

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 23, 2023**

The February 23, 2023 Gunnison Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Tourism Committee (STORC) meeting was conducted in person and by Zoom virtual online meeting, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

**Committee Members Present:**

Kimberly Schappert, Vice Chair, At-Large Community Member	Mark Voegli, CBMR
Dave Ochs, At Large Member	Gabi Prochaska, Town of Crested Butte
Tim Kugler, At-Large Member	Dayle Funka, USFS
Derrick Nehrenberg, MetRec	Celeste Helminski, At-Large Member
Mallory Logan, City of Gunnison	James Lovelace, BLM
Roman Kolodziej, Town of Mount Crested Butte	Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD
Laura Puckett Daniels, BOCC	Brandon Diamond, CPW
Ian Billick, Town of Crested Butte	

**Others in Audience:**

Joey Carpenter	Ben Graves
Bella Biondini	Scott Clarkson
Than Acuff	

**Staff:**

Joe Lavorini, Gunnison County Stewardship Coordinator-National Forest Foundation  
Cathie Pagano, Community and Economic Development Director

**CALL TO ORDER:** Kimberly Schappert called the February 23, 2023 meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

**MINUTE APPROVAL:** Moved to approve by Tim Kugler seconded by Mallory Logan to approve the January 26, 2023 minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Agenda approved as presented.

The next meeting will be March 23, 2023

**Brief Updates:**

**No updates**

**Gunnison County Stewardship Fund: 2023 Funding Recommendations**

Joe Lavorini gave a review of the 2022 projects. He also shared there has been \$247,000 in partner contributions and over 1 million in grants since 2018. The projects that have been completed are: 333.11 Miles of trail work, 697 campsites maintained, 5057 volunteer hours and 70 trees planted.

Joe Lavorini shared:

What: Vision Statement

Where: Fund Geography

Who: Fund Partners and Governance

Lavorini is looking for recommendations from the STOR committee for funding. All committee members filled out the Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest form. If they haven't they need to.

Project fund criteria: Projects recommended for funding by GCSF must align with the NSS's Strategic Plan and meet other criteria developed by the STOR Committee and GCSF Funding Partners.

All proposals are in alignment with the NFF strategic plan.

Lavorini informed the committee that fund balance matches the amount that has been requested., \$165,000. It will fund all proposals.

Dave Ochs gave a review for the CBMBA proposal.

Joey Carpenter gave a review for the Town of Crested Butte proposal

Tim Kugler gave a review of the Gunnison Trails proposal

Ben Graves gave a review of the Nature Connection proposal

Dayle Funka gave a review of the U.S. Forest Service proposal

Than Acuff gave a review for the Town of Crested Butte proposal, Crested Butte Avalanche Center

Derrick Nehrenberg moved to approve all of the 6 proposals be funded at the amount being requested. Mark Voegli seconded the motion. The committee voted and unanimously approved. The motion passed.

### **STOR Committee Strategic Plan:**

Cathie Pagano shared the draft of the 2023 Strategic Plan. Pagano suggested that the committee streamline and make sure that goals and strategies are separated. Pagano shared staff recommendations.

- We have included a new strategic result, "Focus recreation development and activities close to population centers with transit connection and emphasize conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas." I think this might fit better as a new goal with specific strategic results. If the Committee agrees, what are the specific results that you would want to act on? It might include funding support for improving infrastructure at targeted sites. Alternatively, the Committee might consider this more of a strategic discussion that you want consider as you make decisions moving forward.
- Staff recommends that we revive the Communications subcommittee and include the strategic results in B.1. as the focus of that Committee along with discussion topics that came up in the January meeting related to coordinating messaging and outreach. We will need a Committee member that is willing to lead the subcommittee.
- Staff recommends that strategic results C.2. and C.3. be more specific. The BLM has identified a priority in C.4.i. and it would be helpful to understand what role STOR would play in that activity and if

it's necessary to include in the strategic plan. We will also reach out to USFS staff to identify any priorities they may have that STOR should provide specific support or action on.

- Strategic result D.1. is an item that the Committee should discuss with USFS staff to better understand if this is an action that USFS supports and would like to collaborate on. If we include results that include other agencies it is critical to ensure that the agency has the capacity and interest in engaging in those actions. We recommend that we have that discussion at our February meeting.
- For strategic results D.3. we'd like to discuss further to understand if the USFS is interested in a pilot program (and if they have capacity for it) and if there is a Committee member to lead this effort or members that want to work together on this result.
- Strategic result D.4. has previously been a subcommittee but has not been carried through. We'd like to clarify if this a priority and who would like to lead this effort and identify specific results that can be achieved in the next one to years.

The Strategic Plan will also provide guidance for the Committee meetings in the coming one to two years. The STOR Committee meetings would likely focus on the following topics and results:

- Wildlife Decision support tool development and engagement
- Communications
- Identification of infrastructure needs to support fees and in alignment with A.1.
  - Engagement and participation in CB to CB South multimodal trail plan.

## **STOR Committee DRAFT 2023 Strategic Plan Edits**

### **A. Promote a sustainable, resilient community that supports a vibrant ranching culture, wildlife resources, natural ecosystems, recreation, and a diverse tourism economy.**

1. Focus recreational development/opportunities close to population centers with transit connection and emphasize conservation and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.
2. By xxxx, 2024 the STOR Committee will complete the Wildlife Decision Support Tools for Recreation a. By xxxx 2023 the STOR Committee will complete a community survey to determine their values as it relates to wildlife, conservation, and recreation.

### **B. Foster a resident and visitor culture that demonstrates respect for our community, culture, and environmental stewardship.** 1. By September 30, 2023 the STOR Committee will work with partners to develop a communication plan that includes: locating camp sites; leave no trace principles, additional signage needs, and stewardship messaging.

### **C. Support collaboration between federal land agencies, local government, nonprofits and user groups to improve management of recreation and natural resources** 1. By January 31 of each year the STOR Committee will prioritize annual funding recommendations for the Gunnison Stewardship Fund based on this strategic plan and overall STOR Committee mission.

2. STOR Committee members will continue to engage at state and federal level to advocate for our community on related funding and policy decisions.
3. Gain a better understanding of how the STOR Committee can support land management agencies, municipalities, and community organizations
4. Ask land management agencies for the 2-3 top priorities where STOR can provide assistance i. Inventory the BLM travel management system, capturing immediate needs, and planning and cataloguing route closures

**D. Be proactive in management of private and public natural resources and recreation assets to minimize degradation and enhance quality.** 1. By xxxx, additional recreation infrastructure needs will be identified (and funded?) to support possible fee proposal from USFS.

2. By March 31, 2024 the County will develop a plan for the Crested Butte to Crested Butte South recreation path.
3. By xxxx the STOR Committee will work with the USFS to develop a pilot project allowing e-bikes on some USFS trails.
4. By xxxx the STOR Committee will develop a Gothic corridor travel and user management plan.

Pagano will make revisions and share with the committee.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- **Gold Medal River discussion (invited guest Dan Brauch)**
- **Innovative Finance for National Forests (WCU)**
- **Winter Trailhead Restrooms (All)**

**ADJOURN:** The February 23, 2023 meeting of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Prepared by Shannon Frias, Community Development, Administrative Assistant III