

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

The March 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:

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| Jake Jones, Chair, Crested Butte Land Trust | |
| Kimberly Schappert, Vice Chair, At-Large Community Member | Gabi Prochaska, Town of Crested Butte |
| Dave Ochs, At Large Member | Dayle Funka, USFS |
| Tim Kugler, At-Large Member | Celeste Helminski, At-Large Member |
| Derrick Nehrenberg, MetRec | James Lovelace, BLM |
| Mallory Logan, City of Gunnison | Chris Parmeter, At-Large Member |
| Roman Kolodziej, Town of Mount Crested Butte | Brandon Diamond, CPW |
| Laura Puckett Daniels, BOCC | Matt Reed, At-Large Member |
| Ian Billick, Town of Crested Butte | Jennifer DeBoer, WCU |
| Jeremy Johndrow, At-Large Member | Mark Voegli, CBMR |

Others in Audience:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Bella Biondini | Scott Clarkson |
| Beverly Richards | Janna Hansen |
| Matt Quinn | |

Staff:

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

CALL TO ORDER: Jake Jones called the March 23, 2023 meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

MINUTE APPROVAL: Moved to approve by Ian Billick seconded by Laura Puckett Daniels to approve the February 23, 2023 minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Agenda approved as presented.

The next meeting will be April 27, 2023

Welcome New Committee Members:

Jennifer DeBoer introduced herself. She is the new director of Outdoor Industry MBA at WCS and the new WCU representative.

Chris Parmeter introduced himself. He is a previous committee member. He is a new At-Large member.

Jeremy Johndrow introduced himself. He is business owner in Gunnison County. He is a new At-Large member

Brief Updates:

Great Outdoors Colorado-Stewardship Impact Grant – Joe Lavorini informed the committee that they have been awarded \$300,000. This is the second grant. The last one was in 2016-2017. Lavorini explained to the committee that grant will be used for support implementation of the strategic plan, with a focus on public land stewardship projects implemented through community partners.

STOR File Sharing System – Joe Lavorini shared with the group that they are working on a shared filing system. It will be in Teams. It will be the one stop shop for all of the files for STOR. Working on adding bios. Lavorini will send out the link.

STOR Committee Strategic Plan:

Cathie Pagano shared the STOR Draft Strategic Plan. Pagano added that there are additional edits that were submitted earlier in the week:

STOR Committee DRAFT 2023 Strategic Plan Goals and Strategic Results

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

1. By March 2024 the STOR Committee will complete the Wildlife Decision Support Tools for Recreation.
2. By January 2024 the STOR Committee will work with the ranching community to identify the most important opportunities to reduce impacts of recreation on ranching.

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 an accessible communication plan that includes but is not limited to: locating camp sites; leave no trace principles, additional signage needs, e-bikes, 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 October 31st 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 the state and federal level to advocate for our community on related funding and policy decisions.

3. By October 2023, the STOR Committee will work with USFS and BLM to identify and prioritize opportunities for funding support for ongoing maintenance of resources on federal lands.

D. Minimize degradation and enhance quality of recreation assets and natural resources by focusing recreational development close to population centers with transit connection and emphasize ranching, conservation, and wildlife habitat preservation in outlying areas.

1. By October 2024 identify and prioritize additional recreation infrastructure needs for funding to support a fee proposal on federal and other public lands.

2. By March 31, 2024 the County will develop a plan for the Crested Butte to Crested Butte South recreation path.

3. By December 2024, the STOR Committee will identify areas in the upper valley drainage corridors (Kebler, Slate River, Washington Gulch, Gothic, Brush Creek) that require additional infrastructure and/or transit to accommodate visitor and recreation demand and protect natural resources and recreation amenities.

Changes:

A:

Added more language for A. Committee agreed to the changes.

Pagano added a date to A-2. DeBoer suggested that an action should maybe be added to #2. Puckett Daniels suggested that a semicolon be added and the wording changed to diverse recreation economy, a vibrant rural and ranching culture. The committee agreed.

B.

The committee suggested that Multilingual be added to the wordage. DeBoer asked if resident and visitor culture should be in the same. Suggested that the wording change to “culture for residents and visitors”. The committee agreed.

C.

The committee suggested that the wording be changed from USFS and BLM to “State and Federal Partners”. Also, to add management to the goal. The committee agreed on the change.

D.

Ian Billick suggested that they take out the word ranching in the goal. Pagano asked if the date in D-1 was feasible. Dayle Funka stated that she believed it is feasible. The committee discussed the wording in D-1. The committee agreed to the changes as presented.

The committee discussed D-3. The committee suggested that an action #4 is added. #4 would add Hartman Rocks with the same language as D-3 without the drainage corridors.

Ian Billick proposed that the agreed upon changes be made and a final draft be added to the minutes for the next meeting. No discussion will be needed, only action to approve. STOR committee agreed.

Future Agenda Items: Jake Jones asked the committee if the following items are what they would like to have on agendas and if they fit the strategic plan. Pagano suggested that a survey be sent out for members to be able to volunteer for committee for the agenda items. Ian Billick suggested that agenda items could be channeled through those committees.

- **Innovative Finance for National Forests (WCU)**
- **Winter Trailhead Restrooms (All) – May**
- **Gold Metal Designation (Invited Guest – Dan Brauch)**

ADJOURN: The March 23, 2023 meeting of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Prepared by Shannon Frias, Community Development, Administrative Assistant III