. Gave background and formation of the group. Received \$4,000 from Town of Crested Butte, \$7,000 from the Land Trust Alliance and \$4,430 from Met Rec. Hicks reported that they are trying to do both summer and winter signage in the area and where they are hoping to put the signs. They would put one at the north trailhead, where they are looking at expanding the parking area. They would put another sign at the Gronk,

where they see the most winter impact. They will put a porta potty at CB Nordic. They also have a kiosk there and a point of contact. They would have a winter map at the first parking lot, that they can switch out with summer signage. Went over the budget and proposal. They need additional design work for the Peanut Lake road improvements. Looking for funds from the STOR GOCO grant for the first year. They are requesting \$5,075 for signage now when tensions are high.

Moved by Norton and seconded by Kugel that STORC fund \$5,075 for the Peanut Lake signage improvements provided that it fits in with the grant that they received after talking with Cathie Pagano. Durant and Hicks abstained.

The committee decided that the request be put on the next agenda to grant the additional \$15,000 for the subcommittee to use for improvements on the Peanut Lake Road.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Future meetings will occur on the 4th Thursday of the month in the Planning Commission meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, Co. 81230, unless changed for a specific reason.

09-26-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room
10-24-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room
11.28-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room
12-26-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2 nd floor meeting room

ADJOURN: The August 22, 2019 meeting of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Prepared by Rebecca Ricord, Administrative Assistant III