

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2019**

The December 12, 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
John Messner, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Dave Ochs, Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association
Matt Feier, Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Matt McCombs, USFS
Christie Hicks, Crested Butte Nordic
John Norton, Gunnison Crested Butte Tourism Association
Scott Borden, WCU
Tim Kugler, Gunnison Trails
Ben Breslauer, GOATS
Steve Guerrieri, Stockgrowers' Association
Roman Kolodziej, Mt. Crested Butte Town Council
Sandy Snell, National Park Service
Sue Wallace, Mountain Manners
Noel Durant, CB Land Trust
Joellen Fonken, Gunnison Nordic
Chris Parmeter, CPW
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Mona Merrill, Town of Crested Butte

Others in Audience:

Melanie Armstrong, Western Colorado University
Janice Welborn, Director of Sponsored Programs
Lauren Kugler, Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley
Kevin, Blecha, CPW
Alissa Bevan, Ecology M.S. Project
Chloe Beupre, M.E.M.

Staff:

Hillary Seminick, Community Development Planner
Rachel Sabbato, Community Development Planner

CALL TO ORDER: Alexander called the December 12, 2019 meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 24, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Moved: by Norton and seconded by Ochs to accept the October 24, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously; Durant and Kolodziej abstained.

Alexander reported that he got a phone call from Jody Kennedy that was here at the last meeting. They have been talking about the STOR Committee with Colorado Outdoor Partnerships and all the way up to governor Pollis and they really like the way they function, the balance and layout of the Committee. Pollis has an idea for regional recreation districts to think about managing things at regional levels. They are wanting to take something like the STOR Committee and putting it across the State at some scale. They are also wanting to fund it but aren't sure where the money coming from yet but would like to put it towards the local STOR Committee and across the State.

WINTER VISITOR USE

Armstrong gave presentation on the Winter Recreation Studies at Western Colorado University. The project came about when they were approached on exploring winter recreation, impacts and what is happening in the north end of the valley. They determined that they needed more data and looked at how they can use that data. They need more evidence to back up decision making. They are working at trailheads in the Crested Butte area. The steps are to capture the image, view and analyze the images and tally data points. They collect data from December 1 to the beginning of April. They conducted a community survey in 2019 that they plan to do again in 2020. The idea was to create more qualitative data to understand the issues that were arising in the stakeholder groups. They were looking at what people wanted in different recreation areas.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT BOOTCAMP OPPORTUNITY

Welborn gave presentation on the opportunity and her experience with the Leadership training that the Forest Service does. She works with a group similar to the STOR Committee, all Grand County and the two lead agencies are out of Hot Sulphur Springs. The Forest Service is putting a program called the Grand Places of 2050 and is associated with the outdoor recreation component of the Forest Service Plan, their 50 year plan. It started in Northern Colorado. They did the boot camp offered by the Forest Service and is all about looking into the future. It is a two day, eight hour a day, training. They did some preliminary work with them on building a plan on outdoor recreation and taking into consideration that enormous amounts of people are coming into their area. The takeaways are that they have a new set tools for strategic planning, looking into the future of how they are going to manage public lands and taking everything into consideration.

The group decided that they will all talk about it and come back to it to see if they want to do it. They requested more information, with dates and specific outcomes from other groups. Welborn will send the information to Pagano.

TRAIL TRAFFIC VOLUME

Blecha gave a presentation and the Gunnison Trail Traffic Volume Study. They have a lot of knowledge gaps in trail traffic volume. The goal of the project is to estimate trail traffic volumes across the Gunnison Basin's vast trail network. Blecha explained how the monitoring of the traffic volume can help with management, future research. They want to focus on summer trail traffic because it is easier to measure. Planning will go on until May 1. Would like to get the measuring devices out in the summer and then evaluate the data in the fall. He requested that the STOR Committee provide support and possible funding. Blecha will send out the information by email to everyone. They would like to start monitoring in May and would need a decision soon from the group on funding.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY VOLUNTEER DATABASE

Kugler referred everyone to gunnisonvalleyvolunteers.com. She gave the presentation on the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley volunteer database. If people want to sign up to get volunteers they have to set up a profile online and be connected as a person. They can log back out and then sign up the organization. It doesn't take much time to set it up. It takes some time to set up the volunteer request, logs hours.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Borden reported that the Outdoor Rec meeting is January 14, 2020, 12:30-2:30. They have a lecture position open in the Outdoor Industry. They have two tracks, service and product. The students are available to the group.

Ochs introduced Mona Merrill as a new Town Council member for the Town of Crested Butte.

Durant reported that the Peanut Lake winter signs are in and they are expecting proposals to be in for the Slate River trailhead design by December 20, 2019.

Messner reported that the kiosks are built and stored at the Whitewater Park.

Alexander reported that they worked on a messaging campaign for the upcoming closures in the spring and winter for Signal Peak. Kugler reported that they got students involved from Western to help get the message out there.

Breslauer reported that Crested Butte Avalanche Center, RMBL and Irwin Guides will be working with National Geographic in their new series, One Strange Rock.

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.

ADJOURN: The December 12, 2019 meeting of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Prepared by Rebecca Ricord, Community Development Administrative Assistant III