



## STOR Committee Meeting

### Minutes May 23, 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:**

Jake Jones, Nick Catmur, Laura Pucket-Daniels, Hedda Peterson, Andrew Sandstrom, Gabi Prochaska, Jeremy Johndrow, Marisela Ballesteros, Codi Prior (fill in for Brandon Diamond) CPW, Dayle Funka, Steve Duke, Cathie Pagano, Kim Schappert, Dave Ochs, Tim Kugler, LB Mullins, Roman Kolodziej

**Jake Jones (Committee Chair) called to order at 2:05pm**

#### **Approval of March 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Daniels made a motion to approve the minutes and Schappert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with amendments.

#### **Trailhead Improvements and Transit Subcommittee update**

Catmur, Daniels, and Jeremy Herzog presented the D.3.1 plan, providing a detailed explanation that highlighted the infrastructure for drainage, potential mass transit opportunities, and associated costs. The committee discussed the problems that needed to be addressed, including traffic volume, user experience, safety concerns, resource protection, and the increase of maintenance and noted they all stem from community values. The committee continued discussing concerns for parking and transportation to trailheads and the importance of data collection. Capacity issues with overflowing parking in the past have included Hanging Lake, Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch. The committee continued to discuss options to help keep down dust with suggestions such as creating more parking lots, paving the road, Mag Chloride, and adding subcategories for the problems they are having.

Herzog presented the potential structure for Gothic; the focus would be on 2 different drainages and there are options for transit out to gothic that would cost around \$300,000 for 240 people a day every half hour and 16,800 a season (June 23<sup>rd</sup>-Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>). Catmur and Daniels discussed the benefits of using a contractor and could use mountain express to help find one. The shuttle would go to Rustler's Gulch (base of 401) because to go past would be too expensive and harder to contract due to location. The committee agreed that there are options

but there is not capacity for transit solutions at this time due to cost and low utility. The committee continued to discuss options and opportunities for transportation solutions.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of establishing a shuttle service and their role in its implementation. Ballesteros asked if using contractors would increase costs, to which Jones and Daniels explained that it wouldn't, as the financial risk would fall on the contractors. They added that with a "paid by the user" system, riders might pay \$40-\$60, instead of receiving a free service. Matt explained there are shuttle services permitted in the Gunnison Ranger District with a limited number of user days and locations because they don't want to promote use to those trailheads. Funka explained there are other things to consider when making the plans for transportation and that there will be a forest plan in the future that will touch base on the same issues. The committee decided they would need more data on the use of the trailheads and how many vehicles are using them. One solution discussed was the forest service could identify areas in the Gothic Corridor where bolder placement could keep parking organized in heavily utilized areas to try and reduce impact to the area around it and could be a way to assess the need for a shuttle.

Catmur, Daniels, and Herzog presented the potential structure for Peanut Lake, they explained the focus would be on two 15 passenger vans with standard bike it would cost around \$215,000 for 360 people a day every 20 minutes from 8am-6pm, and 25,200 a season (June 24<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>). The committee discussed the utilization of the shuttle and that there might not be as much of a need for one for Peanut Lake and spoke on how parking could be regulated on Peanut Lake Road. Catmur suggested that CB Nordic offer a shuttle service for guests, but CB Nordic has not implemented this because the current level of activity does not justify the need. The committee agreed that the biggest concern is parking enforcement and how it could be enforced or regulated. A few suggestions were made by committee members such as adding signs and barriers to show capacity, enforcement to control where people are parking, and use data collection to determine if shuttles would be needed. The subcommittee will meet to discuss their data collection methods and the necessary level of detail, and then share their findings with Pitkin County to improve the parking lots.

### **Backcountry Dumpster Opportunity**

Johnrow explained trash collection methods and informed the committee that he contacted Golden Eagle trash service about adding dumpsters to some of the trailheads, and suggested putting them at Lupin, Washington Gulch, and Peanut Lake trailheads. He the cost per pick up of each dumpster is \$65 and could be picked up a frequently as needed. He also offered to cover the cost of one dumpster from the end of June through Labor Day. Prior informed the committee that CPW has a bear grant every year for one million dollars statewide and can be used in the future since the grant is now closed and is used for any bear related issues. The committee discussed the pros and cons of having dumpsters at the trailheads. Pros would be there would be little to no trash on the trails and campsites and local businesses and public trash cans wouldn't be overflowing with trash. Cons would be wildlife concerns, it is against leave no trace initiative, and if the trash service stopped at any point there could be

more trash on trails and campsites. Hansen informed the committee there will be no dumpster at the 4-way in Crested Butte and RV station due to those sights being misused. Daniels suggested a pilot program and suggested alternate locations such as Washington Gulch instead of Lupin trailhead. Johndrow explained Lupin would be a better location due to it being on an easily accessible road. The committee continued debating the implementation of dumpsters at trailheads, concluding that the issue might be littering rather than trash at the trailheads specifically. They agreed that while trash collection options are beneficial, placing dumpsters at the trailheads may not be necessary and could be reconsidered next year.

### **Miscellaneous updates and check in**

Catmur updated the committee on the Wildlife Tool and that he would circle back with more information in June after further review. He also shared GCSF Governance Structure, LEO Funding agreement, and Stewardship Impact Grant with the group and asked for feedback from the committee so he can get it approved to move forward. He also confirmed the committee was granted \$12,000 for LEO from the municipalities and will start coordinating with a service agreement and weekends they will start LEO service. The County will hold the funds and distribute them accordingly, the \$12,000 would cover meals and lodging. Catmur would coordinate the dates and amount of law enforcement or forest service needed. The sites utilizing the LEO would include Slate River, Washington Gulch, Kebler, Lake Irwin, Rush Creek, and they would be monitoring the campfire, leave no trace, and vehicle issues. The committee discussed what dates would be scheduled for the LEO, being 2 weekends in July, a few in August, and Labor Day weekend. Catmur updated the committee on the Spanish translator from NFF and that he was able to get the main kiosk, camping regulations, and river rules and regulations sent over to get them translated to post on kiosks and signs.

**Jones adjourned the meeting.**