



STOR Committee Meeting Minutes February 22, 2024 Hybrid Meeting

For STOR Committee Members & Guests: *This meeting will be held in-person at the Blackstock Building – 200 W Virginia Ave, Gunnison, CO 81230.*

For the General Public: *The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom at the following link:*
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87637105265?pwd=Rkt2d2NoM3NubTJWMIz5bnJzNjVvUT09>

Committee Members Present:

In Person: Jake Jones, Kimberly Schappert, LB Mullins, Tim Kugler, Hedda Peterson, Jeremy Johndrow, Derrick Nehrenberg, Steve Guerrieri, Andrew Sandstrom, Brandon Diamond, Chris Parameter, Marisela Ballesteros, Laura Puckett Daniels, Jim Lovelace, Sonja Chavez, Jennifer DeBoer, Roman Kolodziej

Jake Jones (Committee Chair) called to order at 2:00pm

Catmur opened up committee for nominations and explained the general responsibilities of the chair and vice-chair. Nehrenberg made a motion to nominate Jones and Schappert for another year, Sandstrom seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Committee welcomed new members: Hedda Peterson, Andrew Sandstrom, Marisela Ballesteros, and Steve Duke. Catmur introduced the new and reappointed members. Jones let the board know there are still open and At-Large spots on the board.

Approval of minutes and stewardship fund from January and reapprove December minutes.

Catmur explained the minutes from December and the stewardship fund will have to be reapproved due to an error in the agenda being posted properly. Nehrenberg made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended and Sandstrom seconded the motion; Guerrieri abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the general goals and strategic results of the strategic plan and how those could be used to evaluate applications for stewardship funds. Catmur explained there have been changes to the selection criteria, applicants could need to be more specific with where they would need to use the funds to achieve strategic results. Schappert noted that the system works well, and that there is positive and open communication with the leadership of the organizations receiving funding. Kugler commented that they are comfortable with communicating what they need regarding funding or extra help they might need for their projects and had concerns about allocating the funding within the grant. Daniels commented that there are many organizations that can use the funding but might need more guidance and referenced the land trust as an example of projects that might not align with the specific goals

of the strategic plan; requiring stewardship fund applications address strategic results could help provide more guidance and more opportunity for other organizations to participate. Discussion ensued around keeping broad goals so there is flexibility and verbiage can be changed so there is priority for certain goals without disregarding other applicants.

Discussion about total fund amount of \$120,000 for this year.

DeBoer suggested it might be helpful to include a question to ask how they might align their goal with the committee's strategic results: "How does this proposal align with STORs strategic plan?"

The committee discussed the possibility of requiring a letter of support or authorization and creating a form to submit with the application. Daniels suggested adding questions specific to how the project will achieve strategic results and not be too broad.

The committee concluded that strategic results should be included as one of the criteria for ranking stewardship fund applications, but that it should not be a requirement. Projects that achieve some of STOR's strategic results should receive higher prioritization.

Catmur explained the GOCO Stewardship Impact Grant which includes \$170,000 for CBMBA, Gunnison Trails, Student Conservation Association and other local stewardship associations. There are ideas for stewardship projects in 2024 but there needs to be further discussion on achievable funding priorities. Grant is focused on funding projects related to stewardship, maintenance, and community outreach. Catmur presented slides with possible projects for 2025.

Lovelace identified possible BLM projects in more detail:

- Coal train and Evans loop trails along with restrooms at Hartman Rocks should be made more accessible.
- Camp sites to be graded and landscape management.
- Signage should be updated to show accessibility and Spanish translation
- Visitor patrols through Hartman Rocks
- Shooting range clean up

Daniels questioned if signage would be an eligible cost. Catmur explained it would be if geared towards community outreach.

Discussion continued about the way translation can be done for signage by printing on the back of signs, creating new signs with both English and Spanish on one side of the sign, QR codes, Social Media, etc. A translator would need to be hired and would take time to be done by a professional. Could possibly hire visitor patrol that is bi-lingual.

The committee discussed a variety of needs and possible projects for funding:

- Wet Meadow Restoration work

- travel management, monitoring, and maintenance
- the STOR coordinator's salary
- infrastructure for camp house
- USFS conservation management and maintenance work
- septic vehicle

The committee concluded that there will need to be continued discussion on priorities and with GOCO about what can and should be covered by the grant. Discussion ensued of the various groups that could accomplish this stewardship work.

- G Corps, a new nonprofit stewardship crew formed by Johndrow and others
- HCCA
- WCC (Western Colorado Youth Corps)

Committee decided to assign Pagano and Catmur to make decisions on allocating funds. Any decisions Pagano and Catmur make, they will keep the committee informed.

Jones adjourned the meeting.